

**Michele Bagneris**

Michele Beal Bagneris, Esq. is the City Attorney/City Prosecutor for the City of Pasadena, California. She is responsible for managing all civil and criminal legal matters for the city. She and her staff advise the city council, city advisory bodies, commissions and committees, city departments, the Rose Bowl Operating Company, the Pasadena Convention Center, and the Pasadena Community Access Corporation. As City Prosecutor, she oversees prosecution of misdemeanor and infraction violations, and special programs such as the Nuisance Abatement and Domestic Violence programs. She supervises approximately 30 employees and manages all litigation and transactional matters handled by in-house and outside lawyers. She has served as Pasadena's City Attorney since 1997 and prior to joining Pasadena, Ms. Bagneris was a shareholder at Richards, Watson & Gershon, where she worked for 16 years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Stanford University and her Juris Doctorate from Boalt Hall School of Law, U.C. Berkeley. Among other organizations, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities, Chair of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) Board of Directors, and has been very active in a wide range of League activities. She is married to Jules S. Bagneris, III and they have three adult children.



Celia Brewer

Celia A. Brewer's more than two-decade long career in public service has included work on some of the San Diego region's most complex and high profile land use and environmental projects. Brewer is currently city attorney for the City of Carlsbad, where she was a key member of the team that negotiated a historic agreement with NRG Energy and SDG&E to remove the aging power plant from the city's coast. Brewer also led a team in creatively combining a lawsuit settlement, an interested developer, and several environmental groups to provide an extra city park, additional open space, and accelerated road improvements. Prior to joining the City of Carlsbad in 2003, Brewer served as the interim Port attorney and assistant Port attorney for the San Diego Unified Port District. Here she was a key adviser on the Port's efforts to remove the South Bay Power Plant from the San Diego Bay waterfront. As assistant general counsel to the San Diego County Water Authority, she worked on a number of innovative water supply and diversification strategies, including finalizing issues concerning the lining of the All American Canal. Brewer began her public service career in Solana Beach, first as deputy city attorney and eventually as city attorney, where she helped resolve issues related to moving the railroad tracks below street level, a project which improved safety and helped revitalize this small coastal city. In addition to working for public agencies, Brewer was in private practice representing municipalities, special districts and nonprofit organizations.

Brewer currently serves as First Vice President of the League of California City Attorneys Department and has twice been president of the City Attorneys Association of San Diego County. A passionate advocate for people with spinal cord injuries, Brewer serves on the advisory board of the Southern California Chapter of United Spinal Association, is a Christopher Reeve Foundation certified peer mentor and a member of the UCSD satellite fundraising team for the "Swim With Mike" scholarship fund for physically challenged athletes. Brewer currently lives in Cardiff with her teen age daughter and is writing her first book, an inspirational account of her son's triumph over a life changing injury.



Damien Brower

Damien Brower is the City Attorney of Brentwood, a community of 60,000 people located in Northern California (about 50 miles east of Oakland). A graduate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Damien received his law degree from U.C. Berkeley. In addition, he holds a master's degree in Political Science (U.C. Davis) that he uses to pontificate all things politics to his two teenage sons at the dinner table (and has, sadly, grown used to their rolling eyes and mocking tones when he does).

Before coming to Brentwood in 2005, Damien worked in Redwood City as the Assistant City Attorney, and as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Carlsbad. In addition to Redwood City and Carlsbad, he worked in Riverside, both as a Deputy City Attorney and as the City Prosecutor, where he made the local papers for, among other things, prosecuting the owner of Frank the Peacock (luckily this was before the Internet and copies of the articles are hard to find).

Damien has long-standing connections to the League's City Attorneys' Department, as well as the larger League itself, where he worked as an intern in the late 1980s while attending U.C. Davis. After law school he was fortunate enough to work for two City Attorneys (Stan Yamamoto and Ron Ball) who allowed him to volunteer his time at Department Conferences, helping JoAnne Speers and League staff with Conference logistics (which is a fancy way of saying that he made sure there were MCLE forms at everyone's seats and that the individual session sign-in sheets were up to date - yes, things were done differently in those days...).

Since being appointed City Attorney, Damien has served on several Department and League Committees (Legal Advocacy, Nominating, Brown Act, Community Services, and the Practicing Ethics Handbook Revision Committee). In 2016, he was selected as the Department's Second Vice President, and currently serves as the Department President. In October 2019, when his term is up, he will rest, and perhaps further expand his aloha shirt collection.



Jeb Brown

Jeb is a graduate of Cal State University, San Bernardino with a B S in Political Science. He obtained his Juris Doctor from the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific. He is licensed to practice law before all of the Courts of the State of California as well as the United States District Court, Central District of California, Southern District of California, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Jeb began his career with the law firm of Fidler and Bell, (now Orrock, Popka, Fortino Tucker and Dolen) in Riverside, where he represented numerous public entities in both state and federal court. He was hired in 1995 by the Riverside City Attorney's Office as a principal deputy in the Litigation Services Section and was involved in all aspects of tort defense litigation matters, personnel advisory services, supervision and direction of outside counsel, general risk management issues and working closely with the Riverside Police Department in providing police legal services. In May, 2001, he left to work at the municipal law firm of Burke, Williams & Sorensen representing numerous public. In August 2002, he returned to the Riverside City Attorney's Office as Supervising Deputy City Attorney for the Litigation Services Section. Jeb also served as the Legal Advisor to Public Safety (Police and Fire), provided advice on employment issues and represented the City and its employees in both state and federal court. In 2014, Jeb left the City of Riverside to become Assistant County Counsel for Riverside County where he supervises 23 attorneys representing public safety departments including the Probation Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Department. Jeb is a Past President and board member of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court and the Inland Empire Federal Bar Association. He is an adjunct professor at Laverne School of Law (Civil Rights, First Amendment, Federal Courts and Conflict of Laws). Jeb was a former Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit and currently serves the Federal Court as an Attorney Settlement Officer. He has been a speaker for the League of California Cities, Federal Bar Association, California County Counsel's Association, University of Laverne Law School Civil Rights Symposium and the Los Angeles County Bar Association.



Thomas B. Brown

Thomas Brown is a partner of the firm Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP and the City Attorney for the City of St. Helena. He served for 12 years as the City Attorney for the City of Napa, prior to which he served as Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of Berkeley. Tom represents public agency clients. His practice focuses on all aspects of municipal law. He has extensive experience advising clients and litigating in land use, zoning and planning, the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), real property entitlements, police power, charter cities, municipal taxation, Brown Act, Public Records Act, code enforcement, intergovernmental relations, grand juries, elections, initiatives, and referenda.



Timothy Coates

Tim Coates is a partner at the appellate firm of Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP in Los Angeles, and over the past 34 years he has briefed and argued more than 250 matters in the state and federal appellate courts, including successfully arguing five cases in the United States Supreme Court, and obtaining a per curiam reversal in a sixth case. Tim's Supreme Court victories have addressed absolute and qualified immunity (*Van de Kamp v. Goldstein*, 555 U.S. 335 (2009), *Messerschmidt v. Millender*, 565 U.S. 535 (2012), *Stanton v. Sims*, 571 U.S. ___, 134 S.Ct. 3 (2013)), Monell liability (*Los Angeles County v. Humphries*, 562 U.S. 29 (2010)) and warrantless arrests (*County of Riverside v. McLaughlin*, 500 U.S. 44 (1991)). He has been named a Southern California Super Lawyer in the area of appellate practice from 2007-2019, and has also been named in *The Best Lawyers In America* (Appellate Law) (2014-2019). The *Los Angeles Daily Journal* has repeatedly recognized Tim as one of the Top 100 Attorneys in California, he has received a California Lawyer Attorney of the Year award for his United States Supreme Court work, and Reuters News Service named him one of the "Top Petitioners" in the United States Supreme Court. Tim lectures widely on issues related to appellate practice, as well as section 1983 liability. He is also co-author of the chapter on federal civil rights liability in the CEB publication *California Government Tort Liability Practice*.



Patricia E. Curtin

With more than 30 years of focused experience, Patricia advises clients on applicable planning and zoning laws, prepares and processes land use applications, and obtains project approvals, including environmental and regulatory permits. Patricia's practice emphasizes local government and land use law representing both private and public sector clients. She advises these clients on all aspects of land use law, including the application of affordable housing and density bonus laws, as well as SB 35, which allows ministerial approvals of qualifying affordable housing projects.

She has worked with landowners and developers of commercial, industrial, residential and agricultural property, including wine growers, wineries and related businesses; shopping center owners; hotel/resort owners; educational institutions; public agencies; and hospitals and other medical facilities. In addition to representing both public and private sector clients, she serves as legal counsel to nine Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts (GHADs). In addition, she counsels other GHADs and similar entities on specific GHAD related issues and represents property owners, cities and counties in forming GHADs. She also serves as Secretary to the California Association of GHADs. The Association of GHADs is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving, enhancing and promoting the effectiveness of GHADs in California and promoting the utilization of GHADs in the prevention, mitigation, abatement, and control of geological hazards.

She has written several articles and papers on issues relating to GHAD formation and implementation. Patricia has presented and written extensively on local government and land use-related topics. She is one of two authors of a national land use publication, "State and Local Government Land Use Liability." (West Group)



Eric Danly

Eric Danly has served as the Petaluma City Attorney since December 5, 2005, and since July 1, 2013 in an in-house capacity. Eric reports directly to the City Council and oversees the City Attorney's Office consisting of, in addition to the City Attorney, two assistant city attorneys and a legal assistant. Prior to joining Petaluma in-house Eric was a partner in the Meyers Nave law firm and managing partner of its Santa Rosa office. Eric also served as Cloverdale City Attorney, General Counsel to the Monterey County Housing Authority Development Corporation, Clearlake City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for Pinole. Eric has delivered numerous presentations on open meetings and records law, and ethical and other laws applicable to public agency officials. He served on the League of California Cities committee that authored the organization's first published guide to the California Public Records Act, entitled "The People's Business – A Guide to the California Public Records Act." He was appointed to serve on the League's standing committee on the Public Records Act when the committee was formed in September, 2009 and served on the committee through April, 2016. Along with his colleagues on the Public Records Act Committee, Eric helped author updates to The People's Business: A Guide to the Public Records Act, which were published 2010, 2011, 2014, and the Second Edition to The People's Business, which was published in 2017. While serving on the Public Records Act Committee Eric and his colleagues provided annual updates on the Public Records Act for the Municipal Law Handbook, in addition to providing support to League lobbyists on Public Records Act issues and recommendations to the Legal Advocacy Committee on requests for amicus support in public records cases. Currently Eric chairs the League of California Cities' Attorney Development and Succession standing committee. Eric also currently serves on the League's Municipal Law Institute Committee. Eric has also previously served on the Legal Advocacy, Municipal Law Handbook, and Nominating Committees within the City Attorneys Department of the League. Eric received a BA in Interdisciplinary English from Stanford University in 1990, and his JD from University of California, Hastings College of the Law with a public law concentration in 1998. He has been practicing law representing public agencies since 1999.



M. Christine Davi

Christine Davi began working for the City of Monterey in 2006 as the Assistant City Attorney. In May 2012 the City Council appointed her as the City Attorney. Christine previously served as Sr. Deputy City Attorney for the City of Salinas. In past years she has participated as a member of the Legal Advocacy Committee. Christine received her BA in Communication with minors in Political Science and Spanish Literature from University of California, San Diego, and her J.D. from California Western School of Law.

**Jeffrey Dunn**

Jeffrey V. Dunn is a highly sought after legal counsel to public agencies in complex litigation matters. Recognized as one of California's leading local government litigation attorneys, he was selected as one of California Lawyer magazine's Attorneys of the Year for 2014, the Daily Journal's Top 20 Municipal Attorneys in 2013 and Top 25 Municipal Attorneys in 2011. He was also recognized as one of California's Top 100 Attorneys by the Daily Journal in 2013 and 2016. Jeff gained national recognition for his successful representation in one of the most controversial issues facing California cities and counties — municipal regulation of marijuana distribution facilities. He was trial and appellate counsel in key published decisions affirming local government's authority to protect public safety and local land use authority, including the unanimous decision by the California Supreme Court in *City of Riverside v. Inland Empire Patients' Health and Wellness Center*. He discussed this subject on the NBC Nightly News, in the Washington Post and in other national and local television, radio and print media. Jeff currently chairs the League of Cities Attorneys Department Cannabis Regulation Committee.



Michael Guina

Michael Guina serves as the City Attorney for the City of Emeryville. He has spent most of his public sector career in Emeryville, having served as its Deputy and Assistant City Attorney. While with the firm of Burke, Williams & Sorensen, he was the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Pacifica and City of St. Helena. Mr. Guina hopes the Attorney Development and Succession Committee will be a valuable resource for new city attorneys and inspire law students to pursue a rewarding career in the city attorney world.

**Maila Hansen**

Maila works in the General Counsel and Advisory division of the Sacramento City Attorney's Office. She advises Public Works and Homeless Services staff on a variety of issues including Brown Act, Public Records Act, real property transactions, procurement processes for City contracts, eminent domain, environmental compliance, ethics, constitutional issues associated with the City's Art in Public Places program, administration of City grant programs, and construction-related matters such as prevailing wages and bonds. She went to UC Davis School of Law and has been with the Sacramento City Attorney's Office since 2015.

**Zach Heinselman**

Zach joined Richards, Watson & Gershon in 2017 as a Summer Associate. While in law school he externed for the Honorable Justice John L. Segal of the California Court of Appeal and clerked for the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, General Counsel Division. He was also a Comments Editor for the UCLA Law Review, a Writing Advisor, and a Research Assistant to Professor E. Tendayi Achiume. Prior to his legal career, Zach worked on political campaigns and at the at the Pacific Council on International Policy. Zach received a J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Michael Hogan**

Mike is a magna cum laude graduate of Boston College Law School. He was an associate and partner with Gray, Cary, Ames & Frye in San Diego for 15 years before starting his own firm in 1995, where his practice focuses exclusively on the representation of public agencies in matters involving land use and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Over the past thirty-eight years, Mike has provided counseling and litigation services on a wide variety of public and private projects, assisting in the preparation and defense of public agencies' CEQA compliance documents and land use approvals. In that role, Mike has been the lead trial and appellate lawyer in scores of lawsuits in federal and state courts involving CEQA claims and other land use issues. Mike currently represents public agencies in Southern and Central California, including the cities of Carlsbad, Coronado, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa and Solana Beach, as well as Kern County, Kings County and the San Diego Unified Port District.

**Christi Hogin**

Christi currently serves as city attorney for Lomita, Malibu, and Palos Verdes Estates and she is interim city attorney for the City of Pomona. She has an active litigation practice including representing the City of L.A. in land use and CEQA cases. She is a former president of the City Attorneys Department and has been practicing public law for 30 years, describing herself as a true believer in local government. Her law firm merged with Best Best & Krieger last year and she practices in the firm's Manhattan Beach office. Her husband is also a lawyer.



Scott Howard

Scott Howard has been practicing Municipal Law for over 40 years. Although he retired after serving as the City Attorney of Glendale, he is currently employed by Colantuono Highsmith & Whatley, providing contract attorney services to various agencies. He is also an Adjunct Professor at California State University, Northridge, where he teaches Urban Studies and Planning.



Michelle Hugard

Michelle is a member of the League of California Cities' Attorney Development and Succession Committee. She currently serves as a Deputy City Attorney in the Civil Liability Division of the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office. Prior to her current position, she served as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office and a judicial law clerk for the Los Angeles Superior Court.



Michael Jenkins

Michael Jenkins has been a member of the City Attorneys Department for a long, long time. He has sat through many closed sessions, some more entertaining than others. He and Christi take pleasure torturing their colleagues with interactive training programs at League conferences.



Kathleen A. Kane

Kathleen has served as Burlingame's in house City Attorney since 2013. Prior to that she was East Palo Alto's City Attorney, and Interim City Attorney for Belmont.

**Barbara Kautz**

Barbara E. Kautz practices with Goldfarb & Lipman LLP in the areas of land use, with an emphasis on housing- related legislation; inclusionary housing; CEQA/NEPA compliance; and affordable housing. She is the author of No More Kids! Overcrowded Schools, Housing, and Fair Housing Laws, California Real Property Journal (2015); co-author, Local Government Financing Powers and Sources of Funding, in ABA Legal Guide to Affordable Housing (2005, update 2011); and author of In Defense of Inclusionary Zoning: Successfully Creating Affordable Housing, 36 U.S.F. Law Review 971 (2002). Ms. Kautz has over 30 years of land use experience. Immediately prior to joining Goldfarb & Lipman LLP, she was the Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager for the City of San Mateo, California. She speaks frequently at conferences regarding housing issues and is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners and past editor of the Land Use chapter in the Municipal Law Handbook. She formerly served on the Board of Directors for the League of California Cities and the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. Ms. Kautz received her law degree summa cum laude from the University of San Francisco, holds a Master of City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Stanford University.

Goldfarb & Lipman LLP is a real estate law firm with a practice emphasizing affordable housing, land use, economic development, and housing finance. The firm represents non-profit housing sponsors, public agencies, and private developers on real estate related programs and projects. Members of the firm have taken a lead role in drafting legislation regarding housing, California Low Income Tax Credits, and limited equity cooperatives.

**Gregg Kettles**

Gregg Kettles is a member of the Department's Attorney Development and Succession Committee (ADSC). Formerly a full-time teacher, Mr. Kettles hopes the ADSC's Essential Skills program succeeds in benefitting every attorney in the Department, no matter their years of experience.



Lauren Langer

Lauren Langer serves as assistant city attorney for the cities of West Hollywood, Lomita and Hermosa Beach, which includes serving as counsel to their planning commissions. She also serves as assistant counsel to the Westside Cities Council of Governments and counsel to the West Hollywood business license commission and regularly advises the Malibu Environmental Programs Department.

Lauren's practice consists of advising city clients on land use, zoning, planning and environmental laws (including California Environmental Quality Act, Clean Water Act, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System compliance), drafting legislation and contracts and advising on all other legal issues associated with municipal law practice, such as open meeting requirements and public records laws.

In addition to her land use and environmental experience, Lauren is actively involved in creating cannabis ordinances for her city clients in response to Proposition 64, including West Hollywood's cannabis business license ordinance and license selection program. She also is highly skilled in drafting other critical and complex municipal ordinances, including those that address density bonus and wireless infrastructure. Lauren also handles enforcement and regulatory matters with the State and Regional Water Boards and litigation matters. Lauren enjoys practicing municipal law, as it allows her to work on issues that are critical to the community and impact people's daily lives — everything from safe streets to housing to the environment. Lauren focuses on building relationships with clients and consensus among all stakeholders to help cities run well and manage their issues. Before joining Best Best & Krieger LLP, she practiced at Jenkins & Hugin for 12 years.

Lauren has served on the League of California Cities City Attorneys' Cannabis Regulation Committee since 2011. She also hosts programming for new lawyers at the League's City Attorneys' Department Spring Conference. She also regularly presents in-house trainings and seminars on water quality issues and CEQA, cannabis regulations and the Brown and Public Record acts. Lauren co-chairs the Parent Advisory Council at her daughters' school.

Lauren is licensed to practice law in the State of California.



Andrea K. Leisy

Ms. Leisy's practice focuses on advising public agencies, project applicants and citizen's groups during administrative proceedings and in trial and appellate litigation, with a focus on issues arising under the California Environmental Quality Act, the State Planning and Zoning Law, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Integrated Waste Management Act. Ms. Leisy has also worked on projects involving compliance with, or permitting under, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Her clients include the City of Newport Beach, the City of Los Angeles, Waste Management of California, Inc. and the Port of Los Angeles.



Michelle Marchetta Kenyon

Michelle Kenyon provides legal representation for cities and other public agencies as city attorney and special counsel. Michelle currently serves as City Attorney for the cities of Rohnert Park, Calistoga, Piedmont and Pacifica, Town Attorney for the Town of Moraga, and Special Counsel to several cities in the Bay Area. She previously has served as Acting/Interim City Attorney for many cities including the City of Redwood City, Daly City, Pleasant Hill, and the Town of Danville. Her practice includes advising city councils and staff in all areas of municipal law issues such as annexation procedures, bidding and claims procedures, CEQA, code enforcement, conflicts of interest laws, contract review, elections, Government Tort Claims Act, initiatives, referenda, land use and planning, municipal finance, open meeting laws, personnel, Proposition 218, and water supply assessments.

Michelle's other areas of specialty include land use litigation and appellate advocacy. She is experienced in both state and federal trial and appellate courts, including written appearances in the U.S. Supreme Court. She has successfully served as lead attorney in litigation involving CEQA, inverse condemnation, election law, civil rights, Proposition 218 and rent control, with several outcomes garnering published decisions.

**Robert May**

Robert “Tripp” May, a partner with Telecom Law Firm, PC, represents and advises public agencies and private and nonprofit landowners in regulatory and transactional matters concerning wired and wireless infrastructure matters. He assists public agencies develop and implement regulatory frameworks for communications infrastructure, including ordinances, policies, design guidelines, permit applications and staff handbooks. He also negotiates, drafts and enforces communications infrastructure agreements, including license and franchise agreements for deployments in the public rights-of-way. Mr. May has represented the League of California Cities in several FCC rulemaking proceedings and currently serves as the League’s counsel in the pending challenge to the FCC’s “small cell order” released in September 2018. Mr. May graduated from University of California at Santa Barbara, with honors, and earned his J.D., also with honors, from the University of San Diego, where he competed for Moot Court Board and served as executive editor on the San Diego Law Review.

**Jennifer Mizrahi**

Jennifer Mizrahi currently serves as the City Attorney for the City of Desert Hot Springs, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Rancho Mirage and Deputy Counsel for several of the firm's public agency clients. Ms. Mizrahi joined Quintanilla & Associates in 2015, after working with Mr. Quintanilla for over nine years at the firm of Green, de Bortnowsky & Quintanilla ("GdQ"), where she served as Assistant City Attorney the firm's public agency clients including the City of Cathedral City and the City of Victorville. Prior to GdQ, Ms. Mizrahi worked at Beltran & Medina where she served as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Lynwood, and Deputy General Counsel for the Water Replenishment District. During the course of representing public entities for over 15 years, Ms. Mizrahi has acquired extensive experience in many facets of municipal law including land use and planning, infrastructure and public works, and environmental regulation and compliance.

Ms. Mizrahi was admitted to the State Bar of California in January 2003. Ms. Mizrahi received her Juris Doctor from Southwestern University School of Law, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American Studies/Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she graduated with honors. Ms. Mizrahi is currently a member of the State Bar of California, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Desert Bar Association and the Southwestern Alumni Association. Ms. Mizrahi is admitted to practice before all courts of the State of California, the United States District Court, District 7, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and she is fluent in speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish.

**Joseph Montes**

Joseph Montes is the City Attorney for the cities of Alhambra and Santa Clarita. He is a partner at Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP, where he has been for 25 years. In past years he has participated as a Policy Committee Representative, as a member of the Public Records Act Committee, the Legal Advocacy Committee, the City Attorney's Section Board Selection Committee, the Attorney Development and Succession Committee, and has spoken at past conferences. He is a survivor of 19 years of Catholic education, 11 of them Jesuit. And while he does not profess to be an Ethics Expert, he generally knows when other people are wrong.



Amara L. Morrison

Amara has extensive experience obtaining land use entitlements for a variety of land use projects including mixed use, residential, commercial and hotel uses. She has a breadth and depth of experience in all aspects of land use work including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Permit Streamlining Act, planning and zoning Law, the Subdivision Map Act, and affordable housing laws, including density bonus and SB 35, which allows ministerial approvals for qualifying affordable housing projects. Her work has involved negotiation with state and federal agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Delta Protection Commission. Amara has 26 years of experience serving Contra Costa and Alameda County public sector clients, including special districts, with regard to land use, zoning, development and redevelopment, environmental law, and resource protection and conservation. Prior to private practice, she was assistant city attorney for Livermore and Walnut Creek and in connection with those positions advised elected and appointed officials and staff on all aspects of municipal law including the California Public Records Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, public finance and contracts law, solid waste, risk management and conflicts of interest, First Amendment and redevelopment law. Amara currently is co-general counsel to the Alameda County Transportation Commission and various Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts. She has been lead counsel on the development, implementation and defense of general plans, specific plans and various neighborhood plans and development project approvals based thereon.

**Lynn Tracy Nerland**

Lynn Tracy Nerland is a member of the Department's Attorney Development and Succession Committee (ADSC), as well as the Department's Second Vice-President. The ADSC is hoping that its Essential Skills program is helpful for attorneys at all levels and encourages all feedback short of throwing rotten tomatoes during the presentation. The role of "Beleaguered City Attorney" is not a stretch for Ms. Nerland whose acting credits range from the Narrator in a first-grade production of "Hansel and Gretel" to the British host on a "Weakest Link" game show riff at the 2001 Annual Conference. Her city attorney credits include current City Attorney for San Pablo and previously City Attorney for Antioch, Assistant City Attorney for Pleasanton and Assistant City Attorney for Emeryville. Ms. Nerland is dedicating this performance to all of those city attorney types trying to stay alert during a late council or commission meeting . . .

**Helen Peak**

Helen Holmes Peak is a member of the Department's Attorney Development and Succession Committee. She currently serves as the contract City Attorney of San Marcos, and has represented a number of other public agencies as special counsel.



Javan N. Rad

Javan Rad is the Chief Assistant City Attorney for the City of Pasadena, and has been with Pasadena since 2005. Javan oversees the Civil Division of the City Attorney's office, and also handles a variety of litigation and advisory matters in the areas of constitutional, tort, and telecommunications law. Javan has been active in a variety of capacities for the League of California Cities' City Attorney's Department. Javan has previously served as President of the City Attorney's Association of Los Angeles County, and is currently on the Board of Directors of SCAN NATOA (the States of California and Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors). Javan graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in Quantitative Agricultural Economics, and from Pepperdine University School of Law.



