



Valerie Armento

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, from Dartmouth College in its first coeducational class, Valerie obtained both Juris Doctor and Master of Regional Planning degrees from Cornell University. She spent her entire full-time career in municipal law in legal departments for several cities in the San Francisco Bay Area: Fremont, Hayward, South San Francisco and Sunnyvale, eventually retiring as the City Attorney for the City of Sunnyvale. In 2000-2003, she served as a City Attorney Department Officer. Since retiring from Sunnyvale, Valerie has continued to work as an interim city attorney (Napa and Santa Clara, as well as at least half a dozen times for the City of East Palo Alto) and on special projects for different local government entities. Since 2014, Valerie has been the part-time general counsel for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency, a joint powers authority that focuses on the preservation and restoration of endangered species and their habitat in southern Santa Clara County.



Celia Brewer

A City Attorneys Department Past President and president of the City Attorneys Association of San Diego County twice. Celia is retiring following a 29-year career in public service, the last nine and a half at the City of Carlsbad. During her tenure as Carlsbad City Attorney, Brewer was a key member of the team that negotiated a historic agreement with NRG Energy and SDG&E to remove the aging power plant from Carlsbad's coast. Today, the above ground demolition is nearly complete. The site will eventually be redeveloped, and provisions in the agreement call for significant collaboration with the community on its future use. In Carlsbad, Brewer also led a team that developed a creative solution combining a lawsuit settlement, an interested developer and several environmental groups. This agreement resulted in completion of the long-awaited Poinsettia Lane connection and the repurposing of an abandoned reservoir site into Buena Vista Reservoir Park, which opened late last year – both paid for by a developer. Brewer began her public service career in Solana Beach, first as deputy city attorney and eventually as city attorney, where she helped resolve issues related to moving the railroad tracks below street level, a project that improved safety and helped revitalize this small coastal city. In addition to working directly for public agencies, Brewer has worked in private practice representing municipalities, special districts and nonprofit organizations. In 2007, Brewer joined the San Diego County Water Authority as Assistant General Counsel. In this role she developed model conservation ordinances that today serve as the foundation for water district conservation programs throughout San Diego County. She also worked on resolving disputes related to the construction of the All American and Coachella canal lining projects. Brewer's penchant for successfully negotiating complex land use and environmental agreements led her in 2010 to the San Diego Unified Port District. As Assistant Port Attorney and Interim Port Attorney, she helped resolve community concerns about the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan, ultimately securing Coastal Commission approval for the 30-year plan to transform what has been called San Diego's "front porch." Her time at the port also involved the demolition of an old power plant. In this case, Brewer helped develop a strategy that expedited the above ground demotion of the South Bay Power Plant, something community members wanted for years. Just a month after Brewer left the port for Carlsbad, more than 1,000 people gathered in the early morning hours to watch the plant's implosion. Active in her profession, Brewer has served as the president of the California League of Cities City Attorneys Department, and she has been president of the City Attorneys Association of San Diego County twice. Brewer earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of San Diego School of Law and a bachelor's degree in urban studies and planning from UCSD. In 2018 UCSD featured Brewer in its on-campus banner program highlighting alumni who have made a difference in the world. In addition to her work as a public lawyer, Brewer is the proud mother of three children, the youngest of whom is graduating from college this spring.



