HUSCH BLACKWELL

Rachel K. Brilliant

SENIOR COUNSEL

THE LINK VIRTUAL OFFICE
PHONE: 510.768.0638

OAKLAND, CA*
PHONE: 510.768.0650

EMAIL: RACHEL.BRILLIANT@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

OVERVIEW

With extensive experience in procurement, contracts, real property, and bond-funded public works projects, Rachel advises clients on a variety of transactional and corporate matters.

Rachel devotes the majority of her practice to the representation of educational institutions, particularly community college districts. Since 2017, she has managed legal services for the Department of General Services for a four-campus community college district with a $1,190 billion general obligation bond program. She deftly advises clients regarding all aspects of a bond program, from facilities master planning and team building to project delivery method, procurement, and contractor selection. She regularly drafts and negotiates the associated vendor, professional services, and construction agreements. Rachel also provides internal training to better educate college staff, demystifying legal procedures and explaining the legal requirements and processes involved in the use of public funds.

Rachel also represents clients in a wide array of sophisticated real property transactions including acquisitions, dispositions, exchanges, leasing, surplus property requirements, and compliance with statutory and regulatory procedures such as the California Environmental Quality Act, and Field Act.

In addition to her higher education work, Rachel also performs general corporate services for emerging businesses and bond-related work for other clients, primarily public sector entities. She

Industries

Education
Life Sciences

Services

Corporate
Higher Education
Mergers & Acquisitions
Securities & Corporate Governance

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

is extensively experienced with business transactions, statutory compliance, and governance issues work for K-12 public school districts.

Rachel is passionate about representing mission-oriented clients: she greatly respects public sector administrators and values the opportunity to serve as a legal lifeline for their organizations. She often works with clients over many years and finds it deeply rewarding to build long-term relationships and help staff and institutions grow and develop overtime.

Known for her attention to detail and her analytical mind, Rachel has a reputation for heavy preparation and airtight contracts—a former litigator, she knows nothing can be left to interpretation. She always knows what the sticking points are in any deal, and she has a gift for building a rapport across the table that will ensure clients get the best deal possible.

Experience

- Advised boards of trustees and school boards regarding contracts, procurement process, and business transactions.
- Drafted and negotiated contracts for professional services, goods, materials, and software.
- Revised board of trustees and school board policies and generated agenda items for board meetings.
- Completed due diligence and drafted piggyback contracts including JPA & CMAS.
- Prepared sole source contracts for purchase of IT products and software and created RFPs for nutrition services.
- Second chair bench trial in surety bond case with award of 100% of the bond and attorney's fees of $720,000.
- Assisted 10+ school districts with acquisition and disposition of real property; facilitator for three 7-11 committees.
- Drafted and negotiated leases, lease amendments, and MOUs for surplus school district property.
- Formulated RFQ/Ps for property exchanges and leases, workforce, and affordable student housing projects.
- Updated school district's civic center fee schedule and facilities use agreement.

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Experience

- Completed review of 20+ proposed projects and prepared required notices of exemption.
- Assisted districts obtaining CDPs from Coastal Commission and local agencies to ensure CEQA compliance.
- Counseled districts regarding the territory transfer process and responded to developer fee challenges.
- Managed legal services for a four-campus community college district's Department of General Services.
- Prepared RFQ/Ps for alternative delivery methods and construction-related professional services.
- Negotiated construction agreements, including hard bids, lease-leaseback, and design-build.
- Trained staff on public procurement process, district policies and procedures, and contract templates.

Recognition

- Super Lawyers Northern California Rising Star, 2014-2018

Education

- J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law
- B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Admissions

- California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Community Leadership

Rachel serves on the Site Council for her local school district and values volunteering in her son's classroom.

---

*Contact Rachel to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the Oakland office.

© 2026 HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED