

Samuel L. Phillips



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Samuel L. Phillips is the managing partner of the San Francisco and San Jose offices of Borton Petrini, LLP. He received his law degree from the University of San Francisco in 1985. His particular areas of expertise include transportation cases, agricultural law, church law, landlord-tenant, habitability, anti-trust and employment litigation.

Sam's legal practice has provided him with experience in numerous categories of legal matters. He has more than 30 years of experience in litigation. In addition, he has handled numerous construction cases including those involving large and small projects, condominiums and land subsidence. Other cases he has handled include appellate work, discrimination/wrongful termination, general farm law, insurance coverage, commercial matters (trademark and trade secrets), product liability, real estate errors and omissions, subrogation, and public entity defense (including police brutality).

Sam also is a published author, contributing to the body of legal knowledge with such articles as "The Empty Chair Defense," published in the Fall 1995 issue of *California Defense* magazine, and "Should Parents Be Liable for the Intentional Acts of Their Children," published in the Summer 1999 issue of *California Defense* magazine. His knowledge in Spanish is another enhancement to his legal practice.

Sam has jury trial experience in over eight California counties concerning areas such as construction, trucking, toxic mold, personal injury, and civil rights matters to name a few. He has appeared before the California Supreme Court in the published case of *Etcheverry v. Tri-Ag Service, Inc.*

Sam is affiliated with several academic and professional organizations. His university days were the beginning of his membership in the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society. His professional affiliations include membership in the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the Defense Research Institute.

He is a member of the California State Bar Association and is admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern, Northern and Central Districts of California and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Sam is an active participant in the life of his community and is a member in the William A. Ingram Inn of Court affiliated with the American Inns of Court. His concern for education is reflected in his past service on the St. Stanislaus School Board. He was also a special advisor to the Cerebral Palsy Association.

Sam is married to Anita Gildea-Phillips, and they have two sons, Patrick and Sean.

Education:

- University of San Francisco, B.A., 1982
- University of San Francisco, J.D., 1985

Admitted:

- State Bar of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern and Northern Districts of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Business and Professional Associations:

- Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society
- California State Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Santa Clara County Bar Association
- Cerebral Palsy Association, Past Special Advisor
- Defense Research Institute, Member
- St. Stanislaus School Board, Past Board Member
- Ralph M. Brown Inns of Court, Past Member
- William A. Ingram Inns of Court, Member

Published Cases:

- *Etcheverry v. Tri-ag Service, Inc.*

Publications:

- "The Empty Chair Defense," *California Defense Magazine*, Fall 1995
- "Should Parents Be Liable for the Intentional Acts of Their Children," *California Defense*, Summer 1999

Articles:

- "And the Defense Wins" - *DRI Today*, Volume 10 Issue 2, January 12, 2011

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