Jeb Brown

Jeb is a graduate of Cal State University, San Bernardino with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science. He obtained his Juris Doctor from the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific. He is licensed to practice law before all of the Courts of the State of California as well as the United States District Court, Central District of California, Southern District of California, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. In 1992, Jeb began his career with the law firm of Fidler and Bell, (now Orrock, Popka, Fortino Tucker and Dolen) in Riverside, where he represented numerous public agencies. In 1995 he joined the Riverside City Attorney's Office as a litigation deputy and handled civil litigation, employment advice, supervision and direction of outside counsel and risk management. He worked closely with the Riverside Police Department, providing them with various legal services. In May, 2001, he left the City of Riverside to work at the municipal law firm of Burke, Williams & Sorensen, representing several public entities, including the Cities of Hemet, Santa Clarita and Compton. In August, 2002, he returned to the Riverside City Attorney's Office as Supervising Deputy City Attorney for the Litigation Services Section. Jeb was the Legal Advisor to Public Safety (Police and Fire), provided advice on employment issues and represented the City and its employees in both state and federal court. In 2014, Jeb left the City of Riverside to become Chief Assistant County Counsel for Riverside County where he supervised 30 attorneys. He represented public safety departments including the Probation Department, Department of Social Services, Fire Department and Sheriff's Department. Jeb also handled high value litigation for multiple County departments. In 2022, Jeb joined the firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore where he continues to represent public entities with a focus on public safety matters. Jeb is a Past President and board member of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court and the Inland Empire Federal Bar Association. He was an adjunct professor at University of La Verne College of Law from 2008 until 2018 teaching Civil Rights, First Amendment, Federal Courts and Conflict of Laws. Jeb was Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit and currently serves the Federal Court as an Attorney Settlement Officer. He is a graduate of Leadership Riverside (2005), a year-long leadership class sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Jeb served on the Leadership Riverside Board from 2007 until 2019, chairing the class of 2014. Jeb recently attended Mediating the Litigated Case at the Strauss Institute at Pepperdine Law School, receiving a certificate. Jeb holds the prestigious International Municipal Lawyers Association Fellow designation (Since 1999, 120 lawyers in the United States and Canada have received this designation). Jeb also holds an ADA Employment Certificate from the ADA Coordinator Training Certificate Program. Jeb has been a speaker for the League of California Cities, International Municipal Lawyers Association, California County Counsels Association, Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Federal Bar Association, California State Association of Counties, University of Laverne Law School Civil Rights Symposium, American Jail Association, Riverside County Bar Association and the Los Angeles County Bar Association.



Timothy T. Coates

Tim Coates is a partner at the appellate firm of Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP in Los Angeles, and over the past 38 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.



Michael Colantuono

Michael has specialized in municipal law since 1989. He is certified by the California State Bar as a Specialist in Appellate Law and is also First Vice President of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, an association of a bit more than 100 of the most distinguished appellate lawyers in California. He is an Elected Member of the American Law Institute, the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and otherwise improve the law. He has argued 14 cases in the California Supreme Court and appeared in all six of the California District Courts of Appeal, as well as trial courts around the State. He serves on the California Judicial Council's Appellate Advisory Committee. Michael has expertise in a broad range of areas of concern to local governments in California, including constitutional law, land use regulation, open meetings, elections, municipal litigation, conflicts of interest, public utilities, LAFCO issues, inverse condemnation, cannabis regulation, and a wide range of public finance issues involving taxes, assessments, fees and charges. Michael is perhaps California's leading expert on the law of local government revenues, briefing 18 cases on that subject in the California Supreme Court since 2004. The Daily Journal named him a California Lawyer of the Year in inverse condemnation law for his win in *City of Oroville v. Superior Court* (2019) 7 Cal.5th 1091, government's first win in that court in this subject area in decades. California Chief Justice Ronald M. George presented him with the 2010 Public Lawyer of the Year Award on behalf of the California State Bar. Two successive Speakers of the California Assembly appointed him to the Board of Trustees of the California Bar, the state agency which regulates the practice of law in California. His fellow Trustees elected him Treasurer and President of the Bar and the California Supreme Court appointed him as Chair of its Board of Trustees.



Derek Cole

A founding partner of Cole Huber LLP, Derek specializes in municipal law. He presently serves as the City Attorney for Oakley and Sutter Creek. Previously, he served as Interim City Attorney for Antioch (2015-2016 and 2017-2019), City Attorney for Angels Camp (2012-2017), and County Counsel for Trinity County (2008-2013). In addition to his advisory practice, Derek handles a diverse caseload of litigation matters before state and federal courts.

Although Derek is familiar with all aspects of municipal government, he has particular expertise in land use and environmental law. He has extensive experience handling matters involving CEQA, NEPA, local planning and zoning requirements, development agreements, the Subdivision Map Act, the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, Williamson Act, CERCLA, and air and water quality laws. Derek was selected to the Northern California "Super Lawyers" list from 2015 to 2021; was included as a "Top Lawyer" in Sacramento Magazine from 2015 to 2020; and, was a recipient of the "Best of the Bar" award by the Sacramento Business Journal in 2014, 2016, and 2018.



Eric Danly

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 Attorney's 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 First Vice President of the City Attorneys' Department of Cal Cities. His First Vice President duties include serving as liaison to the FPPC Committee and the Public Records Act Committee. Eric has also previously served as Chair of the Attorney Development and Succession Committee, and 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.



Dave Fleishman

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 formerly served as City Attorney for the cities of Guadalupe and Pacific Grove, and assistant city attorney for the cities of Atascadero and Morro Bay. He was formerly Assistant General Counsel for the Cambria Community Services District and the Los Osos Community Services District. He also previously served as General Counsel for the San Simeon Community Services District. He has represented over 40 cities and special districts in California and Nevada in various labor and employment matters.



Glen Googins

Glen Googins is currently serving his final term (until December 2022) as Chula Vista's first ever elected City Attorney. He was first elected in June 2010 and was re-elected in 2014 and again in 2018. As City Attorney, Mr. Googins is committed to provide the City with high quality, unbiased legal advice, support the efficient delivery of City services, fairly interpret and apply City laws, protect taxpayer resources, improve the flow of information between the City and its citizens, and ensure the City itself complies with the law. Mr. Googins received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College in 1985 and his law degree from Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall) in 1988. His early law practice focused on real estate, business and tax matters. In 1992 Mr. Googins left private practice to pursue public service, and in 1993 he took a job with the City of Chula Vista as a Deputy City Attorney. Over the next 11 years Mr. Googins served as the primary lawyer for the City's redevelopment and affordable housing agencies. He was also lead counsel on many of the City's major real estate, business and franchise transactions. Notable projects during this time period include the development of the Coors (now North Island Credit Union) Amphitheater and long-term Franchise Agreements with the City's cable television, solid waste disposal and energy providers. During this time Mr. Googins rose to the position of Senior Assistant City Attorney, second in command at the City Attorney's office. He left the City in 2004, and during the next six years ran his own legal practice based in downtown Chula Vista. As City Attorney for California's 14th most populous City, Googins' major projects include the City's acquisition and operation of the 155-acre former U.S. Olympic Training Center, the City's transition to Fire Department provided ALS First Responder and Ambulance Transport Services, and a public/private partnership for the imminent development of a 1,600 room Gaylord Resort Hotel and Convention Center on the Chula Vista Bayfront. Mr. Googins is active in the community, especially through his membership and participation with the Chula Vista Rotary Club and the Chula Vista Charitable Foundation. He has also served on the boards of many local non-profits, including Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation, Third Avenue Village Association, and the Friends of Chula Vista Parks and Recreation. Mr. Googins is a member of the California, San Diego County and South Bay Bar Associations. He also served as President of the City Attorneys Association of San Diego County. Though originally from Connecticut, Googins has called the San Diego area his home for 33 years, the last 29 as a resident of Chula Vista. He currently resides in the Chula Vista community of Eastlake with his wife Maria Elena. They are on the cusp of "empty nesting" with the last of their 4 children now off to college, but they enjoy frequent invasions by their three grandchildren for sleepovers.



