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Nikki Buffa is a partner in the Orange County and Washington, D.C. offices of Latham & Watkins and a member of the Environment, Land & Resources practice group. She has extensive experience in environmental policy and conservation, renewable energy, endangered species compliance, and crisis management. Ms. Buffa rejoined Latham after serving eight years in the Obama Administration, most recently at the United States Department of the Interior as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary. Prior to joining the Department of the Interior, Ms. Buffa was the Deputy Director of Cabinet Affairs at the White House. In 2009, after serving on the 2008 Presidential campaign and Presidential Transition Team, Ms. Buffa became the Deputy Chief of Staff, then later Associate Director, for the Council on Environmental Quality at the White House. In 2020–2021, Ms. Buffa served on the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition team as the White House Council on Environmental Quality Transition Team Lead. She currently serves on the boards of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the Advisory Board of the University of California at Berkeley Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity. Ms. Buffa holds a Bachelor's of Science from the University of California at Berkeley in Conservation and Resource Studies, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles.