



Speaker Biographies

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Amy Albano

Amy Albano has been the City Attorney for Burbank since October 2011. Prior to her arrival in Burbank, she was the City Attorney of Thousand Oaks since 2005 after spending 14 years in the City Attorney's Office at the City of Ventura and is a past president of the League of California Cities, City Attorneys' Department. She is an honor graduate of Albany Law School of Union University and received her undergraduate degree from State College of New York Plattsburg.

Stephen P. Deitsch

Stephen P. Deitsch is a city attorney with expertise in the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, economic development, and land use matters. He currently serves as city attorney for the Cities of Arcadia, Big Bear Lake, Indian Wells and Shafter, and assists in the provision of municipal law services to the City of Fontana.

Stephen is a partner in the Municipal Law practice group of Best Best & Krieger LLP. He has been practicing municipal law for more than 30 years. Stephen served as chair of the State Bar of California Public Law Section Executive Committee in 2009-2010 and remains an advisor to the Committee. He has also served as editor of the State Bar Public Law Journal in 2007 and 2008.

Stephen served on the League of California Cities Legal Advocacy Committee from 2002 until 2004. He has also been a contributor to the Municipal Law Handbook prepared by the League of California Cities, City Attorneys' Division. Stephen has served on two standing committees of the California Redevelopment Association: the Housing Task Force and the Redevelopment Continuing Education Committee. He also served, during 1997-1998, on the California State Controller's Task Force on updating redevelopment accounting and reporting statewide.

Stephen has been an active member of, and lecturer to, the League of California Cities, City Attorneys' Division. The topics of some of his lectures have been: Land Use Issues in Economic Development, and Applying the Brown Act and Public Records Act. Stephen has served as president of the Board of Directors of the Fontana Boys and Girls Club (2010-2012) and remains on its Board of Directors. He is a member, is on the Board of Directors and has served as president (2012 - 2013) of the Fontana Rotary Club. Stephen has served on the Board of Directors of the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association and as past president of the Chaffey Community College Foundation in Rancho Cucamonga.

Stephen graduated from Brandeis University, cum laude, in 1969. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Graduate School of Fine Arts with a joint degree of Juris Doctorate and Master of City Planning in 1974, he served as deputy attorney general for the State of New Jersey and as an attorney in the Office of Special Counsel, United States Department of Energy, Los Angeles office. Since 1981, he has been in private practice, specializing in municipal law. He joined BB&K in 1989.

Education

University of Pennsylvania, J.D. (1974)

Brandeis University, B.A., cum laude

Benjamin Fay

A founding member of the Jarvis Fay law firm, Ben Fay specializes in local government revenues. He has represented local governments throughout California against challenges to local taxes, fees, and assessments and regularly advises cities and special districts on the application of Propositions 13, 26, 62, and 218. He has also developed special expertise in property tax allocation. Ben has drafted multiple amicus curiae briefs for the League of California Cities in cases concerning local government revenues. He received his J.D. from Hastings College of the Law in 1995.

Eugene P. Gordon

Eugene P. Gordon is a Deputy City Attorney in the San Diego City Attorney's Office. Since February 2008 when he retired from the City, he has been working as a volunteer on a part-time basis in the City Attorney's Office. He is assigned to the Trial Unit in the Civil Division where he specializes in the defense of personal injury cases brought against the City and its employees. Such litigation involves alleged dangerous conditions of public property, such as highway design and trip-and-fall cases, police K-9 bite cases, false arrest and excessive force cases, including section 1983 cases, and City vehicular accidents. From 1971 to 1978, Mr. Gordon was Legal Advisor to the San Diego Police Department where he was instrumental in providing legal in-service training programs, including the publication of legal training bulletins for police officers. He provided on-the-scene legal advice to police supervisors in the proper handling of civil demonstrations and disturbances, was available to supervisors and officers in the field for consultation on legal matters, and played an important role in drafting legal policies and procedures. While Police Legal Advisor, Mr. Gordon was a member of the Legal Officers Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and in 1976 he was General Chairman of the section. He was also a contributor to the "Chief's Counsel," a legal column in the "Police Chief Magazine," a monthly publication of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Mr. Gordon was a prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the City Attorney's Office from 1969 - 1971 where he prosecuted a variety of misdemeanor cases. He served as Assistant Chief Criminal Deputy for one year prior to becoming Police Legal Advisor in May 1971. Mr. Gordon has taught extensively at the San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute at Miramar College in San Diego on the subjects of civil and criminal liability of law enforcement officers, constitutional law, and use of force to police recruits, advanced officers and Field Training Officers. He was an instructor in the San Diego Sheriff's Department Academy at Southwestern College on the subject of civil and criminal liability of law enforcement officers, and he taught the sixteen-hour course on search and seizure at the San Diego Police Academy from 1972-1979. Mr. Gordon has lectured at numerous seminars for police administrators sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police on the subjects of police discipline, civil liability and discovery of police officers' personnel records. He has also lectured on municipal tort liability at NIMLO and League of California Cities conferences. Mr. Gordon has provided legal updates at numerous PRIMA and PARMA conferences. In 1992, Mr. Gordon served on the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Committee on "Police Use of Force," Executive Report, July 1992. In 1996, he assisted POST in revising the Police Supervisory Course curricula. Admitted to the California State Bar in 1968, Mr. Gordon received his legal education at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. He received his B.A. degree from the University of California, Riverside.

