



Conference Program Bios



Amy Albano, City Attorney, Burbank and Director, City Attorneys' Department, League of California Cities

Amy Albano has been practicing municipal law for nearly 30 years and has been the City Attorney for the City of Burbank since October 2011. The City of Burbank is a full-service City with its own police, fire, and electrical utility, as well as water and wastewater, and is part of the Joint Powers Authority that sponsors the Bob Hope Airport (Hollywood Burbank Airport). Ms. Albano is a member of the City's executive team and is the primary legal advisor to the City Council, the City's governing body. During her service with the City of Burbank, as part of the 2013 Leadership Burbank class, Ms. Albano was part of the 31 Violins fundraising campaign which expanded instrumental music instruction in Burbank's elementary schools. And as part of the Domestic Violence Task Force, helped launch a social media campaign focused on Domestic Violence in Schools and Teens Dating Relationships. She also is a supporter of numerous local charities. Prior to Burbank, Ms. Albano was the City Attorney of Thousand Oaks for nearly 7 years. Ms. Albano received her law degree (Juris Doctor cum laude) from Albany Law School of Union University and became a member of the California Bar in 1982. Ms. Albano's volunteer efforts include extensive work with the City Attorneys' Department of the League of California Cities, a state-wide organization of municipal lawyers. She was an officer and served as president from 2009 through 2010. She has served on various Department committees, most recently the Drone Task Force and Charter Tool Kit Committee where she served as Chair and Editor of the Cal Cities publication, Charter City Toolkit. Ms. Albano has also been involved in numerous speaking engagements for the Cal Cities including a very recent webinar presentation on 1st/2nd Amendment Issues relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is again serving as an officer for the City Attorneys' Department and is now a director on the statewide League of California Cities' Board of Directors. Ms. Albano has lent her expertise by presenting for other organizations such as the City Attorney's Association of Los Angeles County on topical issues such as Drones and Privacy Rights, First Amendment and Open Spaces, and Public Records Act. As well as being a panelist at multiple Privacy Rights Conferences as a Drone Legal Expert. Ms. Albano is currently the President of the Los Angeles County Prosecutors Association Board of Directors and served as Vice-President in 2019. The LACPA organization serves as a forum for information sharing regarding key issues confronting countywide prosecutors and offers educational opportunities for prosecutors throughout the region. Her current work focuses on alternatives to incarceration. Ms. Albano loves to run. She has run 3 marathons and multiple half-marathons, 10K's and 5K's, often medaling in her age group. She shares a home with her husband Michael in Toluca Lake, California. She has one son, Devlin, who is an Army Staff Sergeant and a member of the Army Rangers, a special operation force.



Jamal Anderson, Senior Associate, Renne Public Law Group

Jamal H. Anderson is a Senior Associate in the firm's Litigation, Investigations and Police Reform practice groups. Prior to joining RPLG, Mr. Anderson served as a Deputy District Attorney in the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, where he was lead counsel in nearly two dozen jury trials. His practice focuses on representing and advising public agencies in litigation and general advice issues, conducting objective investigations, and assisting public agencies with police reform. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Anderson served as a Congressional Aide to three Members of Congress in Washington, DC, and brings years of experience in policy and legislative affairs to RPLG. In addition, Mr. Anderson previously served as Special Assistant, Policy Analyst and Federal Affairs Advisor to the former Mayor of Washington, DC, Adrian M. Fenty. In that capacity, Mr. Anderson represented the interests of the District of Columbia and coordinated the District's appropriations request process and legislative agenda. Mr. Anderson also acted as liaison between the Mayor and the United States Congress, along with other federal entities, including the Office of Management and Budget at the White House. Additionally, Mr. Anderson served as Policy Advisor on Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's 2014 mayoral campaign and worked as an aide on a 2004 presidential campaign, traveling and working in a number of states including Vermont, Iowa, South Carolina and Michigan. Mr. Anderson is a proud graduate of Howard University and the University of San Francisco School of Law, where he served as President of the Student Bar Association.



Dylan Brady, Assistant City Attorney, Petaluma

Dylan worked for 4 years for the City of Vallejo before joining the City of Petaluma.



Farimah Brown, City Attorney, Berkeley

Farimah is the city attorney for the City of Berkeley.



