

Robert D. Crockett  
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Robert D. Crockett was a trial and appellate lawyer at Latham & Watkins for 32 years. He served on two Latham & Watkins management committees, including over a decade on its Technology Committee. He now heads a small boutique litigation firm, with two experienced associate attorneys and several paralegals.

Mr. Crockett has broad experience in different venues: arbitrations; administrative proceedings; bench and jury trials in different counties in California, federal courts around the country and in other state courts; petitions for writ of mandate; appeals and petitions for review and petitions for certiorari.

**General Litigation Experience:**

Mr. Crockett has litigated to verdict bench and jury trials in disputes involving airport and hospital antitrust, real estate development, breach of fiduciary duty, corporate governance, health care fraud and abuse, intellectual property, and property and sales tax. Mr. Crockett has represented churches and schools, a tire company, a chemical company and a public utility in personal injury matters. He has provided consultative services in jury selection and presentation, as well as in appellate briefing techniques.

**Environmental:**

Mr. Crockett has represented a municipality, a joint powers agency (airport), property owners and developers in a number of civil and criminal litigation disputes pertaining to the condition of real property. This work has included work in the Clean Water Act (Regional Water Quality Control Agencies and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Act, Federal Transportation Agency actions, California Environmental Quality Act, Permit Streamlining Act and more. He has litigated disputes involving shoreline development, Coastal Zone development, pipelines, transmission lines, airports, underground rail projects and sports arenas. He represented the City of Pasadena in a challenge to the Gold Line project, and now represents a landowner challenging the Regional Connector Project which would construct an underground line connecting the Blue and Gold Lines. He has represented homeowner groups in environmental challenges to large public agency projects, including detention basins and water storage. For twenty years he handled the defense to all of the challenges to Playa Vista's multi-billion dollar mixed use project near Marina del Rey. Bob has worked with the State Water Resources Board, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, USEPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other regulatory agencies.

**Tax:**

Drawing upon his extensive government relations expertise and litigation, Mr. Crockett is qualified to handle tax controversies. His experience includes settling in 2015 a \$70 million Hawaiian general excise tax assessment for a large hotel REIT, lobbying state legislatures for changes in corporate tax structures, litigating to success a California sales tax assessment upon aircraft parts bound for export, litigating to success a \$300 million property tax assessment upon a defense contractor's new construction, litigating to success a multi-county property tax assessment upon rental car counters in airports, providing advice on obscure accommodations and resort taxes, representing taxpayers against the IRS in tax shelter assessments and more.

**Land Use:**

Mr. Crockett has represented a California municipality in an environmental dispute, an airport in an eminent domain action, and numerous property developers in disputes involving eminent domain, general and community plans, development agreements, zoning and permits, Brown Act, Public Records Act, and other property development issues. Mr. Crockett has represented a California municipality in challenges to a municipal power plant. Mr. Crockett defended challenges to the opening of the Getty Museum (Malibu). Mr. Crockett has defended public utilities against claims of inverse condemnation. Mr. Crockett has spent years in a co-counsel relationship with the City of Los Angeles in the defense of general plan and community plan amendments, zone changes and permits.

**Eminent Domain:**

Mr. Crockett has represented public agencies, public utilities and property owners in eminent domain matters involving airport expansion, freeway construction, pipeline (crude, high pressure gas) construction, delta water way construction, an underground rail project, high speed rail and more. His cases have involved some of California's largest public projects.

**Background:**

He served as an editor on the Los Angeles Lawyer Magazine. He was named a "Super Lawyer" by that magazine for 2005 and 2010. Mr. Crockett has been a panelist on MCLE presentations relating to expert witnesses, trial techniques and environmental issues. Bob has given advice to the Los Angeles Superior Court about jury selection; he has managed the reelection campaign of a Superior Court Judge; he provides advice to the governor's judicial appointments secretary.

In 2015, the *California Lawyer* (the State Bar's official publication) awarded Bob the California Lawyer of the Year Award, with 61 others, for Bob's work with the ACLU in challenging the State Board of Education's failure to supervise school districts in providing English services to immigrant children.

Mr. Crockett has published Robert D. Crockett, "Religious Free Speech and Somebody Else's Civil Rights, etc.," Rutgers Journal of Law & Religion (2012) 13:364; Robert D. Crockett & Jonathan Jenkins, "Taking it to the Bank: A Recent Survey of Jury Verdicts in Los Angeles, etc.," L.A. Law., Sep. 2001, at 47. Mr. Crockett has published other articles dealing with nineteenth century legal proceedings. In law school he published one law review note on the disparate treatment of software in state and federal tax schemes, and another law review note on pending corporate tax proposals. As a third-year, he won his law school's writing competition with an article discussing an ERISA issue.

Mr. Crockett graduated from Brigham Young University in 1978 with a B.S. cum laude in Economics and minors in Finance and Computer Science. Boeing Computer Services immediately recruited him to work as an engineer on the U.S. Air Force's Air-Launched Cruise Missile flyoff competition with General Dynamics, whereupon he tired of technical geekdom and went to law school. He graduated *magna cum laude* with a J.D. from Brigham Young University in 1982, with a near-full scholarship and employment as an academic and scientific research computer programmer and research assistant. He was a member and editor of the B.Y.U. Law Review and elected to the Order of the Coif.

Mr. Crockett serves on an advisory board at a Claremont Graduate University foundation. He was an economics professor for a Los Angeles junior college in the 1980s.

An ultrarunner, Mr. Crockett has completed many 50-mile and a few 100-mile races, having placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2013 Pony Express 100. He recently has twice run the Grand Canyon rim-to-rim-to-rim in under 14 hours. He has run the Boston Marathon and qualified for the race in 2015. He placed 19<sup>th</sup> out of 52 in the 2015 Salt Flats 100 race.