Julian A. Gross

Julian Gross is an attorney with nineteen years of experience in community economic development, representing community-based organizations, local government entities, and labor unions in urban development negotiations and in legislative and policy matters. Julian is the leading attorney in the nation on community benefits agreements, having represented coalitions of community-based organizations in over a dozen successful CBA negotiations, and having written and spoken widely on the subject. He has also drafted numerous local hiring and contracting policies, and has worked on living wage policies, DBE policies, and many other community economic development initiatives.

Gerald C. Hicks

Graduated from McGeorge Law School Magna Cum Laude in 1990. Has been with the Sacramento City Attorney's Office since 1998.

Anne Hydorn

Anne advises private and public employers on a full-range of benefits matters. She has special expertise in health care reform and health and welfare plan compliance. Anne's health and welfare work includes providing extensive advice on various insured and self-insured health plan compliance issues, the Affordable Care Act, COBRA, HIPAA, cafeteria plans, health reimbursement arrangements, and health savings accounts. Anne regularly also counsels both large and small entities regarding on-going administration and compliance issues related to ERISA, fiduciary duties, fringe benefits tax compliance, compensation and withholding issues, retirement and health plan amendments, internal procedures and administration, qualification of domestic relations orders and IRS determination letter applications. Her experience involves working with both defined benefit and defined contribution retirement plans, including plans under 401(k) and 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. Before joining the firm, Anne was the director of human resources for a private corporation. During her tenure there, she gained extensive experience with retirement plans, welfare benefits, labor relations and payroll administration.

Rick W. Jarvis

A founding partner of the Jarvis Fay law firm, Rick Jarvis is one of California's leading CEQA, land use, and municipal law litigators, having handled over 100 cases in his over 20 years of practice. Rick primarily represents cities and other local public agencies in both state and federal courts, at both trial and appellate levels. Rick also advises cities on development and other land use matters, including bullet-proofing CEQA documentation. Rick graduated from U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1991.

Stephen G. Larson

Stephen G. Larson is a partner in the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices of Arent Fox, and is chair of the firm's Complex Litigation practice group, which includes both civil and criminal litigation. His practice focuses on counseling and representing clients in litigation involving complex business disputes, compliance and sanctions issues, antitrust actions, intellectual property rights, and criminal and regulatory defense. Judge Larson also provides alternative dispute resolution services, including mediation and arbitration.

James P. Lough**EDUCATION:**

Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri: LLM, Urban Studies, 1980.

Southwestern University School of Law, Los Angeles, California: J.D., Law, 1979.

California State University, Fullerton: B.A., Political Science, 1976.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Lounsbery, Ferguson, Altona & Peak LLP: Practice devoted to municipal law and election issues. City Attorney: Lemon Grove. Special Litigation Counsel: Imperial County. Special Counsel Chula Vista (Elections & Charter Issues). Special Counsel: Carlsbad: (Land Use, Charter & Election Issues). Special Campaign Enforcement Counsel: Chula Vista, Escondido and San Marcos. Special Litigation Counsel: City of Vista (State Building Construction Trades Council of California v. City of Vista (2012) Cal. Supreme Court (S173586).) Attorney for Initiative Proponents: Proposition "B", City of San Diego (2012). County of Ventura, Petition Initiative (2014).

PERSONAL:

Jim lives in Ramona with his wife, Martha, and his mother, Donna. He has two grown children, Holly and Alex. Holly is currently finishing her first year post medical school internship in Brooklyn. Alex records conferences around the world. He lives in Phoenix with his fiancée, Sarah Feigh, and his two dogs, Macey and Zona.

Jim's father was a long time participant in League Conferences as a Planning Commissioner, Council member and Mayor of San Dimas. He attended City Attorney sessions to listen to Dan Curtin, Charlie Martin and others to take home new ideas such as parkland dedication fees. After watching his father be an elected official, he figured city attorney work was a safer career option.

Shawn M. Mason

Shawn Mason has served as the City Attorney for the City of San Mateo since January 2003. Shawn previously served as the City Attorney for the City of Rancho Mirage and the City of Benicia, and as the Deputy and Assistant City Attorney for the City of Thousand Oaks. Shawn presently serves on the Legal Advocacy Committee and as Chair of the FPPC Committee. He has previously served on the Municipal Law Handbook Committee. In his spare time, Shawn enjoys running, playing softball and reading. He is also an enthusiastic fantasy baseball team owner and enjoys annually competing with fellow city attorneys, Fred Soley and John Pomidor.

Yvonne R. Mere

Currently serve as Chief of Neighborhood and Resident Protection Unit at the San Francisco City Attorney's Office supervising a team of lawyers who litigate affirmative cases on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco and the People of the State of California seeking to address unfair and unlawful business practices and abate public nuisances. Throughout my tenure at the San Francisco City Attorney's Office I have handled a variety of different matters including the following: served as lead attorney in an unfair competition matter against the largest private property owner in San Francisco; secured gang injunctions against three criminal street gangs; litigated against a national bank and an arbitration organization that was committing acts of unfair competition which resulted in a six million dollar settlement; sued to stop the illegal dumping of hundreds of pounds of construction debris on the streets of San Francisco; and filed numerous lawsuits for violations of the Drug Abatement and Red Light Abatement laws to address drug sales and illegal gambling on private property. In addition to litigation, I draft legislation, work with local and state governmental agencies and community groups, develop and vet potential affirmative litigation matters, and mentor and supervise students as part of the "San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project (SFALP)" at Yale Law School.

G. Foster Mills

G. Foster Mills is the Managing Attorney of the New York City Law Department and a member of the Law Department's Executive Staff. Mr. Mills oversees the Administration, Information Technology, Operations, Worker's Compensation and Legal Recruitment Divisions. His responsibilities include administration of the Law Department's \$167 million annual budget and management of the Department's more than 1,500 employees.

Mr. Mills has been with the Law Department since 1985, and he has held the position of Managing Attorney for the past sixteen years. In 2003, he was awarded the "Corporation Counsel Award for Distinguished Legal Service" – the office's most prestigious award. Before being appointed to his current position, Mr. Mills served as a Deputy Division Chief for the Contracts and Real Estate Division. Under former Mayor David Dinkins, Mr. Mills was appointed as the Director of New York City's Office of Contracts and simultaneously held the position of Chief Procurement Officer. In these positions, Mr. Mills oversaw the City's \$7 billion annual procurement budget.

Prior to working at the New York City Law Department, Mr. Mills worked with the New York City Human Resources Administration. He is the First Vice President of the County Attorneys Association of the State of New York and is the President-Elect of the International Municipal Lawyers Association.

Ren Nosky

B.A., J.D., University of Pacific. Represented public agencies since 1992. Former City Attorney of Salinas and Stockton. Present City Attorney Santa Clara, where I have worked extensively on Levi's Stadium and the wind down of Santa Clara's redevelopment agency. Live in Aptos, married with two children, ages 9 and 12.

Sarah E. Owsowitz

Sarah is Of Counsel in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Environmental Law and Natural Resources practice group. Her practice focuses on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) advice and litigation, with a particular concentration on urban decay, climate change, water supply, and cultural resource issues. She was selected as a 2013 Northern California Super Lawyer for Land Use, is a past member of Executive Committee of the Real Property Section of the State Bar, and, prior to entering private practice, for nearly seven years, served as a Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco.

Traci I. Park

Traci Park is a partner at Burke, Williams & Sorensen. Ms. Park exclusively represents private sector management and public entities in labor and employment law matters. Ms. Park has a wide-ranging litigation practice which includes representing clients in FEHA, Title VII, ADA, wrongful termination, wage and hour, due process and civil rights cases. She also has been involved in a number of high profile police and fire department litigation matters involving excessive force, wrongful death and civil rights violations. In addition to her litigation practice, Ms. Park has developed a large counseling practice, which includes drafting employment policies, conducting employment law compliance audits and conducting personnel investigations. Ms. Park has also authored several published articles and contributed to a number of treatises, including the 2010-2013 editions of Legal Trends and the 2001-2007 editions of The California Employer. She is a member of the firm's Labor and Employment, Litigation and Public Law Practice Groups. Ms. Park is an experienced trainer who has conducted more than 300 seminars covering all aspects of employment law. Her recent presentations have included prevention of harassment, discrimination and retaliation, the impact of social media in the workplace, managing difficult employees, workplace hazing, bullying and violence, disability discrimination, administering FMLA, CFRA and other protected leaves of absence, strategies to prevent lawsuits arising from terminations, conducting lawful workplace investigations, and effective documentation and discipline.

Melanie M. Poturica

Melanie Poturica has been with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore since the firm's inception in 1980. Melanie was the firm's Managing Partner from 1995 until 2010 when she transitioned back to full-time law practice. As Managing Partner, Melanie directed the successful operation of LCW including the overall management of the firm's strategic planning, financial, legal, training and personnel activities. While managing the firm, Melanie continued to handle litigation, administrative hearings and advice and counsel. Melanie is a vigorous litigator with an extensive background in suits involving discrimination and harassment, as well as disciplinary and due process issues, and other employment law topics. Melanie has tried several cases to verdict and/or judgment in state and federal court. They have involved a variety of causes of action including allegations of discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, retaliation under FEHA, whistleblower retaliation under Labor Code 1102.5, retaliation for exercising freedom of speech rights and union activities under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, breach of contract, intentional infliction of emotional distress and false imprisonment. Melanie has also handled many ordinary writs of mandamus under CCP 1085 and administrative mandamus under CCP 1094.5. In addition to her work as a litigator, Melanie has successfully represented many clients in arbitrations and in administrative hearings. Melanie is also a dynamic trainer, who brings the scope of her legal and management expertise to her presentations. A continuous aspect of Melanie's practice is responding to requests from clients for advice and guidance regarding employment law issues and student issues which run the gamut from the disability interactive process, background checks, privacy rights, cyberbullying, investigations, retaliation, non-renewals of contract, discrimination, etc. Melanie also regularly advises independent schools on student, faculty, governance, contract and a variety of other issues. She brings to independent schools her seven-year tenure as a member of Chadwick School's Board of Trustees, including four years service as a member of its executive committee. Melanie was also chair of Chadwick's Risk Management Committee. Melanie is currently serving on the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Executive Committee of its Labor and Employment Law Section and is the Chair of the Labor and Employment Law Symposium Committee.

Manuel A. Ramirez

Presiding Justice - Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Two; appointed by Governor George Deukmejian

Personal

- Born 1948 - Los Angeles, California
- Married 41 years - four children; two grandchildren

Professional Background

- Presiding Justice - Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Two - 1990-date - appointed by Governor George Deukmejian
- Unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments December 27, 1990; Confirmed by the electorate on November 8, 1994 and reconfirmed by the electorate November 3, 1998
- Associate Justice pro tempore, California Supreme Court - four pro tempore assignments: 1992, 1994, 1995, 2009 (see *Menendez v. Superior Court* (1992) 3 Cal.4th 435; *Applied Equipment Corp v. Litton Saudi Arabia Ltd.* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 503; *In re Sassounian* (1995) 9 Cal.4th 535; *Schachter v. Citigroup, Inc. et al.* (2009) 47 Cal.4th 610).
- Judge - Superior Court - civil, criminal, juvenile, adoptions and minor's compromises, and mental health departments - 1986-1990 - appointed by Governor George Deukmejian
- Judge - Municipal Court - law and motion, small claims, traffic, felony arraignment and preliminary hearing calendars, and misdemeanor jury trials - 1983-1986 - appointed by Governor George Deukmejian
- Deputy District Attorney, Orange County, 1976-1983 - misdemeanor prosecutions, writs and appeals, felony panel assignment (major felony cases, including death penalty), charter member of Sexual Assault and Vertical Prosecution Unit, and Assistant Division Chief, Family Support Unit
- Admitted to California Bar in 1976 and to practice before the Federal Central District, 1976

Educational Background

- Loyola University School of Law (now Loyola Law School), Juris Doctorate, Los Angeles, 1974
- Whittier College, Bachelor of Arts, 1970. Major: political science and international relations
- Judicial Education Courses: Chief Judges Conference, American Bar Association, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1999
- Miscellaneous Continuing Education of the Bar courses, 1984 - Present, - Riverside County & San Bernardino County
- The Hague, Netherlands, Participant, International Judicial Academy, 2008

Professional Activities

- Committee Member, Bernard Witkin Memorial Award, 2006, 2007, 2008

- California Judges Association (member, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 2005)
- San Bernardino County Bar Association (honorary member) 1991 to date
- Riverside County Bar Association (honorary member) 1991 to date
- Orange County Bar Association (member, 1976 [honorary since 1983])
- Orange County Deputy District Attorneys Association (member, including offices of Secretary-Treasurer and Board member, 1980-1983)
- Orange County Mexican-American Bar Association (member, 1976-1983)

Educational and Professional Honors and Awards

- Richard M. Nixon Scholarship Award, Whittier College, 1969
- Richard M. Heyden Memorial Scholarship, Whittier College, 1969
- Outstanding Hispanic Alumni Award, Whittier College, 1987
- Constitutional Rights Trial Judge of the Year, 1989
- Developmental Disabilities Center of Orange County Trial Judge of the Year, 1989
- California State Senate Certificate of Recognition, John Seymour, 35th Senate District, 1990
- Serafines De Orange County Trial Judge of the Year, 1990
- Loyola University School of Law (now Loyola Law School), Outstanding Hispanic Alumni Award, 1991
- James H. Krieger Meritorious Service Award for Outstanding Community Service, Riverside County Bar Association, 1999
- Inland Empire Hispanic Image Award Recipient, "Public Service Person of the Year," 2002
- Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congressman Ken Calvert, Certificates of Recognition from State Senator Nell Soto and Assemblyman John Longville, upon receipt of Public Service Person of the Year Award, Inland Empire Hispanic Image Awards, Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine, 2002

Teaching and Educational Activities

- Continuing panelist - Riverside County Office of Education, Superintendents' Legal Seminar, 1992-2005. Guest speaker and seminar participant.
- Orange County Mock Trial Judge - 1984 to 1995
- Instructor - Paralegal Studies, University of California Irvine, Extension Program, 1988-1996
- Commencement speaker - San Bernardino Sheriff's Academy graduating class, 1991-1993
- Faculty, Seminar Leader - California Judicial College, Berkeley, 1986

Community Activities

- Inaugural member and co-founder - Casita de San José (home for abused children), 1983-1986
- Charter member, Red Mass Catholic Lawyers - Orange County, 1987

- Charter member, co-founder and co-chairman - Efren Herrera Scholarship Foundation, 1987-1996
- Volunteer, Adopt-a-Class Program, 1988-1997
- Commencement speaker, San Bernardino Sheriff's Academy graduation class, 1991-1993
- Charter member, founder, Red Mass Catholic Lawyers - Inland Empire, 1992
- Volunteer cook for the homeless - Southwest Community Center, Santa Ana, 1993 to 2001
- Member, Judicial Council of California, Executive Legislative Action Network Chair
- Member, Task Force Subcommittee on Appellate Courts Courthouse Construction Guidelines, 1999 - present
- Chair, Appellate Court Facilities Guidelines Working Group, 1999-2001
- Chair, Author, Appellate Court Facilities Guidelines, 2001
- Chair, High School Outreach Program, San Bernardino, Riverside and Inyo Counties, 2001-Present
- Chair, Appellate Facilities Modifications Working Group, 2005
- Guest Lecturer, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, Appellate Practice & Program, 2005 to date
- Member, Design & Construction Team, 4th Appellate District, Division 3, Orange County, 2005-2010
- Presiding Justice, Moot Court, Pepperdine University - School of Law
- Coach, Little League, soccer, National Junior Basketball, Pop Warner Football and Bobettes Baseball, 1968-1996

Kevin Randolph

Kevin is an attorney with Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden, where he practices receivership, real estate and land use law. He has served as a Health and Safety Code receiver in numerous cases involving vacant, residential, and commercial properties.

Kevin D. Siegel

Kevin represents cities and other local agencies regarding a wide range of public law matters, including taxes and assessments, land use and planning, CEQA and environmental law, eminent domain, contracting, public records, elections, tort claims, and due process, takings and other issues of constitutional law. Kevin has successfully litigated these and other municipal law issues. Kevin also provides advice and transactional services, promoting sound decision-making and reducing potential liability. Kevin joined Burke, Williams & Sorensen in August 2012. Prior to joining Burke, Kevin was a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Oakland, where he specialized in writs and appeals. Previously, Kevin was a shareholder at McDonough Holland & Allen, where he litigated cases for public agencies across the State, and a Legal Research Attorney for the San Francisco Superior Court, where he advised judges regarding complex litigation.

Matthew R. Silver

Matthew R. Silver is a Partner in the boutique law firm of Silver & Wright LLP. Mr. Silver specialized in code enforcement, receiverships, land use, police services, and zoning and planning laws. He has extensive experience in the courtroom in both criminal and civil litigation, having handled hundreds of cases from inception to resolution, including appeals. His experience includes receiverships over substandard and blighted properties, civil litigation involving individuals and corporations who violate municipal codes and certain state laws, enforcement of the Health and Safety Code, red light and drug abatements, ABC regulations, civil lawsuits to abate nuisances, obtaining injunctive relief, representing clients at administrative abatement and CUP revocation hearings, defending appeals of administrative decisions in Superior Court, and working with clients to develop efficient and effective systems for enforcing their municipal codes.

Gregory W. Stepanicich

Gregory W. Stepanicich is a shareholder in the Public Law Department at Richards, Watson & Gershon with more than 35 years of experience representing local public agencies. Mr. Stepanicich serves as City Attorney for the Cities of Fairfield and Mill Valley, and the Town of Ross and as General Counsel for the Marin Telecommunications Agency, Marin Energy Authority, the San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority and the California Statewide Communities Development Authority. He previously served as City Attorney of Agoura Hills, Beverly Hills, and Seal Beach. Mr. Stepanicich concentrates on the representation of public agencies in a wide range of government law areas, including land use, local taxation and development fees, and telecommunications.

Mr. Stepanicich has lectured extensively on a variety of public law issues at conferences and seminars. Mr. Stepanicich is the managing shareholder of RW&G's San Francisco office. He is a member of the American, California and San Francisco Bar Associations. Mr. Stepanicich is also a member of the Urban Land Institute and National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.

Education

A.B., Highest Honors, University of California, Riverside, 1973

J.D., Order of the Coif, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 1977

Stephen L. Taber

Stephen Taber's law practice focuses on public agencies, nonprofit organizations and public finance. His broad experience in the financing of public and nonprofit projects includes emphases on health facilities, senior care and housing, education, student housing, public infrastructure and mass transit. He has served as counsel to numerous nonprofit corporations and as underwriter's counsel and bond counsel in both tax-exempt and taxable borrowing transactions. In addition to representing clients in unenhanced issues and issues supported by bond insurance and letters of credit, he has structured transactions using Federal Home Loan Bank letters of credit, HUD guaranties, New Market Tax Credits, Cal Mortgage loan insurance, bank qualified bonds and direct placement bonds. Stephen has served as general counsel and special counsel to many nonprofit organizations, including cultural organizations, hospitals, retirement housing providers and social services organizations. He serves as general counsel to several Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) organizations in Northern California. Some other clients he has served are the Antelope Valley Healthcare District, the Bay Institute Aquarium Foundation, American Baptist Homes of the West, Eskaton Properties, Inc., City of Desert Hot Springs and Fontana Unified School District.

Before practicing law, Stephen served for five years as Senior Consultant to the California Senate Committee on Local Government, where he provided analysis and advice on local agency, land use, public finance, housing and redevelopment, and joint powers authorities. He subsequently served as a special consultant to the California Business and Transportation Agency. He has served on the boards of directors of many nonprofit organizations and has, in such capacity, been responsible for development of major capital facilities. Stephen is a native of San Francisco and resides in the city on Russian Hill.

Charles Thompson

Charles W. Thompson, Jr. is the Executive Director and General Counsel of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. Prior to being appointed to this position Mr. Thompson served as County Attorney for Montgomery County, Maryland from 1995 to 2006. For the previous 17 years, Mr. Thompson served as County Attorney for Carroll County, Maryland. Mr. Thompson received a bachelor's degree in history from Virginia Military Institute and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law. Mr. Thompson is currently serving as an adjunct professor at the George Washington University teaching State and Local Government Law. Mr. Thompson is admitted to practice in Maryland, the U.S. District Court for Maryland, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Thompson was awarded the ABA, Section of State and Local Government Law Jefferson Fordham Advocacy Award in 2011.

Melissa A. Thorme

Melissa represents municipal entities all over the state, from San Diego to Humboldt counties. She provides valuable compliance assistance and works with her municipal and industrial clients to develop cost-effective methods for complying with today's ever tightening water quality regulatory regime. With a Bachelors and Masters degree in Biological Sciences, along with a J.D. and LL.M specializing in Energy and Environmental Law, Melissa brings a wealth of expertise to environmental law issues. Although most of her practice focuses on Clean Water issues, she also has experience and depth in CEQA, Prop. 65, and enforcement defense.

Holly O. Whatley

Holly Whatley is Senior Counsel at Colantuono & Levin, PC and serves as the Assistant City Attorney for Sierra Madre. She also heads the firm's Litigation Department focusing on public law disputes, including post-redevelopment and other municipal finance issues, matters involving Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs), land use, CEQA, election, public works and employment law disputes. Holly is a seasoned litigator with significant experience in complex litigation in a broad range of areas. Holly's experience in litigation ranges from pre-suit strategy and negotiations through both jury and bench trials, as well as judicial and private arbitrations. She has experience representing cities in municipal finance litigation, including writ actions involving multi-million dollar claims. These include a constitutional challenge to A.B. 1484, the post-redevelopment legislation now pending in Sacramento Superior Court on behalf of 13 cities and their successor agencies from 11 counties around the state, a \$10 million per year dispute between Los Angeles County and 47 of its cities regarding property tax administration fees, a multi-million dollar dispute between a telecommunications carrier and over 30 cities regarding telecommunications user taxes, and a \$24 million per year dispute between Chevron and the City of Richmond regarding business license taxes. She has ample litigation experience in utility and other rate-making disputes including current matters involving water rates, groundwater augmentation charges, a dispute with Southern California Gas Co. regarding the cost to relocate mains in conjunction with a freeway interchange project, and other municipal revenue disputes. As a result of her practice in both advisory and litigation matters, she has dealt with a broad range of Public Records Act issues, including the intersection of the PRA with discovery obligations in litigation and the various privileges and exceptions implicated by both. Education: Holly graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988. She received her J.D from the University of Texas School of Law in 1992 and joined the California Bar that same year. While she was at law school, she taught legal research and writing to first-year students.

Richard S. Whitmore

Richard (Dick) Whitmore began representing management in public sector employment matters in 1970 as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Sunnyvale. He was the founding partner of Whitmore, Kay & Stevens (1976) and Whitmore, Johnson & Bolanos (1991). Following the merger of Whitmore, Johnson & Bolanos with Liebert Cassidy, Dick became a name partner in Liebert Cassidy Whitmore. Although partially retired, Dick continues to advise and consult with public agencies on negotiations, factfinding, arbitration, mediation and related labor relations matters. He is providing training for public agencies like the League of California Cities and CALPELRA. He is also serving as a mediator, factfinder, and arbitrator, both as a neutral and as a management representative on tripartite panels.

Marc L. Zafferano

Marc was appointed City Attorney of San Bruno in February 2011, a few months after the PG&E explosion that devastated the city. Previously, he was a partner at the San Carlos firm of Aaronson, Dickerson, Cohn & Lanzone, where he had practiced municipal law and civil litigation since 1987. He was City Attorney for the City of Belmont for five years, District Counsel for the San Mateo Harbor District for ten years, and also represented the cities of San Carlos, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, and the Town of Woodside. He received a B.A in political science, with distinction, and Honors in Values, Technology and Society from Stanford University in 1980 and graduated from Hastings College of The Law in 1983. In his free time, he created and heads a Math Club for the local middle school, coached high school students in Mock Trial competitions, enjoys tennis, and plays the violin.