



The CLAY Awards

Environmental Law

Communities for a Better Environment

Oakland



In one of the most far-reaching settlements in California environmental history, five oil companies agreed to clean up almost 1,000 sites contaminated with the gasoline additive MTBE at a total estimated cost of \$200 million. *Communities for a Better Environment v Unocal*. Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) attorneys reached back to an obscure 1950s-era section of the Fish and Game Code to pursue the unfair business practices suit that led to the settlement, says **Richard T. Drury**, CBE's legal director. Under the court's order, the oil companies can be fined up to \$6,000 a day for noncompliance. Tosco and Exxon-Mobil have refused to settle and have gone to trial.