

Spring 2023 City Attorneys Department Conference

May 8, 2024



LEAGUE OF
**CALIFORNIA
CITIES**

Strengthening California Cities
through Advocacy and Education

Ascending the Organizational Chart – How to Get and Keep the Public Agency Job You Want

Attorney Development and Succession Committee
Essential Skills Subcommittee

Ascending the Organizational Chart – How to Get and Keep the Public Agency Job You Want

MODERATOR AND PANELISTS:

**Christina Burrows, Assistant City Attorney
City of Culver City**

**Scott D. Smith, Partner
Best Best & Krieger**

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

**Valerie Phillips, Partner
Bob Murray & Associates**

What is the ADSC?

- Attorney Development & Succession Committee focuses on mentoring, knowledge transfer, and succession planning to benefit the profession
- Seeks to generate interest in the practice of municipal law
- Three subcommittees:
 - Substantive Law: the canonical basics
 - Law School Outreach: interacting with law schools to find the next generation
 - Essential Skills: “Soft skills” needed to be a successful practitioner
- Today’s program is brought to you by the Essential Skills subcommittee

Program Agenda

This panel presentation of the Essential Skills Subcommittee of the Attorney Development and Succession Committee is geared to assist those Department members who wish to advance or laterally transition within the field of municipal law or to retain that dream job.

The program is divided into three components:

- Moving up/moving over
- Do you want to be a city attorney?
- Keeping the job

Polling Question #1

What is the most important trait one should develop to advance in the practice of municipal law?



Polling Question #1 Result

What is the most important trait one should develop to advance in the practice of municipal law?

Result

Polling Question #2

What does the City Council think is the most important trait in a City Attorney?



Polling Question #2 Result

What does the City Council think is the most important trait in a City Attorney?

Result

Polling Question #3

What is the most important trait one should develop to keep the job of City Attorney?



Polling Question #3 Result

What is the most important trait one should develop to keep the job of City Attorney?

Result

Essential Skills Subcommittee & Friends:

Christina Burrows, Assistant City Attorney, Culver City

Barbara H. Choi, Atchison, Barisone & Condotti

Derek P. Cole, Cole Huber, City Attorney, Oakley & Sutter Creek

Gregg W. Kettles, Best Best & Krieger

Jennifer Mizrahi, Cole Huber

Zaynah Moussa-Milward, City Attorney, Vernon

Helen Holmes Peak, City Attorney, San Marcos

Joseph Petta, Shute Mihaly & Weinberger

Deepa Sharma, Burke Williams & Sorenson

Dan Sodergren, City Attorney, Pleasanton

QUESTIONS?

Attorney Development & Succession Committee Essential Skills Subcommittee



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