



CIVIL JUSTICE  
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

## Speaker Bios

### **Sarah Boot – Principal, Boot Advocacy**



Sarah Boot is the founder and principal of Boot Advocacy, bringing more than two decades of extensive experience in public policy, legislative advocacy, and legal practice to the firm. Her career spans high-level positions in both the private and public sectors, making her a seasoned expert in navigating complex political, legislative, and regulatory landscapes and driving impactful policy changes.

Widely recognized as one of California's leading experts in technology, privacy, AI, and competition policy, Sarah brings a unique blend of powerful advocacy, policy insight, and legal expertise. Her deep understanding of political dynamics and strategic insight enables her to guide clients through California's complex landscape, providing successful solutions.

Most recently, Sarah led Amazon's advocacy in California for technology and competition-related issues, among many others. In this capacity, Sarah advised the highest levels of company leadership on strategy for and implications of legislation and regulations across several government agencies. She also covered issues across privacy & data security, hardware and devices, autonomous vehicles, internet connectivity and accessibility, media and entertainment, content moderation, payments and transactions, labor and workforce safety, tax, telehealth, pharmacy, and STEM education.

Before joining Amazon in 2019, Sarah spearheaded privacy advocacy for the California Chamber of Commerce. During this time Sarah led a 200+ member coalition of the state's largest companies and spearheaded industry advocacy for California's groundbreaking consumer privacy laws and regulations.

Sarah has also worked as a top adviser and legislative director to former Senate President Pro Tem and Assembly Speaker, Toni Atkins. Before working in public policy, Sarah practiced law for eight years. She served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of California, prosecuting a broad array of federal crimes, and litigated complex commercial and intellectual property cases at Cooley LLP, one of the largest and most prominent national law firms. Sarah also has significant political campaign experience as a party-endorsed candidate for the San Diego City Council, a fundraiser, and a regional field director for a New Hampshire presidential primary campaign.

Sarah holds a J.D. from The University of Michigan Law School, where she served as Articles Editor for the Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review. She also earned a B.A. in Political Science with honors and a minor in Spanish from The University of Michigan, where she was elected Student Body President.

## Natalie Bruton-Yenovkian – Political Affairs Consultant, CJAC



Natalie has extensive experience in political strategy and fundraising for California statewide, legislative, and local races, and her clientele includes various elected officials and the California Armenian Legislative Caucus Foundation.

Natalie previously served as Special Projects Manager for California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and former Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones.

She has a BA in English and Political Science from UC Davis and an MA in Intercultural Communication from University of the Pacific.

## Eric Dang – Counsel, Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire



Eric Dang is counsel to Senate President pro Tem Mike McGuire, and covers issues relating to the judiciary, public safety, and the LGBTQ community. Eric has been part of the Sacramento Capitol community for over 15 years. Previously, Eric was counsel to Senate President pro Tem Atkins covering the same issues, staff counsel to the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and was personal staff to then-Assemblywoman Fiona Ma.

Eric received his undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley, and received his law degree from what is now UC College of the Law, San Francisco. During law school, he was a senior articles editor to the Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly and received a Witkin Award in California civil procedure. He is a licensee of the California State Bar. He lives with his partner Frank and their dog Dolly in Sacramento.

## Julian W. Kleinbrodt – Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP



Julian W. Kleinbrodt is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gibson Dunn. He practices in the firm's Litigation Department and is a member of the Antitrust and Competition and Labor and Employment Practice Groups.

Julian handles a wide variety of antitrust matters through trial and appeal. He has particular experience with claims involving price-fixing, monopolization, attempted monopolization, refusals to deal, tying, bundling, exclusive dealing, disparagement, market allocation and division, and no-poach provisions. Julian has obtained dismissals on the pleadings of major putative antitrust class actions, won denial of class certification in sweeping nationwide cases, and prevailed at trial and after trial on behalf of multiple clients. He also has experience representing clients in civil and criminal investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission, and regularly counsels clients on antitrust compliance.

A frequent author and thought leader in the antitrust community, Julian's work has been recognized on the *Daily Journal's* "Top Verdicts" lists year after year. Most recently, Julian was recognized as one of *Law360's* Rising Stars in Competition for 2024 and *Global Competition Review* has named Julian to its 2024 40 Under 40 list, which honors the "next generation of leading antitrust practitioners."

Julian's nationwide labor and employment practice focuses on discrimination and class action claims.

Julian received his law degree *magna cum laude* from the University of Michigan School of Law in 2014, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and served on the *Michigan Law Review's* editorial board. Before joining the firm, Julian served as a law clerk to the Honorable Stephen V. Wilson of the United States District Court for the Central District of California. He graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2011 and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

### Chris Micheli – Principal, Snodgrass & Micheli



Chris Micheli is a founding partner of the governmental relations and advocacy firm of Snodgrass & Micheli located in Sacramento, California. Prior to forming the firm, he was a founding partner at Aprea & Micheli, Inc., as well as California Strategies, a statewide public affairs firm.

He has substantial legislative and regulatory experience in the areas of state and local taxation, transportation, labor and employment, forestry, health care, civil liability, and insurance. He has represented a number of major clients including non-profits (e.g., Junior Blind of America), public agencies (e.g., Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority), national trade associations (e.g., Computing Technology Industry Association - CompTIA), statewide trade associations (e.g., California Grocers Association), and major corporations (e.g., Mattel, Lockheed Martin, Chevron/Texaco, Mercury Insurance).

As a legislative advocate, Micheli regularly testifies before policy and fiscal committees of the California Legislature, as well as a number of administrative agencies, departments, boards, and commissions. He regularly drafts legislative and regulatory language and is considered a leading authority on state tax law developments, the legislative process, and California's knife laws. The Wall Street Journal (July 1998) called him "one of the top three business tax lobbyists in the state." The Los Angeles Times (May 2005) described him as an "elite lobbyist," and Capitol Weekly (August 2006) described him as a "prominent lobbyist."

Micheli became a contract lobbyist after serving as General Counsel to the California Manufacturers Association, an 800-member trade group. In addition to advising CMA and its Board of Directors on legal matters, he was a registered lobbyist representing CMA in the areas of taxation and civil liability reform. While at CMA, he was the chief lobbyist for SB 671, which was called "the most significant tax relief since Prop. 13." He often served as a principal spokesperson for the California business community on important matters of tax policy.

Over the last twenty years, he has published over one thousand articles and editorials in professional journals, newspapers and trade magazines, whose diverse subjects range from tax incentives to transportation funding. He wrote a bi-monthly column on civil justice reform for five years for The Daily Recorder, Sacramento's daily legal newspaper, authoring over 100 columns. He has served on the editorial advisory boards for CCH's State Income Tax Alert, a nationwide publication, as well as State Income Tax Monitor, another national newsletter, and Sacramento Lawyer, a monthly legal journal.

In addition, he has been the Editor-in-Chief of CCH's Property Tax Alert Practitioners' Perspectives, and has published practitioner comments in the CCH 4-volume treatise California State Tax Reporter. He serves as a Contributing Editor to the CEB California Business Law Reporter in the area of California taxation, and has been a California Correspondent for State Tax Notes, the premier national weekly state tax journal.

Micheli has been an attorney of record in several key cases, having argued before the Supreme Court of California (just two years out of law school), as well as the Court of Appeal several times. He has filed

more than fifteen amicus curiae briefs in California courts. He is admitted to practice law before all of the state and federal courts in California.

Additionally, Micheli has been qualified as an expert witness on California's knife laws in superior court, and has appeared as an expert witness before the State Board of Equalization in several key tax cases. His writings and work have been cited in amicus curiae legal briefs, books, and law review articles, as well as by the Congressional Research Service.

He has published eight law review articles and is the co-editor and co-author of the book "A Practitioner's Guide to Lobbying and Advocacy in California" and "Guide to Executive Branch Agency Rulemaking," as well as the author of "Understanding the California Legislative Process," "Introduction to California State Government," "An Introduction to Drafting Legislation in California," "Handbook on the Legislative Process in California," and "Handbook on Legislative Drafting in California."

His most recent books include "A Practical Guide to California State Government: FAQs and Glossary of Terms," "Handbook on California Legislative Data," "Overview of the California Constitution, Statutes, and Regulations," "A Practical Guide to the California Legislative Process," "A Practical Guide to the California Budget Process," "A Practical Guide to California Legislative Drafting and Statutory Interpretation," "A Practical Guide to Lobbying in California," "A Practical Guide to California's Political and Election Laws," and "A Practical Guide to the California Rulemaking Process."

Micheli is also the author of five law school casebooks: "Cases and Materials on Direct Democracy in California," "The California Legislature and Its Legislative Process – Cases and Materials," "Cases and Materials on the California Regulatory Process," "Cases and Materials on California's Executive Branch of Government," and "Cases and Materials on California's Political and Elections Laws."

He is a graduate of the University of California, Davis with a B.A. in Political Science – Public Service and the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law with a J.D. degree. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at McGeorge where he teaches the course Lawmaking in California as well as several online courses, and as a Lecturer in Law at the University of California, Davis, King Hall School of Law where he teaches the course Legislative Drafting.

Micheli also provides regular California legislative updates and insights on social media, including X/Twitter, LinkedIn, and TikTok, as well as his own blog and YouTube channel. He often gives commentary for print and television outlets on Capitol issues and developments. Micheli has provided personalized lobbying seminars for clients, as well as Continuing Education of the Bar programs for lawyers. He resides in Sacramento, California with his wife, Liza, two daughters, Morgan and Francesca, and son, Vincenzo. He enjoys reading, writing, soccer, martial arts, and travel.

### **Brandon Reilly – Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP**



Brandon Reilly is the leader of Manatt's privacy and data security practice and is recognized nationally for his work in cyber law and as a "Top 40 Under 40" and "Top Cyber" lawyer in California. A trusted go-to advisor on privacy and data security issues for a sophisticated client base, Brandon is skilled at developing business-focused privacy and security frameworks aimed at mitigating future enforcement and litigation risk. His practice includes a wide array of consumer protection and privacy matters, including data privacy, security compliance and procedures, and data breach responses.

Brandon has experience advising and representing Fortune 500s, multinational corporations, emerging companies and nonprofits across a range of industries—including technology, e-commerce, consumer products, advertising and digital media, health care, financial services/fintech, entertainment, leads

generation, professional services, real estate, energy, manufacturing, infrastructure, insurance, education and cannabis— including those taking advantage of opportunities and controlling privacy and cybersecurity risks in AI/ML deployments, Web3 and the metaverse.

In the compliance area, Brandon advises clients on proactively orienting their operations to all manner of federal, state and international laws and regulations, including the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), the California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA), the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Virginia Consumer Data Protection Act (VCDPA), the Colorado Privacy Act (CPA), the Utah Consumer Privacy Act (UCPA), the Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the California Online Privacy Protection Act (CalOPPA), the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTCA), the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA), the New York Department of Financial Services Cybersecurity Regulation and the California Shine the Light Law, as well as industry-specific standards such as the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). He has proven to be an invaluable asset to his clients, whether improving regulatory compliance programs, building privacy-centric business lines, designing and managing enterprisewide data mapping projects, developing privacy and security policies and procedures, constructing data subject request processes and procedures, negotiating vendor and partner contracts or contracts involving data transfers, or performing due diligence with respect to prospective mergers and acquisitions.

In the incident response area, Brandon assists clients with security incident investigation, containment and mitigation as well as management of data breach responses, and he assists impacted entities before and during litigation, regulatory inquiry and government enforcement. He has counseled clients on incidents involving ransomware and other malware, botnet and other automated attacks, social engineering attacks, business email compromises (BEC), insider threats, independent security researchers and black and gray hat hackers, and other fraud and identity theft schemes.

Also a civil litigator with broad experience in federal and state courts, Brandon has significant experience litigating on behalf of a wide range of businesses. He leverages his privacy and data security and litigation experience to assist clients facing such litigation and government enforcement actions.

A thought leader and frequent speaker in the privacy and data security space, Brandon is a Certified Information Privacy Professional for the U.S. Private Sector (CIPP/US) and an active member of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) and co-founder of its local Orange County chapter. Brandon has also spoken at national industry organizations such as the IAPP, the Institute for Internal Auditors (IIA), ISACA (the Information Systems Audit and Control Association) and the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA), and he has been quoted by *Bloomberg Law*, *Daily Journal* and *Cybersecurity Law Report* as well as published in other notable publications.

Brandon is the coordinator of Manatt's veterans' benefits and discharge upgrades pro bono practice and regularly provides pro bono representation in that area.

## Emelyn Rodriguez – General Counsel, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas



Emelyn C. Rodriguez is general counsel to Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas. She founded Rodriguez Political Law in 2018, where she practiced political law, specializing in governmental ethics, lobby, campaign finance, administrative, and elections law. She also has expertise in conflicts of interest rules under the Political Reform Act and Government Code Section 1090, the California Public Records Act, state open meetings laws, and campaign advertising disclosure rules.

She served as an inaugural member of the Sacramento Ethics Commission and later as its Chair. She was a former Senior Commission Counsel with the Fair Political Practices Commission, where she interpreted, analyzed, drafted regulations and legislation. At the FPPC, she provided public officials – including the highest-ranking elected and state officials – written and verbal advice regarding conflicts of interests and ethics compliance. She was a lecturer at UC Davis School of Law, and is a regular presenter at educational conferences, seminars, and panels on government ethics.

Prior to her legal career, she was Capitol Bureau Chief at the Oakland Tribune (part of the Alameda Newspaper Group), where she provided and coordinated state news coverage of the Governor's office, the state Legislature, and statewide public policy issues for six San Francisco Bay Area daily newspapers. She has reported for the Los Angeles Times, The Seattle Times, the San Francisco Examiner, and was senior editor at the California Journal, the state's political magazine. Her work at the Seattle Times prompted changes in state laws governing background checks and licensing of caretakers of vulnerable nursing home patients, including the elderly and disabled. She was a national finalist for the prestigious Livingston Award, honoring the best young journalists in the country. She has worked extensively in public service, volunteering for non-profit organizations such as United Way and Legal Services.

Ms. Rodriguez is a U.C. Berkeley graduate with B.A. degrees in Mass Communications and Political Science. She earned her J.D. degree from U.C. Davis' King Hall School of Law.

## Kyla Christoffersen Powell – President and CEO, CJAC



Since May 2019, Kyla has led CJAC, the state's foremost civil liability reform advocate on behalf of businesses in the legislature, courts, and regulatory arenas.

Prior to joining CJAC, she was senior legal counsel at AT&T for nearly a decade, her work spanning CA legislative and external affairs, product development, and data privacy. Kyla was also a lobbyist for CalChamber on legal reform and taxation. Early in her career, she defended private and public employers in court on labor and employment matters.

Kyla is admitted to the CA and DC Bars and has a law degree from Pepperdine University and a BA in political science and English from the University of New Mexico.