



→ Matthew G. Halgren

Associate

501 West Broadway
18th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

T: +1.619.338.6684
F: +1.619.515.4118
mhalgren@sheppardmullin.com

Matthew Halgren is a senior associate in the firm's San Diego office, where he specializes in appellate litigation and news media law.

Areas of Practice

Matthew is certified by the State Bar of California as a Specialist in Appellate Law. He works on all aspects of the appellate process across many fields of law for clients in a host of industries. He has briefed a variety of matters in state and federal appellate courts and has orally argued several cases before the California Courts of Appeal.

Specializing in First Amendment law, Matthew advises clients in the news media industry on matters related to the reporting process. He collaborates with journalists to obtain government records and to avoid the legal pitfalls that can accompany the work of a free press. He is knowledgeable about libel, copyright, reporter's privilege, invasion of privacy, statutory and constitutional rights of access, and related matters. He has also litigated issues concerning government secrecy, including obtaining an order that, on First Amendment grounds, lifted a gag the FBI had imposed on an internet service provider by means of a national security letter. The ABA Forum on Communications Law recognized him as a "Rising Star" in 2021 and 2022.

Background

Prior to joining Sheppard Mullin, Matthew served as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard R. Clifton of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and to the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. In law school, he served as Executive Editor of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, worked as a member of the Yale Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic, and conducted extensive research on the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses. Before law school, he worked in government relations on behalf of clients in the healthcare industry on issues surrounding the regulatory implementation of the Affordable Care Act. He also served in the office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Articles

- Sheppard Mullin Celebrates Stellar Year in Insurance Litigation
03.30.2023

Media Mentions

Calif. Ruling Holds Wildfire Debris Not A Coverable Loss

Law360, 02.10.2025

A Defense Department Directive to Expand Access to Military Courts Falls Short of Federal Law's Requirements

ProPublica, 01.29.2025

Explainer: What Does the Poway School Board Case in the Supreme Court Mean?

KPBS, 04.26.2023

Fed. Circ. Upholds Peloton's Win In Bike Tech Patent Row

Law360, 02.16.2023

A Fresh Batch of Litigator of the Week Runner-Up and Shout Outs

Litigation Daily, 02.04.2023

6th Circ. Won't Save Immunity Defense In ACT Copyright Row

Law360, 08.23.2022

Beacon of Justice 2021 Awardees

National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Issue 10

Meet the Sheppard Mullin Litigator Facing Off with California Police Unions Over Misconduct Records

The American Lawyer, 08.03.2020

Police Transparency Law Does Not Cover Car Accidents, SDPD Says

KPBS, 07.03.2019

San Diego Police Misconduct, Use of Force Records Can Now Be Released

KPBS, 04.01.2019

San Diego Sheriff Will Waive Fees for Use-Of-Force, Misconduct Records

KPBS, 02.18.2019

KPBS Suing for Public Access to San Diego Sheriff's Department Response Times to Citizen Complaints

KPBS, 01.22.2019

Escondido City Council Votes to Destroy Records, Despite Transparency Concerns

The Coast News, 11.02.2018

County Lawyers Demand Research, Notes from Local Journalist

NBC7 San Diego, 02.08.2018

Speaking Engagements

ABA Forum on Communications Law: *Hot Issues in Access & Newsgathering*, Austin, Texas, February 8, 2025

Princeton University: *The Vanishing Voice: Unraveling the Impact of Diminishing Local News Coverage – And What Comes Next*, Princeton, New Jersey, May 24, 2024

ABA Forum on Communications Law: *Hot Issues in Access & Newsgathering*, Santa Barbara, California, February 3, 2024

ABA Forum on Communications Law: *Hot Issues in Libel & Privacy*, February 23, 2022

ABA Forum on Communications Law: *Hot Issues in Reporter's Privilege*, January 27, 2021

Inewssource: *Justice in Plain Sight: Reflections on the Riverside Press-Enterprise Cases*, San Diego, California, February 23, 2020

San Diego Superior Court, San Diego County Bar Association, and San Diego Society of Professional Journalists Annual Bench/Bar/Media Forum: *Preserving Free Courts & Free Press – Exploring Escalating Threats to the Third and Fourth Branches of Our Democracy*, San Diego, California, August 14, 2019

Investigative Reporters & Editors Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference: *Media Lawyers Q&A for Journalists*, Newport Beach, California, March 8, 2019

Memberships

Member, San Diego County Bar Association, Appellate Practice Section

Member, Tom Homan LGBT Law Association

Class Co-Secretary, Yale Law School Class of 2015, 2015–present

Class Historian, Princeton University Class of 2009, 2009–present

Member, Princeton University Alumni Council Committee on Princetoniana, 2006–present

Member, Princeton University Alumni Schools Committee, 2010–present

Member, Out at Sheppard LGBTQ Group

Practices

Appellate

Entertainment, Technology and Advertising

Litigation

Appellate

Education

J.D., Yale Law School, 2015

A.B., Princeton University, 2009, *magna cum laude*

Clerkships

Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard R. Clifton, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2016–17

Law Clerk to the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff, United States District Court for the Southern District of California, 2015–16

Admissions

California

United States Courts of Appeals for the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Federal Circuits

United States District Courts for the Central, Northern, and Southern Districts of California

Languages

Chinese (Mandarin)

Spanish