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

Tim Coates is a partner at the appellate firm of Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP in Los Angeles, and over the past 37 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 (2007-current), and has also been named in The Best Lawyers In America (Appellate Law) (2014-current). 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 and government tort liability, and is currently co-chair of the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) Litigation, Insurance and Risk Management section, as well as IMLA co-chair for California.



Michael N. Conneran, Partner, Hanson Bridgett LLP

Michael represents public agencies in matters involving real estate, transportation, and environmental law. Michael has played an active role in acquisitions of railroad rights-of-way on behalf of public transportation agencies, including the purchase of the Caltrain commuter rail line from San Francisco to San Jose on behalf of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. He has overseen the management of that right-of-way for nearly 30 years. He was also the lead attorney for the acquisition of property for the extension of the S.F. Bay Area Rapid Transit system to the San Francisco International Airport, which included the purchase of the San Bruno Branch right-of-way from Union Pacific Railroad. He advises clients with regard to federal and state regulatory issues affecting railroads, including railroad crossings, quiet zones, and title issues, and has developed an educational program for attorneys regarding federal railroad regulations. Michael currently serves as general counsel to three transit districts, the Tri-Valley–San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, and the Western Contra Costa Transit Authority. Michael attended Princeton University, receiving his A.B. degree in public policy from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs in 1976. He also attended Hastings College of the Law, where he served as Note Editor of the Hastings Law Journal, receiving his J.D. in 1988. He has been at Hanson Bridgett since his graduation from law school.



Korin Crawford, Executive Vice President, Griffin | Swinerton

Korin Crawford is responsible for originating, evaluating, structuring, and closing public-private partnerships (P3s) for the Griffin | Swinerton. Korin leverages 20 years of experience in infrastructure, real estate, and M&A of property-backed operating businesses with an emphasis on P3s and real estate transactions in complex regulatory environments. Prior to joining Griffin Swinerton, Korin was an Executive Advisor to the Los Angeles City Administrative Officer (CAO) as a subject matter expert on infrastructure delivered through a variety of alternative financing methods including P3s. In this role, Korin spearheaded \$3.5 billion of investment opportunities spanning municipal facilities, transit, renewable energy, and habitat restoration projects. Notable projects included the Los Angeles Convention Center, LA Civic Center, and Downtown Streetcar. Korin is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences on P3s, including the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF), the P3 Conference in Dallas, CityAge in Washington DC and Los Angeles, and P3 Hub West. From 2006 to 2015, Korin led his own consulting and investment practice, offering advisory services to for-profit and non-profit real estate investors, developers, and public agencies (including utilities, ports, city/county, redevelopment, and school districts) to finance and develop land, real estate, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.



Eric Danly, City Attorney, Petaluma

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 City Attorneys' Department'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 Cal Cities lobbyists on Public Records Act issues and recommendations to the Legal Advocacy Committee on requests for amicus support in public records cases. Currently Eric serves as the Second Vice President of the City Attorneys' Department of Cal Cities. His Second Vice President duties include serving as liaison to the Attorney Development and Succession Committee, the Municipal Law Handbook Committee, and the 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 Cal Cities. 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.



Scott Davenport, General Counsel, Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP

Scott Davenport is a Certified Appellate Specialist who has served as lead counsel in approximately 400 appellate matters. He currently serves as the General Counsel for Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez LLP and leads the firm's 13-member Strategies, Writs, and Appeals Team. Mr. Davenport served as the chair of the California State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners is certified as an AV® Preeminent attorney by Martindale-Hubbell. He has been selected as 2009–2020 Super Lawyer, a distinction awarded to no more than five percent of attorneys in a state who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Throughout this career, Mr. Davenport has served as the lead counsel in approximately 400 appellate matters, many of which resulted in published opinions involving cases of first impression. One of these matters, *Los Angeles County v. Retelle*, 550 US 609 (2007), involved allegations of excessive force and qualified immunity and resulted in a per curiam summary reversal in the United States Supreme Court. Scott Davenport is a Certified Appellate Specialist who has served as lead counsel in approximately 400 appellate matters. He currently serves as the General Counsel for Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez LLP and leads the firm's 13-member Strategies, Writs, and Appeals Team. Mr. Davenport served as the chair of the California State Bar Committee of Bar Examiners is certified as an AV® Preeminent attorney by Martindale-Hubbell. He has been selected as 2009–2020 Super Lawyer, a distinction awarded to no more than five percent of attorneys in a state who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Throughout this career, Mr. Davenport has served as the lead counsel in approximately 400 appellate matters, many of which resulted in published opinions involving cases of first impression. One of these matters, *Los Angeles County v. Retelle*, 550 US 609 (2007), involved allegations of excessive force and qualified immunity and resulted in a per curiam summary reversal in the United States Supreme Court.



Ryan Dunn, Senior Counsel, Colantuono Highsmith & Whatley

Ryan is senior counsel in Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley's litigation and advisory practice groups. His practice covers a full range of litigation matters for cities and other public entities, including disputes over public revenues, election disputes, land use issues, general commercial litigation, and related appeals. He uses his deep knowledge of California civil procedure to efficiently defend public entities in litigation and resolve disputes cost-effectively. Ryan also serves as general counsel of the Goleta Water District and the Burbank Hospitality Association.



Catherine Engberg, City Attorney, Half Moon Bay

Catherine is a Partner with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP. Her Career highlights include:

- Serving as City Attorney, City of Half Moon Bay and Deputy City Attorney, Saratoga and Orinda.
- Successfully representing Protect Our Communities Foundation in CPUC proceeding determining that SDG&E's shareholders, not its ratepayers, must bear the costs of devastating fires resulting from poor management practices (*SDG&E v. California Public Utilities Commission* (cert. denied Oct. 7, 2019)).
- Teaching Land Use Law at Stanford Law School and Berkeley Law.

Her Community Service, Publications, and Recognitions include:

- Northern California Super Lawyers, Land Use/Zoning.
- Board Member, Bay Nature Institute.
- Former board member, Kensington Municipal Advisory Council. Licensed Professional Civil Engineer.

She is a member of the Bar of the State of California. She received her juris doctorate from Stanford University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering/Environmental and Water Studies from Stanford University.

She has clerked for the Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz, United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.



Benjamin P. Fay, Partner, Jarvis, Fay, & Gibson, LLP

Ben Fay is a founding partner of Jarvis, Fay & Gibson, LLP. He represents and advises cities throughout California on local revenues, including all kinds of taxes, fees, and assessments.



Mark Fingerman, Esq., LL.M, ADR Services, Functional Mindfulness

Mark Fingerman is a lawyer/mediator; yoga, meditation and mindfulness teacher. Mark was a trial lawyer for over 25 years. With a Juris Doctorate (JD) and Master at Laws (LL.M) in alternative dispute resolution, Mark has been a mediator at ADR Services since 2012, for business, corporate and partnership disputes, intellectual property, personal injury, employment, real estate, and insurance coverage disputes. Mark received yoga teacher training from Max Strom in 2010, and meditation teacher training from Dr. Loren Roche in 2014. Mark received mindfulness teacher training in 2016 from the Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute, the successor to Google's in-house mindfulness program. Mark's work as a both a mediator and teacher is mindfulness based. Mark's recreational passions are likewise mindfulness based, including surfing, mountain biking and snow boarding. Mark's mission is to bring peace through mindfulness as a mediator, and to teach mindfulness practices as a vehicle for personal and organizational harmony, beneficial productivity and well-being.



