

NARO-CALIFORNIA | LEGAL TEAM

Meet Our Legal Team

Challenging Santa Barbara County's Phase I Onshore Oil and Gas Prohibition

NARO-California has assembled a powerful legal team with deep expertise in oil & gas law, property rights, environmental litigation, land use, and high-stakes trial work. These attorneys stand ready to protect mineral owners from unconstitutional takings and government overreach—just as NARO-CA successfully did in Monterey County all the way to the California Supreme Court.

Edward S. Renwick, General Counsel

Senior Oil & Gas Counsel | Hanna and Morton, LLP | Los Angeles

Edward S. Renwick has been NARO-CA's general counsel since 2013 and has been involved in the successful trial and settlement of three major cases for our association. He is one of California's most experienced oil, gas, and natural resources attorneys, with more than 50 years of hands-on industry experience. His substantive specialty is oil and gas law—upstream, midstream, and downstream—and he has tried numerous cases, argued countless appeals, and represented clients before administrative agencies and legislative bodies.

From 1973 to 1991 he served as Vice President and General Counsel of a California independent oil and gas company while maintaining his private practice, and represented that company on the Legal Committee of the Western Oil and Gas Association (now WSPA). He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (since 1974), past Chairman of the ABA Section of Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law (1987-88), and a Southern California Super Lawyer in energy law. He has handled landmark cases involving mineral titles, ad valorem taxation of oil properties, coastal permits, CERCLA challenges, zoning, and land use—exactly the issues raised by Santa Barbara's proposed ban and amortization scheme.

Donors can have complete confidence that Ed brings unmatched institutional knowledge of California oil & gas law and a proven track record of defending industry property rights against government overreach.

Charles L. “Charlie” Murray, III, Associate Counsel

Trial Lawyer | Law Office of Charles L. Murray III | Los Angeles

Charlie Murray is a battle-tested trial lawyer with nearly three decades of courtroom experience. A Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL) and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)—two of the most selective trial organizations in the country—he has the credentials and the guts to take complex cases all the way to verdict.

Charlie has handled high-stakes civil litigation including partnership disputes, fraudulent transfers, personal injury, employment, and complex commercial matters. His reputation is that of a lawyer who is ready and willing to try any case that needs trying. In a fight against a county ordinance that seeks to wipe out mineral estates through “amortization,” you want a lawyer who thrives in the courtroom and is not afraid of a hard fight.

Charlie provides the trial firepower needed to make Santa Barbara County think twice about its unconstitutional taking.

Mario A. Juarez, Local Counsel

Partner | Juarez, Adam & Farley, LLP | Santa Maria

Mario Juarez is a Santa Maria native and community leader who has practiced law in the heart of Santa Barbara County's oil and agricultural country for more than 20 years. A graduate of UCSB and UCLA School of Law, he is fluent in English and Spanish and deeply rooted in the local business and landowner community.

His practice focuses on business litigation, real estate, and complex civil matters—direct, relevant experience in the very oil fields that Santa Barbara County's ban would devastate. Mario understands both the legal and the human side of mineral ownership in Santa Barbara County.

As a local attorney with skin in the game and active oilfield litigation experience, Mario brings essential on-the-ground knowledge and credibility that no big-city firm can match.

Richard E. “Rich” Adam, Jr., Local Counsel

Partner | Juarez, Adam & Farley, LLP | Santa Maria

Rich Adam is a Santa Maria attorney with 26 years of experience in environmental and natural resources law, agriculture, land use & zoning, contracts, and civil rights. He is a partner at Juarez, Adam & Farley and is respected for his deep institutional knowledge of local government and land-use battles in the county.

His practice areas align perfectly with the legal issues raised by the County’s Phase I Onshore Oil and Gas Prohibition: environmental regulation, land-use restrictions, and the defense of private property rights against overreaching local government. Rich’s family roots in Santa Maria Valley agriculture and natural resources give him a personal understanding of how government “amortization” schemes destroy the value of fixed assets that cannot simply be moved down the road.

Rich’s local expertise in land use, environmental law, and property rights makes him an indispensable part of the team fighting to stop this ordinance before it destroys royalty owners’ livelihoods.

Why This Team Wins

This is not a generic big-firm team. It is a carefully assembled group that combines:

- 50+ years of pure oil & gas trial and regulatory experience (Renwick)
- Elite trial credentials ready for the courtroom (Murray)
- Local Santa Barbara County counsel with active oilfield litigation (Juarez)
- Deep land-use, environmental, and local government experience (Adam)

Together they are prepared to challenge Santa Barbara County’s illegal ban the moment it is adopted—just as NARO-California and its legal team did successfully against Monterey County all the way to a unanimous California Supreme Court victory.

This is a fight we can win. Your support makes it possible.

NARO-CA.org/YES