



**Celia Brewer, City Attorney, Carlsbad**

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 Cities 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, City Attorney, Brentwood**

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.



**Christina Cameron, Partner, Devaney Pate Morris & Cameron, LLP**

Christina Cameron has more than 30 years of local government experience in both the legislative and legal fields. She has focused much of her practice around governmental ethics (including conflicts of interest under the Political Reform Act and Government Code section 1090), campaign and economic disclosure laws, Brown Act and Public Records Act compliance. She serves as general counsel to the San Diego Ethics Commission providing advisory, administrative enforcement and litigation services and regularly trains local agencies and officials in governmental ethics laws. Ms. Cameron is also Assistant City Attorney to the cities of Del Mar and Murrieta. Ms. Cameron serves as legal counsel to the Third Avenue Association in Chula Vista, the San Diego Workforce Partnership as well as several private non-profit and for-profit entities, and assists officials in their compliance with state and federal economic disclosure laws. Christina's litigation practice is focused on the defense of public entities including writs of mandate and defense of challenges related to administrative enforcement actions. She also defends public entities in contract matters, CEQA challenges, and public works litigation.



**Timothy T. Coates, Managing Partner, Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland**

Tim Coates is Managing Partner at the appellate firm of Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP in Los Angeles, and over the past 35 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. 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, describing him as a “go to” lawyer for “a major federal appeal.” Tim 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 federal civil right liability under 42 U.S.C. section 1983, Title VII and related statutes. He is also co-author of the chapter on federal civil rights liability in the CEB publication California Government Tort Liability.



**Christine Crowl, Partner, Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP**

Christie Crowl is a partner at Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP. Christie is the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Hercules, and she regularly provides city attorney and general counsel services for cities and special districts. Her general municipal work involves advising administrative and legislative bodies -- including city councils, planning commissions, and design review boards -- on a wide variety of legal issues, including public contracts, development agreements, the Brown Act, and the Political Reform Act. She is also an expert in state land use and planning law and CEQA.



**Burke Dunphy, Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP**

Ms. Dunphy is a partner with Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong. She joined the firm in 2013, bringing her experience in labor/management relations, financial restructuring, and bankruptcy to the firm's Labor and Employment law practice. Ms. Dunphy currently negotiates on behalf of numerous public entities with a range of bargaining units, including Police, Fire, Police Management, and Mid-Management unions. She also handles personnel advice and labor relations matters for several Bay Area nonprofits. Prior to joining Sloan Sakai, Ms. Dunphy was an associate in the business reorganization and financial restructuring practices of two New York law firms, where she represented both private and public sector clients in in-court and out-of-court restructurings.



**Clare Gibson, Senior Partner, Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP**

Clare Gibson is a senior partner at Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP in Oakland, which specializes in local government law and represents cities throughout the state. Clare advises and represents California cities on public contract, procurement, and construction law, and is a leading practitioner in this area. She frequently works with the League on pending legislation relating to public contracts, and has submitted amicus briefs on behalf of the League to the California Supreme Court and State Courts of Appeal. Clare frequently presents and writes on public contract issues, and is a past Chapter Chair for Chapter 7 (Public Contracting) of the Municipal Law Handbook.



**Stephanie Gutierrez, Associate Attorney, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP**

Stephanie Gutierrez is an associate attorney at the Riverside office of Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP and is a member of the Public Law Practice Group. Stephanie advises cities and other public agencies on a variety of public law issues related to the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act, and code enforcement. Stephanie regularly drafts contracts, ordinances, and resolutions as well as other development related agreements. She also routinely represents city planning commissions at their meetings and provides training to local government officials. In addition, Stephanie contributes to the League of California Cities' Municipal Law Handbook. Stephanie earned her Juris Doctor degree from University of La Verne College of Law. During law school, she served as a judicial extern for Associate Justice Carol D. Codrington of the Fourth District Court of Appeal, and was Editor in Chief of the Journal of Law Business and Ethics. She also received a Master of Public Administration degree from University of La Verne College of Business and Public Management.



**Arthur Hartinger, Partner, Renne Public Law Group**

With a practice focused on labor and employment law for over 33 years, Arthur (Art) Hartinger is one of California's leading labor and employment attorneys. He is a founding partner of Renne Public Law Group, and was previously a partner at Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP. Since 2004, he has been recognized each year as a "Northern California Super Lawyer" and was one of the Daily Journal's "Top 75 Labor & Employment Attorneys" in 2013. He was also selected by the Daily Journal as one of the "Top 20 Municipal Lawyers in California" for 2011, 2012, and 2013, and in 2012 he was named one of the "Top 100 Lawyers in California." Prior to working at Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, Mr. Hartinger was a partner at Meyers Nave, where he chaired the Labor and Employment Group for sixteen years. He also worked as a partner at Liebert, Cassidy & Frierson, a Deputy City Attorney at the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, and an associate at Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison. Mr. Hartinger represents public and private clients in complex state and federal litigation pertaining to all types of labor and employment issues, including California and U.S. constitutional law, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), Title VII, Title IX, the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Mr. Hartinger has represented clients in a variety of litigation matters, including class actions, writs, and jury trials. His litigation practice also includes administrative and binding arbitration hearings before personnel boards, arbitrators, and administrative law judges. He also frequently advises public agencies, personnel boards, and civil service commissions.



**Jolie Houston, Assistant City Attorney, Gilroy, Partner, Berliner Cohen**

Ms. Houston is a partner at Berliner Cohen and practices in the areas of land use and public law with an emphasis on municipal law. She joined Berliner Cohen in 1998. Ms. Houston also represents private land use clients in a wide variety of land use and regulatory approvals. Ms. Houston has been the Assistant City Attorney for Gilroy for 21 years. From August 2016 until October 2018, Ms. Houston served as the Interim City Attorney for the City of Merced. She also served as the City Attorney for Los Altos for over 13 years, served as District Counsel for the Sanitary District No. 1 of Marin County for four years, and was formerly the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Santa Clara. Ms. Houston is involved in various seminars and trainings regarding the Public Records Act. She has served on the League of California Cities Public Records Act Committee for several years. She currently is the Chair of the Public Records Act Committee and has served as Chair since 2016. She frequently conducts PRA training for the various City Clerk Associations throughout Northern California. Ms. Houston participated in the League of California Cities, City Attorney Webinar, "Public Records Act Practices after the San Jose Decision," July 20, 2017. • League of California Cities, Public Records Act Committee, Chair, 2016-2018, 2018-2020 • League of California Cities, Public Records Act Committee, 2006-2008, 2013-2015



**Bill Ihrke, City Attorney, La Quinta, Partner, Rutan & Tucker LLP**

Bill Ihrke's practice emphasis includes city attorney and municipal finance issues, land use and entitlement, developing and financing affordable and market rate housing and mixed-use projects, and matters relating to economic development, infrastructure investment, and post-redevelopment/public-private partnerships. He has been interviewed and quoted in several national and state-wide publications concerning the recent litigation and municipal financing issues in connection with the unwinding of redevelopment. In addition, Bill has litigation and transactional experience in several areas affecting both public and private clients, and as part of his practice, he regularly advises both public and private clients on federal and state planning, zoning and housing laws, relocation requirements for businesses and residences, and land use and entitlement obligations. He also regularly drafts and reviews federal and state legislation, and is very familiar with the legislative process in Sacramento. He currently serves as the City Attorney for La Quinta and served as the Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Yorba Linda and Duarte; and as counsel to the successor agencies to the former redevelopment agencies of Adelanto, Twentynine Palms, Yorba Linda and Duarte. In representing all of these entities, Bill regularly attends public meetings and advises governing bodies and staff on all aspects of public agency law, including the Planning and Zoning Law, Subdivision Map Act, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Ralph M. Brown Act (open meeting law), Public Records Act, Political Reform Act and Fair Political Practices Commission ("FPPC") regulations, Tort Claims Act, Affordable Housing and RHNA compliance, Federal and State labor and employment law (including prevailing wage requirements), real estate law, contract law (including bid-construction, design-build and DBOM models of contracting), parliamentary procedure, code enforcement and implementation of post-redevelopment legislation and case decisions. Additionally, Bill has experience negotiating and advising clients on commercial and industrial projects, federal and state environmental and toxic tort claims, eminent domain cases, state water law including pre-1914 appropriative water rights claims, and general municipal zoning and regulatory matters. He has expertise in state, regional and local land use and planning mandates and regulations, as well as environmental compliance under federal, state and local laws. Specifically, he has both litigation and advisory experience under CEQA, the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Davis-Sterling Common Interest Development Act, and Redevelopment Dissolution laws. Bill is currently a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Along with working at Rutan & Tucker, LLP, he served as a Staff Attorney for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where he advised appellate judges on cases involving Constitutional and federal regulatory requirements, among other matters. In December 2012, Bill was named to the Daily Journal's Top 25 Municipal Lawyers list.



**Howard Jordan, Consultant, Management Strategies Group**

Howard Jordan is a licensed private investigator at Jordan Consulting and Investigations, a self-established company that offers an array of services, including law enforcement consultations, legal services, investigations, and background investigations. He has a professional background in law enforcement and rose through the ranks to serve as Chief of Police for the City of Oakland. Mr. Jordan is a Police Practice and Procedures Expert. He is a graduate of the 219th FBI National Academy and the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute in Policing. He shares his wealth of knowledge and experience in the law enforcement profession with others, serving as a mentor for executive leadership and as an adjunct professor at Diablo Valley College and Merritt College.



**Christopher Lynch, Attorney, Jones Hall, A Professional Law Corporation**

Chris Lynch represents California public agencies as bond counsel and disclosure counsel and represents regional and national investment banks as underwriter's counsel in tax increment, utility revenue, lease, Mello-Roos special tax, property assessed clean energy (PACE), assessment and 501(c)(3) financings. Chris represented the City and County of San Francisco in connection with formation of two infrastructure financing districts (IFDs) and two infrastructure revitalization financing districts (IRFDs) and contributed to State legislation governing those districts. Prior to joining Jones Hall in 1994, Chris practiced real estate and land use law as well as municipal bond law, and served as a law clerk to Justice Stanley Mosk on the California Supreme Court (1989-1990). Beginning in 2000 and continuing until mid-2003, Chris served as general counsel for two private companies. Chris graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law School.



**Michelle Marchetta-Kenyon, City Attorney, Rohnert Park, Pacifica, Piedmont, Moraga and Calistoga**

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.



**Madeline Miller, Senior Counsel, Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP**

Madeline E. Miller is Senior Counsel with Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP. Ms. Miller's practice includes representation of public agency clients in litigation regarding employment law and labor relations. Ms. Miller also represents public agency clients in administrative hearings before the Public Employment Relations Board.



**Jim Morales, Deputy Director/General Counsel, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure, acting as the Successor Agency to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency**

I have been the General Counsel of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and its Successor Agency since 2003. Previously, I was the Executive Director of the S.F. Redevelopment Agency and a public interest lawyer at the National Center for Youth Law. I have also served on various boards and commissions, including the S.F. Planning Commission, Redevelopment Agency Commission, and Rent Board. I am a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School.



**Lynn Tracy Nerland, City Attorney, San Pablo**

Lynn Tracy Nerland is the City Attorney for the City of San Pablo. From 2006-2015, she was the City Attorney for the City of Antioch, and before that, the Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Pleasanton and Emeryville. Lynn started her legal career with the law firm of Hanson Bridgett representing public agencies. She graduated from UC Hastings College of the Law and Dartmouth College. A native of Upstate New York, Lynn first came to California with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working for a job training community services organization in Visalia. Lynn is currently the Second Vice President for the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities and was Chair of the Attorney Development and Succession Committee. She has served on the Department's FPPC Committee, Municipal Law Institute Committee, Nominating Committee and Ad-hoc Public Law Specialization Certification Committee, as well as President of the Contra Costa County City Attorneys Association. Every Wednesday, Lynn spends the lunch hour at the elementary school near City Hall as the playground lunch lady for the kindergartners. As "Miss Lynn" she ties shoelaces, leads games, and encourages the students to eat their sandwiches before their cookies.



**Traci Park, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP**

Traci Park exclusively advises and assists employers and management in labor and employment law and civil rights litigation. Her wide-ranging practice includes representing clients in FEHA, Title VII, wrongful termination, employee compensation and civil rights matters. Ms. Park has extensive trial and appellate experience, and she regularly handles grievance arbitrations, disciplinary appeals, administrative hearings, and agency investigations. Ms. Park also has a significant counseling practice, which includes drafting employment policies, performing employment law compliance audits and advising on employee discipline, First Amendment issues, performance management, and due process issues. Ms. Park is a member of the Association of Workplace Investigators and frequently serves as a personnel investigator and neutral fact-finder. Ms. Park regularly advises employers about issues and policies related to ADA website compliance, cyber-security, social media, and on-line conduct of employees and elected officials, and she regularly writes for the California Lawyer Magazine Social Media Column. She recently authored articles on use of social media by police, social media policies for public entities, defining on-line threats, free speech and public forums, and social media and the First Amendment. Ms. Park also frequently assists public entities with the development and enforcement of social media policies. Ms. Park likes surfing, Twitter, and the Los Angeles Chargers.



**Charles Parkin, City Attorney, Long Beach**

Long Beach City Attorney Charlie Parkin has over 34 years of experience working for the City of Long Beach and has held the position of City Attorney since 2013. Mr. Parkin was elected Long Beach City Attorney in 2014 and again in 2018. Mr. Parkin graduated cum laude from Pacific Coast University, School of Law and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach. Charlie is a lifelong Long Beach resident. Charlie and his wife Terese have been married for 42 years and have three adult children and three grandchildren.



**Robert "Perl" Perlmutter, Partner, Shute Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP**

Robert "Perl" Perlmutter is a partner at Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger LLP in San Francisco. He focuses his practice on local initiatives and referendums, land use, general planning and zoning laws, CEQA, NEPA, California Endangered Species Act, conservation easements, the Political Reform Act, and open meeting laws. He advises and represents environmental organizations, public agencies, and community groups in administrative proceedings in state and federal courts.



**Javan N. Rad, Chief Assistant City Attorney, Pasadena**

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 Attorneys' 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.



**Richard Romero, Partner, Devaney Pate Morris & Cameron, LLP**

Richard Romero's practice has focused primarily on the representation of public entities in both a transactional and litigation capacity. Over his career, Richard has advised public agencies on the full spectrum of issues facing public entities, including employment and labor, water law, elections, public works, contracting, Brown Act compliance and Public Records Act responses. Richard has worked with or for public entities since before even graduating from law school, interning at the City Attorney offices for San Diego and Chula Vista as well as interning at the Imperial County District Attorney's Office prior to law school. He currently serves as Deputy City Attorney and Special Counsel for several different types of public entities; served as Assistant General Counsel to a water district for over 5 years; and also serves as General Counsel for a private water company primarily owned by public agencies. Richard has also defended cities, schools, colleges, and special districts in litigation over his entire career, including in both state and federal court, courts of appeal, local and state commissions, etc. In addition to his public entity representation, Richard has represented private individuals and entities over his career in both litigation and transactional work and on both the plaintiff and defense side, including advising on employment and personnel issues, drafting and negotiating contracts, and civil defense.



**Jennifer Rosner, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore**

Jennifer is a prolific litigator with an extensive background in lawsuits involving discrimination, harassment and retaliation, as well as disciplinary and due process issues. As a litigator, Jennifer has considerable experience with law enforcement issues, including the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act, and in defending law enforcement agencies in officer discipline, Section 1983 claims and Pitchess Motion hearings. She has tried law enforcement lawsuits to verdict and/or judgment in state and federal court in cases involving claims for retaliation for exercising freedom of speech rights and union activities under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 and false imprisonment. In one of her recent trials, Jennifer obtained a non-suit after nine-day jury trial involving a police officer who alleged numerous tort causes of action. Jennifer has been successful in obtaining summary judgment on behalf of clients in many of her litigation matters in both state and federal court and also has extensive appellate experience. In addition to her work as a litigator, Jennifer represents clients in numerous administrative appeal hearings and has a strong record of success on behalf of the firm's clients in upholding their disciplinary decisions. Jennifer also frequently responds to requests from clients for advice and guidance in the areas of leave rights, disability interactive process, disability retirement, discipline, termination, Family Medical Leave Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, investigations, retaliation and discrimination. She also works extensively with local agencies on every facet of the disability accommodation process, including identifying disabilities, requesting medical documentation and evaluation, evaluating leave rights of disabled employees, engaging in the interactive process, identifying possible reasonable accommodations, complying with applicable disability laws, and, when necessary, disability retirements. Jennifer is a prolific trainer on numerous employment law issues, including disability and the interactive process, industrial disability retirement, investigations, discipline, managing the marginal employment, the Fair Labor Standards Act, Ethics, harassment, discrimination and retaliation. She was named a Southern California Rising Star in Employment Litigation in 2013.



**Steven Shaw, Partner, Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP**

Steve Shaw is a Partner in the Sacramento office of Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP, where he represents public agencies in a variety of labor and employment matters, with an emphasis on litigation and employment advice. He handles all types of litigation in state and federal court, including discrimination, harassment, and retaliation lawsuits, whistleblower claims, alleged violations of federal due process (Section 1983), wage and hour disputes, and claims brought under the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act (POBR) and Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act (FOBR). Steve also advises and represents public employers in arbitrations and administrative proceedings concerning employee discipline, labor relations, and collective bargaining issues. Steve graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2003, and holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Virginia. Steve has regularly been named to the "Rising Stars" list by Northern California Super Lawyers every year since 2011.



**Kathy Shin, Associate, Best Best & Krieger**

Kathy Shin is an associate in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Manhattan Beach office. As part of the firm's Municipal Law practice group, Ms. Shin serves as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Hermosa Beach, the City of West Hollywood, and the City of Palos Verdes Estates, and generally advises cities on a range of public law and land use matters, particularly as they relate to the local implementation of state laws. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Shin was a post-graduate law fellow at the Land Use Division of the Los Angeles City Attorney's office where she worked on matters relating to the California Environmental Quality Act and digital sign regulation. Ms. Shin also worked as a judicial intern at the California Second District Court of Appeal, where she reviewed both appeals and extraordinary writ petitions. Ms. Shin received her law degree from Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C., where she was awarded the CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Environmental Law.



**Suzanne Solomon, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore**

Suzanne Solomon is an experienced trial lawyer who has represented public entities, private companies and individuals in a wide range of employment disputes for over 20 years. At Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Suzanne's litigation practice focuses on defense of single- and multi-plaintiff employment claims for discrimination, retaliation, harassment, violation of wage and hour laws, due process, First Amendment retaliation, and numerous other tort and statutory employment law claims. Suzanne has tried cases before judges and juries in both state and federal courts. She also has extensive experience representing law enforcement agencies, including winning summary judgment of discrimination claims made against Police Departments and command staff. Suzanne has also handled appellate matters in state and federal courts, including a case of first impression in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the criteria courts may use in deciding whether to grant interlocutory review of class certification decisions. Suzanne regularly advises governmental agencies on all aspects of employment law, including employee discipline, leave laws, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and investigating and responding to discrimination complaints. Her practice has included developing and presenting management training on such subjects as due process, reasonable accommodation, privacy, and prevention of discrimination.



**Matthew Summers, City Attorney, Ojai, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC**

Matthew Summers is a Senior Counsel in Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley PC's Pasadena office with over seven years of experience representing cities and other public agencies in every aspect of municipal law, including four years' service as City Attorney for the City of Ojai. Mr. Summers has specialized in representing public agencies his entire career and has been with the Firm since July 2012. Mr. Summers serves as City Attorney for the City of Ojai, including serving as counsel to its Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission. He is also Assistant City Attorney and Planning Commission and Communications and Technology Commission Counsel for the City of Calabasas, and has served in this role for the past seven years. He additionally serves as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Barstow, advising the city on its labor and employment and other general municipal matters. In these roles, his practice covers the full range of public law issues, including: Brown Act, Public Records Act, conflicts of interest, land use, elections, labor and employment, post-redevelopment disputes, litigation, telecommunications and cell tower regulations, First Amendment and speech regulations, CEQA, and Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") compliance.



**Walter Tibbet, Consultant, Management Strategies Group**

Mr. Tibbet has more than forty years of experience in law enforcement, having served in operational, administrative, and management functions while a member of the Alameda, San Jose, and Fairfield Police Departments. He served for more than nine years as Chief of Police in the cities of Alameda and Fairfield. With a rich history of working in communities of different sizes and demographics, Walt is well-versed in the challenges and issues faced by the organizations serving them. His work as a consultant spans from mentoring new Police Chiefs, advising chief executives on dealing with their police departments, promoting organizational development and best practices, and community engagement.



**Karen Tiedemann, Partner, Goldfarb & Lipman LLP**

Karen Tiedemann practices in the areas of real estate transactions, affordable housing, nonprofit organization, and environmental law. Ms. Tiedemann advises public agencies and nonprofit housing developers on affordable housing matters. She represents numerous agencies and nonprofit corporations on the development, financing and management of low- and moderate-income projects and programs. Her affordable housing work includes advising clients on compliance with fair housing laws. Ms. Tiedemann is a frequent speaker on relocation and fair housing issues. She is also a co-author of *Between the Lines*, a Question and Answer Guide on Fair Housing in Supportive Housing, which was updated in 2010. Ms. Tiedemann represents numerous housing cooperatives, providing advice on compliance with Davis-Stirling, the limited equity cooperative law, HUD financing, Department of Real Estate regulations, and other laws and regulations impacting cooperatives. She has also formed numerous limited equity cooperatives. Ms. Tiedemann is a frequent speaker on the formation and management of cooperatives. Ms. Tiedemann has negotiated and drafted transaction documents for complex developments involving multiple uses, including transactions that involved the acquisition of numerous properties and the relocation of business and residential tenants. She also advises clients on compliance with environmental laws, including shepherding developments through CEQA. Additionally, as general or special counsel to several public agencies, Ms. Tiedemann provides advice on compliance with the Brown Act, the Fair Political Practices Act and Public Records Act, as well as general law questions. Education A.B., University of California, Berkeley. Masters in City Planning, University of California, Berkeley. J.D., Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, Order of the Coif honors. Associate Editor, *Ecology Law Quarterly*. Professional and Volunteer Affiliations State Bar of California. California Center for Cooperative Development, Board Member.



**Stephen Velyvis, Partner, Burke Williams & Sorensen, LLP**

Steve Velyvis is a well-respected land use and environmental law attorney with over 18 years of expertise advising and representing public agency and private clients in administrative proceedings and before state and federal trial and appellate courts. Steve has extensive advisory and litigation experience with and works daily on projects addressing complex legal issues spanning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Power Act, and the California Coastal Act, as well as the state and federal legal and regulatory frameworks governing clean water, clean air, endangered species and electricity generation and transmission. He also routinely represents clients in land use-related matters including local and state planning and zoning laws, the Subdivision Map Act, timber harvests/timberland conversions, and vineyard expansions. While Steve has extensive advisory and litigation experience with a multitude of environmental laws, he is most experienced with CEQA, having represented parties on all three “sides” of the CEQA equation. In other words, in addition to successfully representing Burke’s many municipal and public agency clients, Steve has also successfully represented numerous private clients (e.g., project applicants and project opponents.) In this regard, Steve distinguishes himself as a leading CEQA practitioner. Steve’s deep and varied experience gives him invaluable insight into what all three sides on a given CEQA project are thinking at every step along the way. This unique perspective also enables him to develop cutting-edge legal strategies aimed at resolving conflicts and prevailing in litigation, as opposed to simply posturing or falling back on routine “cookie cutter” advice and litigation tools. In sum, Steve draws on his collective experience to help Burke’s clients think outside the box and routinely provides successful, cost-effective results.



**Thomas Webber, Partner, Goldfarb & Lipman LLP**

Mr. Webber is a partner in the firm with an emphasis of practice in affordable housing, community economic development, real estate, nonprofit and municipal law. He represents numerous public agencies and nonprofit organizations on the development, financing and management of affordable housing and mixed use projects and programs which utilize state assistance, including MHP and MHSA financing, and federal assistance, including, tax credits and CDBG, NSP and HOME financing.

Mr. Webber also represents public agencies and nonprofit developers on mixed-use and commercial projects. He has negotiated and drafted disposition and development agreements, loan documents, and ground leases for complex mixed-use developments, including finance documents for new markets tax credit transactions. Mr. Webber's work in this area involves structuring complex development transactions involving public and private partnerships, advising clients on public and private financing structures and all aspects of development issues, including CEQA related and real property security issues.

Mr. Webber represented the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles on various aspects in the development of Staples Center, the Marriott Convention Center Hotel, and the new Broad Museum. He represents the City of Santa Clara in the development of the new stadium to be the home of the San Francisco 49ers, providing advice on financing, construction and operation issues related to the stadium.

Mr. Webber also works with a wide variety of nonprofit entities, including school districts, affordable housing developers, and other charitable organizations providing legal guidance regarding nonprofit operations and administration, tax issues, as well as matters related to property and real estate, and other corporate and organizational matters.