John Finke, President, Public Facilities Group

John has structured the finance and management approach to all completed Public-Private-Partnerships (P3) in Washington State. The list includes 24 projects that total \$1.6 billion in construction cost. Each project was completed at-budget or under-budget, and on-schedule or ahead- of-schedule. Each project was also completed at a lower cost and at an equal-to or higher quality than if they were publicly delivered. As the principal in charge of each of these projects, John was responsible for the P3 structure that contributed directly to success of this form of delivery. The Washington State list includes: 9 projects for the University of Washington, 4 for King County, 3 for the State of Washington, and 1 each for Redmond, Pierce County, Tacoma, Seattle, Bothell, Issaquah, Washington State University and Pacific Lutheran University. In addition to his experience in Washington State, John has completed or is in the final stages of completion of 6 projects in California and 1 in Alaska, totaling another \$600 million in project cost. Notable on the above project list are 4 projects for the UW Medicine Research Facility in South Lake Union and the Ninth and Jefferson Building on UW's Harborview Campus. King County's project lead on the Ninth and Jefferson Building described the project's success, stating: "We got twice the building at half the cost." Each of these buildings exemplifies the benefits that a well-structured P3 delivery can achieve when it looks to maximize public value. If the University of Washington is to achieve its goal of a rapid and efficient delivery of the South Campus and the Magnuson Health Science Center, it will likely want to incorporate P3 along with other forms of public delivery. In addition to his P3 knowledge, John is a national expert in alternative public delivery models. A significant subset of his understanding is his knowledge of what is available in Washington State. He is a regular guest speaker at national and regional P3 conventions and is a sought-after consultant on other forms of alternative public delivery. John Finke has more than 40 years' experience in finance, private and public sector development, local government and nonprofit management. Among the first P3 practitioners in the country, John and the University of Washington partnered 1994 on the rehabilitation of the Commodore Duchess Apartments, successfully delivering the first P3 in Washington. Since then, John has successfully delivered 31 P3 projects. 24 in Washington State. He is the only practitioner with actual project experience in what can and cannot be structured in Washington State and how blending of public and private funding with grants and foundation sources will impact selected structures. He is an untiring advocate for creating value for the public sector.



Dave Fleishman, City Attorney, Pismo Beach, Solvang

Dave Fleishman has practiced extensively in the area of public law and in the area of labor and employment law for both public and private employers. His practice has focused on the representation of public agencies in an advisory role as city attorney or general counsel, as well as in public entity defense litigation, including writs and appeals, civil rights, Fair Labor Standards Act, wrongful termination, employment investigations, public contracting, tort claims and code enforcement. He has also represented private employers throughout California in wrongful termination, wage and hour, and other employment matters. He currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Pismo Beach and the City of Solvang. He has represented over 40 cities and special districts in California and Nevada in various labor and employment and other legal matters.



Rebecca Green, Senior Attorney, Richards, Watson & Gershon

Rebecca represents cities, special districts, and other public agencies on labor and employment issues including hiring and recruitment, compliance with state and federal labor regulations, drafting and implementing personnel policies, discrimination and harassment prevention, reasonable accommodation and the interactive process, discipline and termination. Rebecca also conducts personnel investigations and provides training to ensure compliance with the rapidly evolving arena of labor and employment law. She represents clients in personnel hearings, including appeals of discipline, and negotiates with employee associations to resolve grievances and form memoranda of understanding under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act.

A seasoned trial attorney, Rebecca represents clients in employment disputes, including in mediation, arbitration, administrative hearings and litigation. She has successfully litigated collective actions under the Fair Labor Standards Act and individual claims brought under the Fair Employment and Housing Act, as well as a variety of disputes ranging from breach of employment contract to Private Attorney General Act and whistleblower lawsuits.

Rebecca began her legal career as a white collar criminal defense attorney at Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, D.C., where she worked with clients to ensure compliance with federal and international laws. She moved to California to clerk for the Honorable Richard A. Paez on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Following her clerkship, Rebecca worked as a civil trial attorney, representing clients in a wide variety of areas and focusing on employment litigation. She also gained significant experience advising clients on employment matters and negotiating employment disputes with the goal of pre-litigation resolution.



Ryan Griffith, Attorney & Associate Receiver, Bay Area Receivership Group

Ryan attended California State University, Chico for his undergraduate studies and there he played varsity basketball and was a three-time recipient of the scholar athlete award. After completing his undergraduate studies, Ryan was hired as a paralegal in the New York City Attorney's Office. After working as a paralegal, he continued his basketball career and played professional basketball in China. When he returned from China, Ryan was offered a Faculty Scholarship to attend Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco. While in law school Ryan received multiple academic awards including Witkin & Cali Awards for Academic Excellence and was also on the Dean's List every semester. Ryan's stellar academic performance put him in the top 12% of his law school class and he was named to Golden Gate University Law School's Jesse Carter Honor Society. After graduating from law school, Ryan was hired by the City of Vallejo to develop the Neighborhood Law Program to resolve its Code Enforcement Issues. In this role, Ryan worked closely with the Vallejo Police Department, Fire Department, Code Enforcement, Building Department and City Council to develop solutions affecting the quality of life in Vallejo. A few of the solutions he created include developing Vallejo's Health and Safety Receivership Program, which resolved issues with longstanding nuisance properties in Vallejo. On top of the nuisance abatement this remedy created, Ryan was able to successfully recover hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorney's fees and enforcement costs for the City of Vallejo. Ryan also drafted Ordinances that allowed the City to demolish nuisance properties, which further improved the quality of life in Vallejo. The Solano County Bar Association recognized Ryan for his accomplishments in Vallejo by naming him the Solano County Bar Association Young Lawyer of the Year in 2013. Since his time in Vallejo Ryan has worked for several law litigation firms including Silver & Wright, which specialized in municipal code enforcement litigation. In 2017 Ryan joined Bay Area Receivership Group as it's In-House Counsel where he helps cities and counties address blighted properties exclusively through the Health and Safety Receivership remedy.



Jonathan V. Holtzman, Founding Partner, Renne Public Law Group

Jonathan V. Holtzman is a founding partner of Renne Public Law Group®. His practice focuses on assisting government agencies maintain and expand public services through strategic consulting, negotiations, fact finding, arbitration and litigation. He specializes in addressing long-term structural issues relating to pensions, health benefits, retirement health benefits, police reform, civil service reform, and other means of attaining greater managerial discretion and effectiveness through collective bargaining and reorganization. He is the author of Rutter Group's California Practice Guide: Public Sector Employment Litigation Guide, the leading treatise on public sector employment issues. Jon is a veteran of innumerable negotiations with police unions over wages, hours and departmental policies, including numerous police reform initiatives. He recently served as Special Counsel to the Fresno Commission on Police Reform, which produced 73 discrete recommendations that were adopted nearly unanimously by the 40-member commission. Jon is a graduate of Stanford Law School and clerked for Justice Otto Kaus of the California Supreme Court.



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

Bill Ihrke's practice emphasis includes serving as city attorney, land use and entitlement, environmental review and CEQA compliance, 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 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 of Adelanto, Twentynine Palms, Yorba Linda and Duarte.



Barbara E. Kautz, Partner, Goldfarb & Lipman LLP

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.



Gregg Kettles, Partner, Best Best & Krieger

Gregg represents public agencies and other clients in litigation matters, with an emphasis on writs and appeals. He is a Certified Appellate Specialist by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.



Vanessa Legbandt, Esq. Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth

Vanessa Legbandt is a Shareholder in the Public Finance group at Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth. She focuses her practice on municipal debt transactions, serving as bond counsel and/or disclosure counsel to public agencies issuing bonds and other financial obligations, or as counsel to underwriting firms or banks in connection with bond transactions and other financings. Vanessa started her career as a redevelopment attorney and continues to represent public agencies in financing and structuring economic development projects, including hotels, car dealerships, market-rate and affordable housing developments. She has also advised numerous clients regarding the procedures and relative costs and benefits of forming and issuing debt through enhanced infrastructure financing districts.



Seth Merewitz, Partner; Chair P3 Working Group, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Seth Merewitz provides advisory and transactional services to public agencies, developers, landowners and other private entities. He is a partner in the Municipal Law practice group and heads the Public-Private Partnership group at Best Best & Krieger LLP. Seth has 25 years of experience working on the structuring, risk identification and transfer, and legal matters on public-private partnership transactions. He has extensive experience in infrastructure projects, as well as military base reuse, master-planned communities, shopping centers, industrial and hospitality projects. He advises both municipalities and private equity funds, investors and landowners on all aspects of public-private transactions, from due diligence through procurement, documentation, approval and implementation. He has led and facilitated teams to successful outcomes. Seth is a frequent speaker at local, state and national conferences on P3 topics and has written extensively on the topic for state and national publications. In 2018, the Daily Journal recognized him as a Top 100 Attorney in California.



Jennifer Mizrahi, City Attorney, Desert Hot Springs/ Stream Kim Hicks Wrage & Alfaro

Ms. Mizrahi currently serves as the City Attorney for the City of Desert Hot Springs, practicing in municipal law for nearly her entire career. Ms. Mizrahi joined Stream Kim in 2019, after working for Quintanilla & Associates and Green, de Bortnowsky & Quintanilla (GdQ) for nearly 15 years combined, where she served as Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Cathedral City and Rancho Mirage, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Victorville, and Deputy General Counsel for the Southern California Logistics Airport Authority, Glendale Oversight Board, the Victorville Water District, and the Victor Valley Economic Development Authority. Prior to joining GdQ, Ms. Mizrahi was employed with Beltran & Medina, where she represented the City of Lynwood and the Water Replenishment District, as Deputy Legal Counsel. During the course of representing public entities, Ms. Mizrahi has acquired extensive experience in many facets of municipal law such as, but not limited to, land use planning, environmental analysis, annexation proceedings, development agreement negotiations, public works construction contract preparation, prevailing wage compliance, eminent domain actions, and sales and property tax measures. Ms. Mizrahi is also one of the leaders in the cannabis law field. Ms. Mizrahi has represented the City of Desert Hot Springs from stem to stern in the cannabis arena – from working with elected officials to solidify their ideas to allow cannabis activity in their city, to creating a highly regulated and developer-friendly space where the cannabis industry can flourish. To that end, Ms. Mizrahi has been and currently a key player, drafting ordinances and regulations, to development agreements and procedures. Ms. Mizrahi also has had the distinct pleasure of working with key players at the State level in aiding to draft State cannabis regulations, often being asked to speak at conferences. Further, Ms. Mizrahi has been instrumental in working with several public agencies, including CalFire and water districts, to effectively develop a comprehensive inter-agency regulatory structure within the County of Riverside. Most importantly, Ms. Mizrahi oversees the implementation of the City Council's zero-tolerance stance on non-compliant cannabis activity, from conducting permit revocation procedures to general code enforcement. 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 also attended the University of Madrid, Complutense, where she studied international political economy. Ms. Mizrahi is currently a member of the State Bar of California, the League of California Cities Attorney Development and Succession Committee and Cannabis Regulation Committee, 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, City Attorney, BWS

Joseph Montes is the City Attorney in Alhambra and Santa Clarita and a partner with Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP. He is the Chair of the Attorney Development and Succession Committee within the City Attorneys Department of Cal Cities.



Lynn Tracy Nerland, City Attorney, San Pablo and President, City Attorneys Department, League of California Cities

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 as a Tony Patino Fellow and Dartmouth College. A native of Upstate New York, Lynn first came to California with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working for a job training and community services organization in Visalia. Lynn currently has the honor to serve as the President for the City Attorneys' Department of the League of California Cities and was Chair of the Attorney Development and Succession Committee (ADSC). 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. A long time ago, she was a reviewer for the Municipal Law Handbook.

It has been a tough year for all of us, but I am grateful for my health and the support from the CalCities and city attorney colleagues as we muddled together with all of the new issues brought by pandemic health orders, Zoom meetings, and remote workplaces. I can't imagine doing this alone. For those of you trying to juggle your professional and caregiving responsibilities during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders, please try to stay connected as much as you are able, as we continue to provide resources to help all Department members through these challenges.



Helen Peak, City Attorney, San Marcos

Helen Holmes Peak has represented numerous public agencies in transactional and litigation matters in a variety of practice areas, including general municipal, land use, environmental, eminent domain, real estate transactional, elections, public contracting, and employment and personnel matters. She has participated in negotiations with, and hearings before, various local and state regulatory and permitting agencies. Ms. Peak currently serves as the contract City Attorney for San Marcos. Ms. Peak is a member of the City Attorneys Association of San Diego (past President, 2004-2005 and 2017-2018). She has served on the Legal Advocacy Committee of the League of California Cities (2007-2009, Chair 2008-2009), and the City Attorney Department Post-Redevelopment Working Group. She is currently a member of the City Attorney Department Attorney Development and Succession Committee (2017 – present). Ms. Peak served for many years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA (1985-2019), twice having served as Board Chair.



Jennifer Petrusis, Shareholder, Richards, Watson & Gershon

Jennifer Petrusis has devoted her practice to advising and representing police departments and public agencies. With extensive experience in civil litigation and knowledge of criminal law and procedure, Jennifer is in the unique position of being able to advise and represent police departments and their members in a variety of contexts.

Jennifer splits her practice between being a legal advisor to police departments, and vigorously litigating on behalf of cities, public employees, and peace officers. As a police defense litigator, Jennifer has represented police officers in police liability and civil rights lawsuits alleging excessive force, wrongful death, false arrest, false imprisonment, illegal search and seizure, malicious prosecution, personal injury, and other torts. Additionally, Jennifer's experience in representing cities and their employees includes lawsuits alleging constitutional rights violations and various allegations of tort liability and damage claims, including inverse condemnation, employment claims, and dangerous condition of public property.

Jennifer also regularly advises her police clients regarding policies and procedures, including those regarding new and emerging technologies such as body-worn cameras, automated license plate readers, and long-range acoustic devices. Jennifer represents several police departments in Pitchess and Brady Motions, and assists records staff in responding to various types of document requests, such as Public Records Act requests, subpoenas, criminal discovery requests, and civil discovery requests. Jennifer also regularly files petitions to retain and destroy confiscated deadly weapons and advises property and evidence technicians on various retention and return of property matters.

Jennifer is one of the relatively few private civil attorneys with experience in obtaining a gang injunction. Jennifer was part of the team that obtained an injunction on behalf of the City of Monrovia against the activities of two rival criminal street gangs. The injunction prohibits members of the two gangs from publicly congregating together, and from engaging in specified activities, within a three and one-half square mile "Safety Zone" the court designated in parts of Monrovia and adjacent unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

Jennifer is also a code prosecutor and has represented several cities in administrative, criminal, and civil code enforcement matters including for the Cities of Artesia, Temecula, Mission Viejo, Moorpark, Calimesa, La Mirada, Seal Beach, and Banning.



WORK FOR CLIENTS

Jennifer represents the police departments of the Cities of Beverly Hills, Banning, Brea, Covina, Fairfield, Indio, Manhattan Beach, Monrovia, San Marino, Seal Beach, Upland, and for the Bob Hope Airport.

Additionally, Jennifer provides legal advice and represents the Cities of Agoura Hills, Artesia, Banning, Calimesa, Gardena, Hidden Hills, Highland, Jurupa Valley, La Mirada, Livermore, Moorpark, Norwalk, Rancho Cucamonga, South El Monte, Temecula, Westlake Village, and Yucaipa.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining Richards, Watson & Gershon in 2006, Jennifer worked at Nelson & Fulton, a law firm that provides civil defense representation for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and represents the Sheriff's Department in Pitchess Motions. Between Nelson & Fulton and Richards, Watson & Gershon, Jennifer has devoted her entire practice of law to representing law enforcement agencies and public agencies, and she has appeared at hundreds of Pitchess and Brady Motion-related hearings.



Joseph Petta, Partner, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP

Joseph "Seph" Petta is a Partner at Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP, where he advises municipalities, other public agencies, and community groups in environmental, land use, and public law matters. Mr. Petta's practice focuses on the California Environmental Quality Act, general plan and zoning law, public lands law, and ordinance and conservation easement drafting and enforcement. His work also includes representing clients in proceedings before state public utility commissions.



Amanda Pope, Attorney & Director of City Receiverships, Jones & Mayer

As the Director of City Receiverships for Jones & Mayer, Amanda supervises all city-initiated receivership litigation for city clients throughout California seeking to abate substandard and substantially dangerous properties.



Eugene P. Ramirez, Senior Partner, Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP

Eugene P. Ramirez, a founding partner of the firm, leads the Governmental Entity Liability; Military and Veterans Law; and School Civil Liability Teams. Mr. Ramirez is a frequently quoted national expert in police use of Body Worn Cameras. He serves as general counsel for both the California Association of Tactical Officers (CATO) and United States Police Canine Association and is a former legal section chair for the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA). Mr. Ramirez is frequently invited to speak to law enforcement agencies across the United States on use of force, handling high profile cases and risk management issues. He was recently named a 2019 "Top Litigator and Trial Attorney" by the Los Angeles Business Journal. He was selected as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Trial Lawyer of the Year in 1993 and 2006, by two different Sheriffs. He was selected as the 2009 Alumni Attorney of the Year for Whittier School of Law. He was also selected in 2011 as one of the Top 25 Municipal Attorneys in California by the Daily Journal, California's largest legal news provider, who stated, "When local law enforcement agencies get in trouble, they call Ramirez." Mr. Ramirez has been profiled in the California Lawyer Magazine for his law enforcement defense work, and been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS). He has also been named as a 2005–2011 and 2014–2017 Super Lawyer for Southern California. This award only goes to the top 5% of attorneys in the Los Angeles/Orange County Bar. He was also named to the distinguished American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), an award only bestowed upon proven trial attorneys. Mr. Ramirez is experienced in defending SWAT teams in civil liability cases. He is an instructor on liability issues for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Basic SWAT School, and also for the California Association of Tactical Officers (CATO) and the National Tactical Officers' Association (NTOA). He was a member of the State Attorney General's Blue Ribbon SWAT Committee, and POST's Executive Advisory Committee for SWAT Teams. He is a former member of the LAPD Board of Inquiry (which examined LAPD SWAT operations) and an approved California POST instructor. He serves as an advisor to several public entities on the issues of use of force, canine and SWAT issues and policies and procedures. Mr. Ramirez acquired significant expertise on civil liability arising out of the use of police dogs in law enforcement by winning several cases, and has lectured on the subject to police departments nationwide. He has provided training to thousands of canine officers and supervisors, from around the country and Canada, for more than 20 years. He has authored several articles for the USPCA's Canine Courier. Before joining the firm, Mr. Ramirez worked as a deputy district attorney for the L.A. County District Attorney's Office, where he conducted numerous misdemeanor and felony jury trials, including murder trials. He has also worked as a reserve police officer for the Whittier police department and the Monterey Park police department. He graduated from Whittier College School of Law (JD 1987), where he was notes



& comments editor of the Law Review, a member of the Moot Court Honors Board, and president of the Student Bar Association. At Whittier, he received an award as the Best Oral Advocate and the Outstanding Moot Court Graduate Award. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from California State University, Long Beach (BA1983), where he minored in criminal justice & public policy. Practice Areas: Governmental Entity Liability; Military and Veterans Law; School Civil Liability.



Deepa Sharma, Senior Associate, Burke, Williams & Sorensen

Deepa Sharma provides litigation and advisory services to a public agency clients throughout California, and serves as the Assistant City Attorney to the City of Piedmont. Her litigation and advisory practices emphasize land use, and government law issues, including rent stabilization and affordable housing. While in law school, Deepa served as a law clerk in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which oversees federal grants to state and local transit providers. She interned at the State of California's Office of Legislative Counsel, where she assisted in drafting legislation in the areas of energy, environmental, transportation, and education law. Deepa also served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Maria P. Rivera of the California Court of Appeal, and was a staff editor and executive board member for the Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly. Before law school, Deepa served as a policy aide in the California State Legislature, and worked as a political consultant to various local and statewide campaigns.



Kevin Siegel, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen LLP

Kevin represents cities and other local agencies regarding a wide range of public law matters, including land use and planning, CEQA and environmental law, inverse condemnation and eminent domain, open meeting and public records, taxes and assessments, elections and initiatives, contracts and torts, and due process and other issues of constitutional law. Kevin provides litigation as well as advisory services. Kevin joined Burke, Williams & Sorensen in August 2012. Prior to joining Burke, Kevin was a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Oakland, where he specialized in writs and appeals. Previously, Kevin was a shareholder at McDonough Holland & Allen, where he litigated cases for public agencies across the State, and a Legal Research Attorney for the San Francisco Superior Court, where he advised judges regarding complex litigation. Kevin endeavors to reach positive outcomes for his clients, without litigation. But when litigation is necessary, Kevin zealously pursues successful outcomes in court.



Daniel Sodergren, City Attorney, Pleasanton

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.



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.



Holly O. Whatley, Assistant City Attorney, Shareholder, South Pasadena, Ojai, Sierra Madre, Colantuono Highsmith Whatley, PC

Holly Whatley is a shareholder and currently serves as General Counsel to San Diego LAFCo. She also serves as Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Ojai, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena. Holly is also a leader in the firm's Litigation Department focusing on public law disputes, including election law, municipal finance, complex litigation and particularly class actions, Public Records Act, Brown Act, LAFCo law, land use and CEQA. In 2013, in recognition of her accomplishments, the Daily Journal named Holly one of the top 20 municipal lawyers in the state. Education: Holly graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988. She received her J.D from the University of Texas School of Law in 1992 and joined the California Bar that same year. While she was at law school, she taught legal research and writing to first-year students.

Practice Areas: • Election Law • LAFCO Law • Public Finance Law • Municipal Class Action Defense • Brown Act/Public Records Act • Employment Law • Land Use/CEQA • Public Law Appeals