



### **Amy Albano, City Attorney, Burbank**

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 Teen 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 (Department) of the League of California Cities (Cal 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 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 Department and is now a director on the Cal 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 immediate past 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.



**Jason Alcalá, City Attorney, Livermore**

Jason R. Alcalá has been practicing municipal law over 25 years. He is currently the City Attorney for the City of Livermore. Before joining Livermore, Mr. Alcalá was the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Thousand Oaks and was an Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Chino and Coachella. Mr. Alcalá has authored papers and made presentations on subjects ranging from Due Process of Law for Code Enforcement – Principles of Fairness and Integrity, and Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Laws to Ethics and Public Service – Laws and Principles. He has been an active participant with the League of California Cities and has worked on publications including the Municipal Law Handbook, and The People’s Business: A Guide to the California Public Records Act, and presented at the City Clerk’s New Law & Election Seminar on Public Records Requests Post Prop. 59 - A Review of the Measure and Recommendation for Responses. Mr. Alcalá has participated on numerous Cal Cities committees including the Annual Conference Planning Committee, the Brown Act Committee, the Legal Advocacy Committee, the California Public Records Act Committee, the Revenue and Taxation Committee, and the Municipal Law Handbook Committee. Mr. Alcalá is the President of the Bay Area City Attorney’s Association, and the president of the Boys & Girls Club of Tracy.



### **Susana Alcala Wood, City Attorney, Sacramento**

Susana Alcala Wood was appointed City Attorney on March 19, 2018. An attorney specializing in Municipal law, Susana has worked for multiple cities throughout California. Susana previously worked for the City of Sacramento as a Supervising Deputy City Attorney from April 2001 to June 2006 where she supervised the Code Enforcement Section, and the Advisory Section. As the Code Enforcement Supervisor, Susana directed a team of 5 lawyers and 4 support staff and spearheaded all code enforcement, criminal prosecutions, blight and nuisance abatement activities for the Office. She advised and trained all city enforcement staff on strategies, code compliance and administrative abatement procedures, as well as overseeing and working on the City's first gang abatement action civil injunction. Susana also transferred to the Advisory Section where she oversaw and directed the work of the advisory lawyers that provided general governmental advice to all City Departments. Prior to returning to the City of Sacramento in March, Susana served as the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Stockton from November 2013 to March 2018, where her responsibilities included serving as legal advisor to several Council Committees and Citizen advisory commissions. Susana also served as the principal Legal Advisor to the Stockton Police Department and was responsible for all administrative functions of the office, including budget and personnel matters. She worked closely with the City Manager's Office and City Clerk's Office.

Prior to her work at the City of Stockton, Susana Alcala Wood served as the City Attorney for Modesto from 2006-2013. She was the primary legal advisor to the City Council, Council Committees, City Manager, City Clerk and City Auditor. Susana was responsible for all administrative functions of the Office along with overseeing and directing hundreds of investigations involving allegations of harassment, discrimination, and related complaints involving city staff, department heads, and city management. While at Modesto, Susana guided the City Council through their shift from general elections to by-district elections, and all the accompanying Charter changes. She worked closely with the City Manager's Office and City Departments to implement any applicable recommendations.

Susana also previously worked as a Deputy City Attorney for City of Stockton from January 1993 – April 2001 and for the City of El Monte from December 1991 to December 1992. In both offices she was responsible for advising multiple departments including Code Enforcement, Fire, Library, and Police. She worked with city staff on addressing and eliminating blight, deteriorated and dangerous housing, and all nuisance conditions including quality of life issues, drug, red-light, and gang activity. Susana began her work with the City of El Monte in 1988 while still in law school and clerked for



the City Attorney for three years. Upon passing the California Bar exam in 1991, she was appointed as a Deputy City Attorney.

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Ms. Wood served as a member and as the Chair of the League of California Cities, City Attorney's Department Legal Advocacy Committee, City Attorney's Department Municipal Law Handbook Committee, and has served in various training and speaking capacities to organizations and public agencies throughout the state on the topics of Local Government Law as well as Code Enforcement.

#### EDUCATION

Ms. Wood received her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy-Ethics and Public Policy in 1987 and received her Juris Doctorate from Whittier College, School of Law – Los Angeles, California in May 1991.



**Elizabeth Atkins, Deputy City Attorney, San Diego**

Elizabeth Atkins is the deputy city attorney for the city of San Diego.



**Emilio Camacho, Senior Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento**

Mr. Camacho is a Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of Sacramento. He has extensive experience including advisory, administrative prosecution, civil prosecution, criminal prosecution, and appeals. Mr. Camacho has led the City Attorney's cannabis enforcement efforts since 2018 and is now primarily focused on representing the City in cannabis litigation appeals at the Superior Court and Court of Appeals. His prior experience includes advising the members of the Legislature and the Governor as a Deputy Legislative Counsel and serving under Governor Brown's administration as Chief of Staff to Commissioner David Hochschild and Advisor on California-Mexico Issues at the Energy Commission.



**Eric S. Casher, City Attorney, Pinole, Meyers Nave**

Eric Casher is Principal and Chair of Meyers Nave's Municipal and Special District Law Practice Group. He assists clients with legal and regulatory matters throughout California, including public law, public contracting, construction litigation, workplace investigations and public-private partnerships. He has a particular focus on the challenges that government agencies, cities, counties and special districts face as they implement their mandates and missions. He currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Pinole and General Counsel of the East Bay Dischargers Authority. Eric's focus on public law reflects his commitment to public service. Eric's leadership at Meyers Nave includes currently serving as Chair of the firm's Diversity Committee. Eric is also an active member of the community for which he received an "Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service" award from the Bar Association of San Francisco. He currently serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the California Minority Counsel Program and recently completed terms as President of California ChangeLawyers and the Charles Houston Bar Association. In 2021, he was appointed to the League of California Cities' newly formed Advancing Equity Advisory Committee charged with identifying how cities and towns can recognize and eliminate biases and disparities, heal racial divisions, and build more equitable communities.



**Robert Ceccon, Shareholder, Richards, Watson & Gershon**

Bob Ceccon is a litigator with the firm of Richards, Watson and Gershon. He has been with that firm since 1986. He is chairperson of the firm's litigation department. Bob is co-author of the CEB treatise on California Government Tort Liability Practice . He is also author of the CEB Action Guide on handling claims against government entities. Bob has taken over 25 cases to judgment as lead counsel in trials in both state and federal courts, and has arbitrated dozens more. He has argued before the California Court of Appeal. His over three decades of experience have spanned the entire range of liability and damage claims against public agencies, including inverse condemnation, solid waste, police practices, employment claims, wrongful death claims, and dangerous conditions.





**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 350 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. 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.



### **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.



### **Bridgette Dean, Director, Office of Community Response**

Bridgette Dean, LCSW, PPSC is the Director of the Department of Community Response in Sacramento, California. The Department of Community Response (DCR) provides an alternative response model citywide with the goal reducing police and fire calls for service for a wide range of incidents including but not restricted to mental health, homelessness, school response, youth and family crisis and substance use issues. The Department of Community Response includes the Office of Community Outreach, Office of Homeless Services and Office of Violence Prevention. DCR is a critical partner in the first response and public safety triad in the city of Sacramento. Bridgette earned both her Master and Bachelor degree's in Social Work at California State University, Sacramento and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She possesses Pupil Personnel School Services Credentials in School Social Work, School Counseling and School Administration. Bridgette has served as an Administrator, Social Worker and Counselor in public schools with students in elementary through high school, including alternative education. She is currently Adjunct Faculty with the Department of Social Work and the College of Continuing Education at CSUS where she teaches regular semester social work courses as well as the School Social Work Pupil Personnel Services Credential Program Prior to her appointment as Director, Bridgette served as the Sacramento Police Department Social Services Administrator and managed the Police Department's Mental Health Unit, IMPACT Team (Homeless Response Unit) and Hospital Unit. Her experience of blending social work and law enforcement in both leadership roles, program creation and officer training provides her with a unique lens in creating an alternative response to social issues that are non-criminal in nature. Bridgette has worked in Law Enforcement as a records clerk, Social Services Administrator and Police Therapist. She established the first Police Social Services Unit in the region and has been one of the few non-sworn personnel to oversee and manage sworn units statewide. She also created the first Social Work Intern program at Sacramento PD. Bridgette implemented a Case Management and Family Systems Program Module into CDCR's Parole Academy and has provided consultation and facilitation with other agencies who are working to establish social work, case-management and social service models into their systems. Bridgette facilitates and creates curriculum for various trainings including Mental Health Response, Suicide Awareness and Interventions, Homeless Intervention, Case Management, De-Escalation and Communication, Implicit Bias and Cultural Competency, Procedural Justice, Critical Incident Stress Management and Crisis Intervention Training to the community, law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, non-profits and schools. You can reach Bridgette at [Bdean@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:Bdean@cityofsacramento.org)



**Gregory G. Diaz, Ad Hoc Emergency Response Committee Chair, City Attorney,  
San Buenaventura**

BA - Political Science and Public Administration, CSU, Long Beach MPA - Consortium  
of the California State University

JD - Western State University, College of Law Previous City Attorney: Lake Forest,  
Lomita, Stanton, & Merced Current City

Attorney: City of San Buenaventura (Ventura)



**Dave Fleishman, City Attorney, Pismo Beach and Solvang, Of Counsel, Richards, Watson & Gershon**

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.



**Elena Gerli, Partner, Aleshire & Wynder**

Elena Gerli is Assistant City Attorney for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the City of Suisun City, and the City of La Cañada Flintridge, and provides legal services for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, and special counsel services for the City of Culver City. Ms. Gerli is the current Treasurer for the City Attorneys Association of Los Angeles County. Ms. Gerli has spent her entire legal career representing public entities. Her areas of expertise include First Amendment law, zoning and land use, CEQA, ordinance drafting, general plan amendments, constitutional law, contract negotiation and drafting, marijuana regulation and control, fair housing and group home regulation, and guiding local governments through complex quality of life issues. Ms. Gerli also advises her municipal clients regarding the Political Reform Act (conflicts of interest), Brown Act (public meeting laws), Public Records Act, elections laws, revenue measures, and Proposition 218. Ms. Gerli obtained her JD from the UCLA School of Law in 2003, and her undergraduate degree from Brown University in 1990. Ms. Gerli is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion officer for her alumni class, and founded the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Brown University Association of Class Leaders. In November of 2020, she obtained the Diversity & Inclusion Certificate from Cornell, and is the founder and co-chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.



**William Ihrke, City Attorney, La Quinta, Partner, Rutan & Tucker**

As a Partner in Rutan & Tucker, LLP's Government Law Practice Group, Bill Ihrke currently serves as the City Attorney for La Quinta and Cerritos, and as counsel to the successor agencies to the former redevelopment agencies of multiple cities, including Twentynine Palms, Yorba Linda, Duarte, La Quinta and Cerritos. Bill's practice emphasis includes general city attorney and land use/entitlement issues, environmental review and compliance, municipal finance, 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. In representing public agencies, 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, Government Torts 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.



**Aaron M. Israel, Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento**

Aaron M. Israel serves in the Office of the City Attorney for the City of Sacramento. As deputy city attorney in the Community Advocacy and Public Safety Division, Aaron provides general counsel services to the Sacramento Police Department, including analysis of decisional and statutory law, formation of contractual agreements, preparation of local ordinances, and review of departmental policies. Aaron also advises the newly-established Department of Community Response. Among other bodies of law, he has developed extensive knowledge of the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and their application to legal matters involving persons experiencing homelessness. Aaron earned his Juris Doctor with a certificate in public service law from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, and was admitted to The Order of Barristers. During law school, Aaron served as a law clerk in the Office of the City Attorney for the City of Sacramento, and as judicial extern to the Honorable Troy L. Nunley, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was awarded the Chancellor's Service Award. Aaron presently serves on the board of the Public Law Section of the Sacramento County Bar Association.





**Erin Lapeyrolerie, Attorney, Goldfarb & Lipman LLP**

Erin Lapeyrolerie's practice emphasizes affordable housing, land use, cooperative corporations, and real estate transactions. She represents numerous public agencies and nonprofit housing developers on subjects such as affordable housing requirements, real property transfers, land use entitlements, and compliance with federal and state fair housing laws. She further assists public agencies in complying with planning and land use laws, including new state housing laws. Ms. Lapeyrolerie advises housing cooperative corporations on compliance with the Davis-Stirling Act, the Corporations Code, and other laws and regulations impacting cooperatives.



### **David Mehretu, Of Counsel, Meyers Nave**

David Mehretu is an experienced trial attorney at Meyers Nave who represents private and public entities in high impact litigation in federal and state court, administrative proceedings, and appeals with an emphasis on complex, high-profile, and politically significant matters often covered by the media. David is a member of the Trial & Litigation, Commercial Litigation, and Labor & Employment Law Practice Groups. For private entities, David has broad experience in employment litigation and investigations, complex commercial litigation, class actions, intellectual property, unfair competition, real estate, environmental litigation and regulatory challenges. David has worked with private entities in major sectors of the economy, including technology companies, financial institutions, media and telecommunications enterprises, global consumer goods companies, food and beverage companies, real estate developers, and non-profit organizations. Recent examples include representing a Fortune 500 technology company in an employment litigation matter involving senior executives, a national sports association in investigations of association infractions by member teams, a national title insurance company in multi-party environmental litigation, and a large mental health services agency in a complex real estate dispute. For public entities, David handles complex contractual disputes, defense of government officials, as well as employment, land use, First Amendment, and real estate litigation. Recent examples include representing the City of Antioch in a multi-party dispute concerning a local ballot initiative restricting housing development, the City of San Francisco in a high-stakes sexual harassment and race discrimination case involving matters of unsettled procedural law, the City of Los Altos in federal litigation brought by major telecommunication companies challenging a city ordinance governing the siting of cellular facilities, and the City of Modesto in a dispute concerning a lease and purchase agreement with a commercial developer based on complex bond financing transactions, and representing five public entities against two large municipalities in a multi-phased administrative proceeding over a contractual dispute concerning a contested \$2 billion public works capital improvement program.



**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 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. Especially during this past year, the support and camaraderie of Cal Cities staff and city attorney colleagues have been so appreciated. It will be wonderful to see everyone in person again.



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

Suzanne is one of the firm's most sought-after trainers. She pioneered training for employers on recognizing unconscious bias and behaviors that can communicate hostility to others. She now speaks throughout the State on this topic to help the firm's clients recognize bias and learn to engage in more objective decision-making. Her practice also includes developing and presenting management training on other important topics for employers, including due process, reasonable accommodation, privacy, and prevention of discrimination.



**Sunny Soltani, Equity Partner, Aleshire & Wynder**

Sunny Soltani is a senior partner and a founding member of the firm. Sunny serves as the first female City Attorney to the City of Carson and is General Counsel to Carson Successor Agency, Carson Housing Authority, and the Carson Reclamation Authority. Her litigation victories include eight significant published opinions, arguing before the California Supreme Court, appearing in the United States Supreme Court, dismissal of two lawsuits saving a city client \$110 million, a jury trial involving right to take challenges and 21 consolidated cases on the cleanup of a former oil field (saving that client \$18 million), and most recently a victory preserving rent control for low-income residents in California. She serves her clients in an advisory role on all public law matters. Sunny also assists her clients in legislative solutions. Sunny was the lead in negotiating and putting together a deal to bring the NFL back to Los Angeles – involving a complex \$1.8 billion transaction. She was the Assistant City Attorney in Bell when two partners in her firm won the California Lawyer “Attorneys of the Year” award in Municipal Law in 2015 for helping Bell return to responsible government and solvency after the malfeasance of eight city officials. Within three years her team returned Bell to a sound fiscal basis by eliminating \$78 million in claims against the City and recovering over \$10 million in damages. Sunny has been invited and has served as a speaker on several occasions for Lorman Education on “Litigation Skills for the Legal Profession.” She has also been a speaker at the annual California Bar Association Conference on “conflict of interest” issues. She has served as special counsel on land use issues, including subdivisions and regulatory takings cases, to the Cities of Chino, Palm Desert and Palm Springs. Sunny assists her clients with general plans and codes, zoning, public parks, subdivisions and complex real property acquisitions and conveyances. She regularly assists her municipal clients with the Political Reform Act (conflicts of interest), Brown Act (public meeting laws), Public Records Act and elections laws. Sunny has successfully negotiated various Remedial Action Plans with DTSC and the Regional Water Board. She has also successfully represented her clients in various CEQA challenges to development plans and/or general plan amendments. Sunny represented a Water District in Sacramento, where the County of Sacramento was challenging the Water District’s authority to issue bonds and certificates of participating in the amount of \$25 million. Sunny obtained a favorable ruling for the Water District in the very early stages of the proceedings. She obtained a ruling dismissing, with prejudice, thirteen of the County’s fourteen causes of action against the Water District, thereby enabling the District to proceed with the issuance of bonds. In 2013, she took the lead in assisting Carson in restoring important regulatory powers back to cities by the passage of SB 510 signed in to law by governor Brown. SB 510 was enacted after a



decade of court battles up and down the state involving more than 25 municipalities and a veritable host of mobilehome park owners. Many of the lawsuits filed against local governments have cost public agencies hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and have exposed them to millions of dollars of regulatory taking damages lawsuits. This new law ended all those unwarranted legal exposures. Sunny graduated from Loyola Law School, magna cum laude, in 2000 where she was inducted into the Order of the Coif. Sunny received two B.A.'s with honors and great distinction from University of California Los Angeles in 1997. In 1999, Sunny clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt in United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit.



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

Ms. Tiedemann is a partner in the firm with an emphasis of practice in public agencies, affordable housing, real estate transactions, nonprofit organization, community economic development and environmental law. Ms. Tiedemann has negotiated and drafted disposition and development agreements 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. Ms. Tiedemann is a frequent speaker on relocation and fair housing issues. 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.



**Andrea M. Velasquez, Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento**

Senior Deputy City Attorney Andrea Velasquez received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and is licensed to practice with the State Bar of California, U.S. District Court of California, Southern District, Eastern District, and Central District, and U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit. Attorney Velasquez joined the City of Sacramento, City Attorney's Office in December of 2014 following her tenure as a Deputy City Attorney with the City of Escondido, City Attorney's Office. Attorney Velasquez currently defends the City of Sacramento and its employees in civil litigation actions filed in state and federal courts with an emphasis on matters involving 42 U.S.C. §1983 matters, and petitions concerning the California Public Records Act, and California Tort Claims Act. Attorney Velasquez is also a certified instructor with the Sacramento Police Academy focused on POST Learning Domain 15 – Laws of Arrest which includes topics such as Constitutional protections, consensual encounters, detentions, arrests, administration of Miranda warnings, crime scene interviews, and investigative interrogations. Attorney Velasquez can provide law enforcement's unique perspective in serving the unsheltered.





**Lisa Vidra, City Attorney, Culver City**

Lisa has been a member of the City Attorney's Office in Culver City for the past 14 years, handling diverse and interesting issues including cannabis regulation and enforcement, campaign finance and elections, police and fire department matters, emergency operations, code enforcement, litigation management, and advising the City's Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee. Prior to working for Culver City, Lisa was in private practice, primarily litigating municipal issues.



**Brian P. Walter, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore**

Brian Walter, a Partner in the Los Angeles office of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, represents clients in all aspects of employment and labor law, including litigation, counseling on employment and labor relations matters, training and presentations, employee discipline matters, administrative hearings, and investigations. Brian has handled class actions and collective actions in federal and state courts and is Chair of the firm's Litigation Practice Group.



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

Holly Whatley is a Shareholder of the firm and serves as Independent Legal Counsel to the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission and General Counsel to San Diego County LAFCO. She has practiced law since 1992. She heads the firm's Litigation Department, focusing on public law disputes including post-redevelopment and other municipal finance issues, water issues, matters involving Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs), land use, California Public Records Act, CEQA, election, public works and employment law disputes. In 2013, the last year it bestowed the honor, the Daily Journal recognized her as one of the top 20 municipal lawyers in California for her leading role in appellate litigation involving issues important to the municipalities throughout the state. Holly has a particular expertise in litigating complex cases in a broad range of areas, including class actions against public agencies, and elections law disputes. Holly is currently a member of the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee of the League of California Cities. She served on the Board of the City Attorneys Association of Los Angeles County from 2016-2020. Holly served on the Municipal Law Institute Committee of the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities from 2016-2018, the last two years as its chair.