

**Verne Ball**

Verne Ball is a Deputy County Counsel with Sonoma County. His practice includes representing local agencies in environmental litigation, advising on environmental compliance, and advising local agencies in open space and conservation transactions. He has defended and prosecuted a wide variety of environmental matters and has recently been the lead county attorney in Sonoma County's post-fire debris cleanup. Prior to working for Sonoma County, he was a land use and environmental attorney with Bingham McCutchen in San Francisco. He served as a law clerk for the Honorable Edward C. Reed, Jr., in the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada, and as an extern for the Honorable Thelton Henderson in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. He received a B.A. from U.C. Santa Cruz, a J.D. from U.C. Hastings College of the Law, and a M.A. in Government from Cornell University.



Ariel Pierre Calonne

Mr. Calonne received his law degree at UC Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. He received his undergraduate degree in biology from the University of California at Riverside. Before coming to Santa Barbara in March 2014, Mr. Calonne spent 7 years as the city attorney of Ventura, 4 years as the city attorney of Boulder, Colorado, and 13 years as the city attorney of Palo Alto.

Mr. Calonne served as President of the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities in 1998-1999 and was named *Public Lawyer of the Year* in 2003 by the Public Law Section of the State Bar of California. In 2006, the Colorado Metro City Attorneys Association honored him with the Outstanding City Attorney award.

Mr. Calonne has authored numerous articles and *amicus curiae* briefs on public records, First Amendment governmental immunity, and open government issues. He was the founding chairperson of the League of California Cities' *Public Records Act Committee* from 1994 until January 1998. He was a member of the advisory committee to the *Joint Senate-Assembly Task Force on Personal Information and Privacy* chaired by California State Senator Steve Peace. In 1996 and 1997, Mr. Calonne participated on the *Electronic Access to Public Records Task Force* formed under the Senate Select Committee on Information Services in State Government.

Before serving in Palo Alto, he was with the Los Angeles law firm of *Richards, Watson & Gershon* where he served as city attorney for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. He began his career as an associate with *Best, Best & Krieger* in Riverside, California where he practiced water, municipal and environmental law.



Gregory Diaz

City Attorney, City of San Buenaventura ("Ventura") 2014 to Present City Attorney, City of Merced 2001 to 2014 Contract City Attorney for the Cities of Lake Forest, Lomita, and Stanton and Partner at Burke, Williams and Sorensen, LLP JD Western State University, College of Law 1991 MPA - Consortium of the California State University 1985 BA - Political Science and Public Administration - California State University, Long Beach 1984

**Michael Ghizzoni**

Michael Ghizzoni has been County Counsel for Santa Barbara County since 2013, after first joining its Office of County Counsel in 2004. Before that, he served in the United States Coast Guard for 24 years, including assignments -- before law school -- as commanding officer of the 82-foot Coast Guard patrol boat in Santa Barbara, and then as an operations center watch commander. His relevant experience with disasters includes: as Legal Division Chief for the Coast Guard's response to Hurricane Isabel; as a trial attorney in pollution cost recovery litigation by the United States Department of Justice; and as County Counsel during both the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill, and the 2017 Thomas Fire and resulting debris flow. He is a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, and the King Hall School of Law at the University of California, Davis.

**J.P. Henderson**

John-Paul (J.P.) Henderson is the Regional Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region IX office in Oakland, California. FEMA Region IX is responsible for carrying out FEMA's mission in Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. As the Regional Counsel, J.P. is the primary legal advisor to the Regional Administrator and other senior regional staff on all aspects of the regional office's operations, including response, recovery, mitigation, preparedness, grants, and mission support functions. Before moving to FEMA Region IX, J.P. worked in the Office of Chief Counsel at FEMA Headquarters where his client offices included the Grant Programs Directorate, National Preparedness Directorate, National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System, Public Assistance, and National Flood Insurance Program. He also served as a legal advisor on issues related to international affairs, tribal affairs, and audits and investigations. He provided legal counsel for several national level FEMA responses including the 2007 California wildfires, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav in 2008, and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. J.P. received his J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law, an M.A. in International Affairs from American University's School of International Service, and a B.S. in Earth and Ocean Sciences from Duke University.

**Christi Hogin**

Christi Hogin is City Attorney for the cities of Lomita, Malibu, Palos Verde Estates and Pomona. Christi has devoted her career to local government as a city attorney, a litigator, a trainer, and an advocate for home rule. She is a past president of the City Attorneys' Department. Christi practices in the Manhattan Beach office of Best Best & Krieger. Christi has first hand experience with disaster-level wildfires and mudslides and, like all Californians, is planning for sea level rise and bracing for the Big One.

**Alex Pal**

Alex Pal joined the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services in October 2013. Alex was appointed Chief Counsel by Governor Brown in August 2018. Prior to holding this position, Alex served as the Acting Chief Counsel, Assistant Chief Counsel, Senior Counsel, and Staff Counsel. Alex has provided legal counsel on many disasters that have struck California, including nine federally-declared Major Disaster Declarations, two of which included federal Emergency Declarations, as well as dozens of state-only events for which the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency. These events include the November 2018 Camp, Woolsey Hill Fires, the July 2018 Carr and Mendocino Complex Fires, the December 2018 Thomas Fire and subsequent mud and debris flows, the October 2017 North Bay Fires, the 2017 winter storms, which included the Oroville Dam incident, and the 2014 Napa Earthquake. While visiting his home state of New Jersey in October 2012, Alex experienced Hurricane Sandy, which triggered his interest in emergency response and recovery, as well as disaster preparedness. Alex earned his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California. Alex also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He is a member of the California Bar and is admitted to practice in the United States District Court, Eastern District of California.



Gregory P. Priamos

Since July of 2014, Gregory P. Priamos has been the County Counsel for the County of Riverside. He is the legal advisor of the Board of Supervisors and represents the County and the County's officers and employees acting in their official capacities. The County of Riverside is currently the 4th largest county in the State of California by population and the 10th largest in the country. The County Counsel's Office presently employs 52 lawyers in addition to support staff in 4 offices spread throughout the county which encompasses nearly 7,500 square miles. Mr. Priamos is an active member and frequent contributor to the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) and the County Counsels' Association of California (CCAC). He is a member of the IMLA Board of Directors with a three year term expiring in 2019. He previously served as IMLA Regional Vice President for the Ninth Circuit South which covers Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada. He is also a member of the CCAC Board of Directors with a two year term expiring in 2019. He is the Chair of the CCAC Grand Jury Committee and previously served as Chair of the Conflict of Interest Committee. Prior to his appointment as County Counsel, Mr. Priamos served as the City Attorney of the City of Riverside. He is the first Riverside County Counsel to have served as Riverside City Attorney and the first Riverside City Attorney to have also served as Riverside County Counsel. He was appointed City Attorney in 2001 and served until July of 2014 when he resigned to accept his appointment as County Counsel. Prior to his appointment as City Attorney, he held the position of Supervising Deputy City Attorney in charge of the Litigation Services Section and began his career in the Riverside City Attorney's Office in 1993. Before joining the City Attorney's Office, he was a senior associate at the municipal law firm of Burke, Williams & Sorensen in its Los Angeles office. As City Attorney, Mr. Priamos was an active member of the City Attorneys' Department of the League of California Cities. In 2013/14, he served as the President of the City Attorneys' Department after serving as First Vice President and Second Vice President beginning in 2011. As President, he was responsible for the 2014 publication of Practicing Ethics: A Handbook for Municipal Lawyers, 2nd Edition. He has also chaired the Department committee responsible for drafting the League's first treatise on public records, The People's Business: A User's Guide to the California Public Records Act. He has also chaired the Department's Legal Advocacy Committee, a group of twenty-one city attorneys who engage in advocacy on behalf of all California Cities before the state and federal courts. Mr. Priamos received his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, cum laude, from the University of Southern California.

**Christa Shaw**

Christa Shaw is a Deputy County Counsel in Sonoma County, where she is a member of the land use and disaster recovery practice groups and where her practice focuses primarily on comprehensive planning and project review. Christa has more than 14 years of experience in land use and environmental law in both the public and private sectors. She previously practiced as a land use attorney with Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP in San Francisco, and as a Deputy Attorney General in the Natural Resources Law Section of the California Department of Justice. Christa is a graduate of UCLA School of Law and its Program in Public Interest Law and Policy.

**Ann Winterman**

Ann Winterman joined the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in January 2011 as Assistant Regional Counsel at FEMA's Region IX headquarters in Oakland, CA. She serves as the deputy attorney to the Regional Counsel and has overlapping areas of expertise on most matters affecting Region IX's area of responsibility. Ann handles a wide range of responsibilities, advising on such matters as emergency preparedness and response, environmental compliance, procurement, the National Flood Insurance Program, Public Assistance, and Mitigation. She also assists in employment and other administrative matters. She is a designated Agency Ethics official and provides ethics training and advice to the Region's 200+ employees. Some of her large projects have included overseeing the Agency's completion of an Environmental Impact Statement, implementing Privacy Act trainings and procedures, and advising on high profile Public Assistance matters such as the Oroville Dam. Ann brought more than a decade of relevant experience to her work at FEMA, along with a rich background in commercial litigation, environmental law, and criminal defense. Before assuming her present duties at FEMA, Ann served as counsel for San Diego Fire Victim Lawyers, a litigation assistant to the General Counsel at Perkins+Will, and Associate Attorney at both Burnham Brown and the Law Offices of Paul L. Rein. Before that she served as a contract attorney for various Bay Area criminal defense firms. Ann clerked at the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Staff Attorney's Office, where she prepared Bench Memoranda and Opinions for Judges Easterbrook, Posner, and Rovner, among others. She also clerked at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office immediately following law school. An alumna of Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall), Ann graduated in the top quarter of her class, earning an American Jurisprudence Award in Contracts. Ann holds a B.A. in Politics, magna cum laude, from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is a member of the California and Hawaii Bars.

**Marc Zafferano**

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