BBK
BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

PARTNER

Dean Atyia

dean.atyia@bbklaw.com (619) 525-1396

San Diego

Dean Atyia is a trial lawyer in the firm's Special Districts Practice Group, where he advises clients in providing focused public services involving funding, governance, and regulation. He skillfully manages clients' litigation matters when their projects and interests are threatened, and when they seek to vindicate their rights.

Dean brings a wealth of trial experience to the firm, having won cases in state and federal courts around the country, and successfully arguing appeals in federal appellate courts, as an Assistant United States Attorney and Assistant Attorney General. In his prior practice, Dean investigated and litigated whistleblower complaints and prosecuted and tried civil and criminal matters. He was also responsible for managing a team of attorneys and staff focused on law enforcement and special prosecutions, overseeing a docket of more than 300 cases prosecuting government interests, and defending government agencies in state and federal courts. Dean regularly advised public entities, legislators, and government executives in matters involving pending legislation, regulatory compliance, and regulatory enforcement. Prior to his government service, Dean practiced with the law firm of Morrison & Foerster LLP, where he specialized in intellectual property litigation and commercial dispute resolution.

CORE PRACTICES

Business Litigation

Special Districts

Health Care

Intellectual Property

Water

Accolades

- *The Legal 500*, Elite City Focus: San Diego, Commercial Disputes, 2026
- Lawdragon, 500 X - The Next Generation, 2025

Professional & Community Involvement

- California Lawyers Association, Public Law Section Executive Committee, Member

Thought Leadership

Publications

- "Governor Signs AB 2180, Clarifying Proposition 218 Cost-of-Service Requirements," *PublicCEO*, Oct. 14, 2026
- "SB 922 Confirms Local Authority to Recover Road Repair Costs Incurred in Providing Public Services," *PublicCEO*, Sept. 8, 2026
- "Section 53759 Means What it Says – Court of Appeal Once Again Enforces Validation Requirements for Proposition 218 Water-Rate Challenges," *PublicCEO*, Aug. 18, 2026
- "Court of Appeal Limits Increases to Grandfathered Assessment," *PublicCEO*, Sept. 18, 2025
- "Court of Appeal Limits Increases to Grandfathered Assessment," California Special Districts Assocation *eNews Brief*, Sept. 17, 2025
- "Court of Appeal Upholds Traffic Impact Fee Post-Sheetz: Class-Based Development Fees Can Survive Takings Scrutiny," *PublicCEO*, Aug. 15, 2025

Presentations

- "With Arms Wide Open - Managing Conflict and Public Protest When Increasing Rates," California Special Districts Association Annual Conference, Aug. 26, 2025
- "What to (Not) Do Before (and After) You Get Sued," California Resource Recovery Association Annual Conference and Trade Show, Aug. 4, 2025
- "The Looming Crisis in Rate Setting," Association of California Water Agencies Spring Conference & Expo, May 8, 2024

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., cum laude

Middlebury College, B.A., philosophy, magna cum laude

Bar Admissions

California

Tennessee

Court Admissions

Supreme Court of California

Supreme Court of Tennessee

U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Central District of California

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee