



Speaker Biographies

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Heather Aubry

Heather Aubry is a Deputy City Attorney in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. Since 2008, she has worked in the Police General Counsel section, where she advises the police department and handles a variety of other public safety-related matters. Heather represented the City of Los Angeles in *ACLU Foundation of Southern California, et al. v. Superior Court*, which held that the Public Records Act exemption for law enforcement records of investigation applies to automatic license plate reader (ALPR) data. Heather is a member of the League's Medical Marijuana Committee and is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and UCLA School of Law.

Steven Berliner

Steve has developed an extensive labor relations practice since joining the Firm more than 17 years ago and has unparalleled retirement law expertise. Steve has acted as chief negotiator for many public agencies in labor negotiations with their employee groups, helping them reduce payroll and other costs. He also advises clients on contract interpretation issues and represents clients in grievance matters and is frequently called on to assist agencies in times of fiscal crisis. Steve defends clients in a wide range of lawsuits, including writs, breach of contract, the Fair Labor Standards Act, discrimination and harassment, and regularly represents our clients in employee disciplinary hearings. He is experienced in representing employers in labor-related cases before the California Superior Court, Court of Appeal, Federal District courts, the Public Employment Relations Board and in Public Employees' Retirement System hearings.

Eric Danly

Eric Danly has served as the Petaluma City Attorney since December 5, 2005. Since July 1, 2013, Eric has served Petaluma in an in-house capacity and has been helping the City establish a new in-house City Attorney's Department consisting of, in addition to the City Attorney, two Assistant City Attorneys and a legal assistant. Prior to joining Petaluma as its in-house City Attorney Eric was a partner in the Meyers Nave Law Firm and managing partner of its Santa Rosa office. Before leaving Meyers Nave to join Petaluma, Eric also served as Cloverdale City Attorney and as General Counsel to the Monterey County Housing Authority Development Corporation. Eric has also served as Clearlake City Attorney and as Assistant City Attorney for Pinole. Eric is an active member of the public law community, serving on committees and as a speaker and author on topics of relevance to public entities. He has delivered numerous presentations on public contract law, prevailing wage law, open meetings and records law, and ethical laws applicable to public agency officials. In 2008, 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 and continues to serve on the League of California Cities' Standing Committee on the Public Records Act. Eric is currently Co-chair of the Public Records Act Committee. 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 and 2014, and has provided annual updates to the portion of the Municipal Law Handbook covering the Public Records Act. Currently Eric and the other members of the Public Records Act Committee are at work on a second edition of The People's Business. Eric has also served on the League of California Cities' Nominating, Municipal Law Handbook and Legal Advocacy Committees. 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 since 1999.

Timothy Davis

Mr. Davis is chairman of the firm's Labor and Employment Law and a partner in our Trial and Advocacy Practice Groups. Mr. Davis has negotiated numerous labor agreements between cities and their employee groups, including police, fire, general employees, and management groups. Additionally, his practice includes internal investigations of employment complaints involving discrimination and harassment as well as the presentation of seminars on how to prevent discrimination and harassment and investigate allegations of discrimination and harassment. He also trains Human Resource professionals and managers regarding proper investigation techniques. His practice also includes development of personnel rules and policies including discipline and grievance procedures, and the investigation of grievances. Mr. Davis is also an experienced litigator who has tried to verdict several employment cases in federal and state courts and conducted over 60 employment arbitrations. Mr. Davis routinely defends employers in litigation matters in actions involving state and federal law, including but not limited to Title VII, California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Americans with Disability Act, Age Discrimination and Employment Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, California Family Rights Act, California Pregnancy Disability Act, Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights, and wage and hour issues. His practice also includes the representation of public employers before state, federal, and local administrative proceedings, including Department of Labor, local civil service commissions, PERB, EEOC, and OSHA. His litigation practice, with substantial emphasis and experience in labor and employment, encompasses all aspects of litigation, including trial, all phases of trial preparation, arguing law and motion matters, taking depositions, preparing and responding to pleadings, drafting and responding to written discovery, and research. Mr. Davis' reported decisions include *Alhambra Police Officers Association v. City of Alhambra*, (2003) 113 Cal.App.4th, 413. Mr. Davis received his B.A. degree cum laude in Integral Studies from Saint Mary's College of California in 1992 and his J.D. degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1995. Mr. Davis' commitment and experience in public law began in law school, where he co-authored the article *Does a Public Law Attorney Owe a Duty to Third Parties*, which appeared in the summer 1994 issue of the *Public Law Journal*.

Rick Doyle

Rick Doyle has been San Jose City Attorney since January 2000. From 1979 to 1989, Mr. Doyle was in private practice with the Law Firm of Jensen and Doyle, specializing in municipal finance and business litigation. In 1989 he joined the San Jose City Attorney's Office as a Senior Deputy City Attorney where he represented the City on a number of financial transactions and special projects including the agreement with the San Jose Sharks. He was appointed Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Jose in 1992. In 1995, Mr. Doyle was named City Attorney for the City of Concord. He served as the Concord City Attorney until his appointment to the San Jose post in January 2000. Admitted to the California State Bar in 1979, Mr. Doyle received his B.A. Degree in History from California State University Chico and his law degree at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

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.

Jonathan Holtzman

Jonathan Holtzman is a founding partner of Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, Public Law Group, LLP, a law firm representing primarily local government agencies, educational institutions, and non-profits in the San Francisco Bay Area, California's Central Valley, and Southern California. The firm's work is focused in the areas of labor, employment, municipal law, and public interest litigation. Mr. Holtzman strives to address the structural challenges of cities and counties through strategic consulting, negotiations, arbitration, and litigation.

Jack Hughes

Jack Hughes joined Liebert Cassidy Whitmore as an associate attorney in 1996. Since then he has worked in all aspects of the firm's labor and employment law practice. Jack has served as labor negotiator for city, county and special district clients, and has represented charter cities in labor negotiation impasse interest arbitration proceedings. He has successfully negotiated Memoranda of Understanding involving police officers, sheriff deputies, correctional officers, probation officers, firefighters, supervisory staff, clerical staff, maintenance employees and other blue-collar professions, in-home support service employees and most other public sector classifications. Jack is also one of the experienced presenters in the firm's renowned management and supervisory training programs. Jack has conducted hundreds of training seminars for municipal, county, special district and federal agencies. Jack specializes in training on protected status discrimination/harassment/retaliation, supervisor skills, labor relations/negotiations, leave laws, disability laws, workplace violence, free speech, disciplinary procedures, grievance procedures and effective performance evaluations among others.

Gregg Kettles

Mr. Kettles brings significant experience litigating on behalf of and advising public agency clients. Following two federal judicial clerkships, Mr. Kettles was associated with the litigation department of a leading Los Angeles corporate law firm. He has broad experience in public law, especially as it relates to municipalities. Immediately before joining Jenkins & Hogin, Mr. Kettles served as Deputy Counsel to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Mr. Kettles also has a deep understanding of a number of public law subjects, having taught law school courses in land use regulation, environmental law, and local government. He is an occasional speaker on municipal law, and has published a number of articles on various aspects of the subject.

J. Stephen Lewis

Formerly a staff attorney with the City of West Hollywood, Stephen now serves as General Counsel to the City of Santa Monica's rent control board, which is an independent municipal agency formed under the city charter. As general counsel, Stephen supervises the board's litigation in the state and federal courts, and advises board members and agency staff in relevant substantive law, as well as constitutional and statutory law governing municipal regulatory agencies and administrative hearings.

Christian Marsh

Christian Marsh is a partner in the San Francisco office of Downey Brand LLP. He advises public and private clients, including cities and counties, on natural resource and land use matters involving water rights, the public trust doctrine, endangered species, wetlands, California planning and zoning law, and NEPA and CEQA review. Among a variety of projects, he has advised clients on small and large-scale residential, commercial, and mixed-use real estate developments, renewable and traditional energy projects, surface and underwater mining operations, and surface and groundwater supply projects throughout California. Christian conducts trial and appellate-level litigation in each of these areas, and was an attorney of record for the prevailing parties in two recent CEQA cases before the California Supreme Court.

Shawn M. Mason

Shawn Mason has served as the City Attorney for the City of San Mateo since 2003. Shawn previously served as the City Attorney for the City of Rancho Mirage and the City Attorney for the City of Benicia, and as the Deputy and Assistant City Attorney for the City of Thousand Oaks. Shawn presently serves as the Chair of the City Attorneys' Department's FPPC Committee. Shawn has previously served on the Municipal Law Handbook Committee, the Legal Advocacy Committee, and the Nominating Committee.

Joseph M. Montes

Partner with Burke, Williams & Sorensen, and has been with the firm since 1993. Currently serve as the City Attorney in Alhambra (where I was born) and in Santa Clarita. Practice today is transactional--used to include more litigation, but now I try to limit court appearances to once a year, to remind myself of why I don't like going to court. In terms of computers, I'm bilingual--using Windows at work and Apple at home. But like many California bilinguals, I'm not really fluent in either . . . In terms of other technology, I'm savvy enough to know which new bright shiny toy I want, but not smart enough to refrain from buying it. Just ask my wife about "the buttkicker."

Charles Slyngstad

Charles Slyngstad is certified by the Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California as a specialist in Legal Malpractice Law. He obtained his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. His public law experience recently has focused on representation related to conflicts of interest, false claims, and associated contractual and fraud litigation.

Bruce A. Soublet

Born and raised in Oakland California. Received his BA in political science from UCLA. JD from Santa Clara Law School in 1978. Admitted to the California Bar in November 1978. Private practice from 1978 to 1986. Municipal Law career began in 1980, working part time for the City of Berkeley. Spent 20 years at the City of Berkeley doing tort litigation and claims adjusting. Worked under Natalie West and Manuella Albuquerque. Joined the Richmond City Attorney's Office in 2001, initially to do code enforcement work. Currently the city's in house labor and employment attorney and ADA Coordinator serves on the boards of numerous nonprofit agencies. Mentor to Berkeley Law School Public Interest law students. Married and the father of two girls.

Sky Woodruff

Sky Woodruff chairs Meyers Nave's Public Finance Practice Group. He advises public agency clients on general municipal law issues, specializing in the areas of revenue and taxation, elections law, land use and environmental law, and telecommunications. Sky regularly helps cities update and adopt development impact and other fees and assists with the implementation of a variety of assessments. He advises clients on parcel, utility users', transient occupancy and other taxes within the limitations imposed by California Propositions 13, 62 and 218. As part of his land use practice, Sky advises public agencies on projects ranging from simple variances to large-scale residential and commercial developments. He serves as City Attorney for the cities of El Cerrito and Larkspur and as Special Counsel for the City of South San Francisco.