Michael Roush

Mr. Roush served as City Attorney for the City of Pleasanton for 21 years. After retirement from Pleasanton, he has continued to provide legal services to cities. Michael has been of counsel with the Renne Public Law Group through which he has served as City Attorney for the City of Brisbane since 2014. As of this writing, he is serving as the Interim City Attorney for the City of Alameda. He has also provided legal services to the Cities of San Luis Obispo, Stockton and San Ramon, as well as to the City of Richmond Rent Board. Michael serves as a hearing officer for rent control programs throughout the State. He was President of the League's City Attorneys Department in the early 2000's.

**David Ruderman**

David Ruderman is contract City Attorney of Lakeport and Senior Counsel at Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, a municipal law firm with offices in Pasadena and Grass Valley. His litigation and advisory practice covers a range of public law issues, including municipal finance and public revenues, public utilities, LAFCO matters, land use, medical and adult-use marijuana, election law, employment law, and general contract disputes. In his litigation practice, David has successfully obtained TROs and injunctions against several illegal marijuana dispensaries, including affirmance on appeal of a preliminary injunction against a dispensary in Auburn. He recently obtained published opinions in two cases concerning preliminary injunctions to enjoin the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries: *Urgent Care Medical Services v. City of Pasadena* (2018) 21 Cal.App.5th 1086 and *City of Vallejo v. NCORP4, Inc.* (2017) 15 Cal.App.5th 1078. David also serves as a hearing officer for Nevada County in nuisance abatement, administrative citation, and marijuana cultivation appeals. His recent speaking engagements include “All Things Cannabis: Land Use, Cultivation, Water, Ag Land Preservation and Impacts” at the 2017 CALAFCO Staff Workshop. David received his J.D. from UCLA School of Law in 2006 where he was a managing editor of the UCLA Law Review and a judicial extern for the Honorable Harry Pregerson of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to attending law school, David served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Russian Far East. He graduated with honors from Lewis & Clark College with a major in History in 1997.

**Stacey N. Sheston**

Stacey N. Sheston is a partner in the Labor & Employment practice group of Best Best & Krieger LLP. She is also a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Prior to joining BB&K, she was a shareholder, practice group leader and chief talent officer on the management committee of McDonough Holland & Allen in Sacramento.

Stacey's practice includes day-to-day employment advice, such as dealing with problem employees (including discipline and terminations), handling harassment complaints and investigations, responding to requests for disability accommodations, addressing wage and hour and leave of absence questions, responding to grievances and unfair practice charges, and drafting employment agreements, handbooks and policies. On the litigation side, Stacey represents employers in mediations, arbitrations, administrative hearings and court proceedings (including jury and non-jury trials) arising out of employment matters, including wrongful termination, breach of contract, unpaid wages, harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

Stacey is a member of the State Bar of California, the Employee Relations Policy Committee of the League of California Cities, the Sacramento County Bar Association Labor & Employment Section, Women Lawyers of Sacramento, and the California Public Employers Labor Relations Association. She is also former editorial chair of, and contributor to, the Personnel Chapter of the Municipal Law Handbook (CEB 2010).

From 2012 to 2017, Stacey was named by her peers as a Northern California Super Lawyer for employment and labor law. She is admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Central & Eastern districts of California and the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. She is licensed to practice in the State of California.



Daniel G. Sodergren

Daniel G. Sodergren is the City Attorney for the City of Pleasanton. Mr. Sodergren previously served as City Attorney for the cities of Tracy and Livermore and as Special Counsel for the cities of Palo Alto and Oakland. He began his career as a law clerk and served in that capacity in Palo Alto, Santa Clara and San Jose. Mr. Sodergren is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and Santa Clara University School of Law.



Harriet Steiner

Harriet is a partner at Best Best & Krieger in its Sacramento office. She has been City Attorney of Davis since 1987. She is also General Counsel to the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission and Co-General Counsel to the Valley Clean Energy Alliance, a Community Choice Aggregation entity serving Davis, Woodland and Yolo County.

**Maggie W. Stern**

Maggie helps cities, counties, and special districts navigate the legal issues facing California public agencies. She streamlines routine legal matters and demystifies regulatory compliance, so her clients can spend less time on legal issues and more time on service delivery. Public agencies rely on Maggie for advice on general governance matters, including Brown Act and Public Records Act compliance, conflicts-of-interest evaluation and guidance, constitutional law, procurement and public safety issues. She also represents and defends public agencies in civil actions involving contract disputes, cost recovery, tort defense, tax allocation disputes, land use, public works, and code enforcement. Maggie has a particular fondness for public works and public contracting and has served as a reviewer of the League of California Cities' Municipal Law Handbook, Public Contracting Chapter for the last six years. She regularly speaks and publishes articles on issues related to public works and procurement.



J. Scott Tiedemann

Scott Tiedemann is the Managing Partner of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, California's largest education and public sector and non-profit labor and employment law firm. Scott is perhaps best known as a leading advocate for, and trusted advisor to public safety agencies across California. He is called upon in high profile cases to advise public safety executives regarding how to conduct complex investigations, manage media relations and navigate the procedural complexities of the Public Safety Officers and Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights. He has earned a reputation for successfully prosecuting many difficult cases involving allegations ranging from excessive force to sexual abuse to fraud. Scott has prevailed in multiple published appellate cases that have helped public safety employers more effectively manage their employees. His published decisions on behalf of public safety employers include, among others: *Upland Police Officers Association v. City of Upland* (2003) 111 Cal.App.4th 1294, *Benach v. County of Los Angeles* (2007) 149 Cal.4th 836 and *Thompson v. City of Monrovia* (2010) 186 Cal.App.4th 860, *Ferguson v. City of Cathedral City* (2011) 197 Cal.App.4th 1161, *County of Los Angeles v. Mendez* (2017) 137 S.Ct. 1539; *San Francisco Police Officers' Assoc. v. San Francisco Police Comm.* (2018) 27 Cal.App.5th 676. Scott also represents a wide variety of other government agencies and schools in labor and employment matters. Scott serves as lead negotiator for multiple employers in collective bargaining with both safety and general employee bargaining units. Scott's practice also includes conducting complex investigations, counseling and management training. He frequently speaks at national and statewide conferences, including the California Police Chiefs Association, the League of California Cities, and CalPELRA, on subjects such as disciplinary investigations, workplace harassment, employment discrimination, free speech, privacy and ethics. Scott frequently is asked to lend his knowledge and expertise to other professional organizations. He is General Counsel to the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association and previously served as Chair of the Southern California Police Legal Advisors Committee, Chair of the Labor Relations subcommittee on the dissolution of redevelopment agencies for the League of California Cities, and served on the Board of Advisors of the California Public Employee Relations (CPER) program. Scott authored the CPER Pocket Guide to the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights, is an editor of the CPER Pocket Guide to the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights, and Chapter 8 (The Public Safety Officers and Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Acts) of California Public Sector Employment Law, State Bar of California/LexisNexis (2018).

**Diana Varat**

Diana Varat is of counsel in the Los Angeles office of Richards, Watson & Gershon. Drawing from her background in urban planning, Diana advises public agencies on complex land use and housing matters. Since the State's passage of the 2017 Housing Package, Diana has focused her practice on compliance with California's housing-related land use laws. Diana has drafted numerous ordinances to implement housing element law on topics including: accessory dwelling units, inclusionary housing, density bonuses, emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing, and reasonable accommodations procedures. In addition to her focus on housing and land use, Diana is an expert in ethics laws, helping public officials analyze potential conflicts of interest under the Political Reform Act and Government Code Section 1090. Diana is active in the Los Angeles section of the American Planning Association, for which she served as the Vice Director of Policy from 2010-2012. In addition to her legal practice, Diana is a Lecturer in the Department of Urban Studies & Planning at California State University, Northridge, where she teaches a course on "The Legal Foundations of Planning." Diana also has served as a Lecturer in the Department of Urban Planning at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Prior to attending UCLA for her law degree and Master of Arts in Urban Planning, Diana worked for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and for the Planning Department for the City of Dresden, Germany.



Marni Von Wilpert

Marni von Wilpert is a Deputy City Attorney in the General Litigation Unit of the San Diego City Attorney's Office, where she prepares and defends civil actions on behalf of the City in state and federal courts.

Marni previously practiced civil rights law at the Mississippi Center for Justice, and federal labor law at the National Labor Relations Board's Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Unit in Washington D.C. She is a San Diego native and is happy to be back in her hometown.