

**Biographies of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger,  
Amy J. Bricker and Rachel B. Hooper**

**Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP**

Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP is a law firm specializing in government, land use, natural resource and environmental law. Since 1980, the firm has provided public agencies and community groups throughout California with the highest quality legal representation, offering an array of litigation, counseling and planning services. Known for its commitment to promoting environmental and community values, SMW is at the forefront of the major land use and development issues facing California today.

Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger has a particular strength in CEQA. The firm has won numerous cases involving CEQA, including *Save Round Valley Alliance v. County of Inyo*, 157 Cal.App.4th 1437 (2007); *Citizens for a Megaplex-Free Alameda v. City of Alameda*, 149 Cal.App.4th 91 (2007); *California State Parks Foundation v. Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency*, 150 Cal.App.4th 826 (2007); *Bowman v. City of Berkeley*, 131 Cal.App.4th 173 (2005); *Communities for a Better Environment v. California Resources Agency*, 103 Cal.App.4th 98 (2002); *Berkeley Keep Jets Over the Bay Committee v. Board of Port Commissioners*, 91 Cal.App.4th 1344 (2001); *Kings County Citizens for a Healthy Environment v. City of Hanford*, 221 Cal.App.3d 692 (1990).

**Amy J. Bricker**

Ms. Bricker is a senior associate at Shute Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP, as law firm specializing in environmental, natural resource, and land use law in California. Ms. Bricker joined the firm in 2003 after graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law. Her practice focuses on CEQA, NEPA, Endangered Species Act, and planning and zoning law.

Ms. Bricker represents community groups and public agencies in complex environmental matters, including administrative proceedings and litigation in federal and state court, at both the trial court and appellate levels. Among other clients, Ms. Bricker represents several environmental groups dedicated to protecting and restoring California's threatened and endangered fish populations and their watersheds.

Ms. Bricker has vast CEQA litigation experience, including, among other matters, representing coalitions of environmental and community groups in successfully challenging sprawl development in the Martis Valley area of the Sierra Nevada, and in litigation resulting in the rescission of a 20-year water privatization contract approved by the City of Stockton.

More recently, Ms. Bricker served on the legal teams negotiating two landmark settlements on behalf of environmental groups: the Tejon Ranch settlement agreement, preserving 240,000 acres in four crucial ecological regions in Southern California, and a

settlement with the California Attorney General and the City of Stockton that addresses the threat of global warming.

In law school, Ms. Bricker clerked for the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division. She graduated *magna cum laude* with a certificate from UCLA's Program in Public Interest Law and Policy and served as Articles Editor for the UCLA Law Review. She received her B.A. in 1995 from the University of California at Berkeley with honors.

Ms. Bricker is a member of the Bars of the State of California, U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

### **Biography of Rachel B. Hooper**

Rachel B. Hooper joined Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger in 1984 and has served as the firm's Managing Partner since 1998. Before joining the firm, Ms. Hooper worked for two years as Law Clerk to the Honorable Laughlin E. Waters, United State District Judge, Central District of California. Ms. Hooper's practice includes representation of environmental groups and public agencies in matters involving CEQA; NEPA; Endangered Species Act; and state laws governing general plans, zoning, forestry, annexations, and climate change. An expert in election law, Ms. Hooper has drafted and defended land use initiatives on behalf of community groups and local governments, and has prepared numerous referenda challenging local legislative approvals.

Ms. Hooper has extensive litigation experience in federal and state courts, at both the trial court and appellate levels. She defended Napa County in *DeVita v. County of Napa*, litigation challenging a 30-year agricultural preservation initiative, ultimately prevailing in the California Supreme Court. She served as plaintiffs' lead attorney in litigation setting aside Placer County's approval of the Martis Valley Community Plan, and in a legal action resulting in the rescission of a 20-year water privatization contract approved by the City of Stockton. More recently, litigation filed by Ms. Hooper succeeded in halting construction of the Regents Road Bridge over Rose Canyon in San Diego.

In 2010, Ms. Hooper received the California Lawyer's Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award for her success in challenging the Nestle company's proposal to construct a large water bottling facility on the McCloud River. She also received the Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter's 2010 Outstanding Legal Representation Award, recognizing her achievement in negotiating a landmark settlement with the California Attorney General and the City of Stockton that calls for specific policies and programs to address the threat of global warming.

Among other current cases, Ms. Hooper represents environmental groups challenging the approval of a large ski resort on Dyer Mountain in Lassen County; challenging a large new development in Riverside County known as the "Villages of Lakeview," and opposing a controversial plan by Caltrans to widen the I-5 freeway along the San Diego

coast. She also represents environmental groups in proceedings before the San Diego Association of Governments with respect to its proposed 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, and in proceedings before San Diego County with respect to its General Plan Update.

Ms. Hooper has spoken widely on land use planning, CEQA, and initiatives and referenda. For many years, she has served on the editorial board of Matthew Bender's California Environmental Law Reporter. In 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, Ms. Hooper was named a Northern California Super Lawyer. Ms. Hooper is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), and received her B.A. from Yale University, graduating summa cum laude.

Ms. Hooper is a member of the Bars of the State of California, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Eastern and Central Districts of California.