Pamela Graham

Pamela Graham is Senior Counsel and a member of Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley's litigation practice group. She also leads its public safety defense group. Pamela's practice covers a wide range of public law litigation, including municipal finance and public revenues, labor and employment law, land use and CEQA, cannabis regulation and enforcement, and police liability defense work. Pamela has broad litigation experience in both state and federal courts, handling all phases of litigation from case assessment through appeal. She has served on Cal Cities' Editorial Board for the Municipal Law Handbook for the past three years, and also serves on the Los Angeles Bar Association's Editorial Board for its L.A. Lawyer publication. Throughout her 20-year legal career, Pamela has advocated pro bono for children's rights, working on countless adoption and education rights matters.



Glen Hansen

Mr. Hansen has been with Abbott & Kindermann, Inc. since 2007, providing legal counsel and litigation representation to cities and counties in the areas of takings law, land use, real estate law, California Environmental Quality Act, the Subdivision Map Act, the Mitigation Fee Act, among others. Mr. Hansen is a former Chair of the Real Property Section of the Sacramento County Bar Association, and former member of the Board of Directors for the Sacramento County Bar Association. He is a Dispute Resolution Conference pro-tem judge for the El Dorado County Superior Court for real estate cases. He is a graduate of Biola University in La Mirada, California, and the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in Sacramento, California.



Jonathan Holtzman

Jonathan V. Holtzman is a founding partner of Renne Public Law Group® (RPLG). Prior to entering private practice, Jon served as San Francisco's Chief Deputy City Attorney and as Director of Labor and Policy for Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. 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. He also helped the City of Berkeley craft and negotiate the City's November 2020 ballot measure, Measure II, which passed with over 80 percent of the vote. The Charter Amendment established an independent Director of Police Accountability (DPA) and a Police Accountability Board (PAB) to replace the existing Police Review Commission. Jon is co-author of Rutter Group's California Practice Guide: Public Sector Employment Litigation Guide, the leading treatise on public sector employment issues. He is a graduate of Stanford Law School and clerked for Justice Otto Kaus of the California Supreme Court.



Bill Ihrke

Bill Ihrke is a Partner at the law firm of Rutan & Tucker LLP and currently serves as the City Attorney for the Cities of La Quinta and Cerritos. He served as the Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Yorba Linda and Duarte, and continues to serve as general and special counsel to the successor agencies to former redevelopment agencies of several cities. Bill's practice emphasis includes general state and municipal law advice, land use and entitlement, environmental review and compliance, developing and financing affordable and market rate housing and mixed-use projects, and matters relating to economic development, infrastructure investment, post-redevelopment resources, and public-private partnerships.



Andrew Jared

Andrew has dedicated his practice to representing cities and government agencies since 2006. He presently serves as the City Attorney for the City of South Pasadena. He previously has served as City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for the City of Chico (6 years), and Assistant City Attorney for the City of Pomona (13 years). He leads the firm's CEQA and land use planning practices. His general counsel practice covers the full range of public law issues, including land use, elections, contracts, procurement, public works, and solid waste franchises. He earned his Juris Doctor at Pepperdine University School of Law, and a Masters of Science in Environmental Management from the University of London. He attended UCLA as an undergraduate, earning a BA in Geography.



Rick Jarvis

Rick Jarvis is one of California's leading land use and public law litigators. With three decades of experience, Rick has litigated hundreds of cases in California and federal courts, primarily defending cities and other public agencies against claims brought under CEQA, the Planning and Zoning Law, the Mitigation Fee Act, the Subdivision Map Act, and other land use and municipal laws, as well as regulatory takings and landowner civil rights claims. Rick also advises his clients on land use issues during the planning and public hearing process, reviewing and "bullet-proofing" CEQA documentation and working with city attorneys and planning staff in order to minimize litigation risks in the first place. Rick is active with the League of California Cities, including preparation of several amicus briefs and presenting the Land Use and CEQA Litigation Update at some of its conferences. Rick has extensive experience handling writs (at both the trial and appellate levels) and appeals, and is a Certified Specialist in Appellate Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Given his expertise in both appellate and public agency law, the Judicial Council of California often retains Rick to represent various superior courts in appellate writ matters. Rick received his law degree from U.C. Berkeley School of Law in 1991 and then served for one year as a law clerk to former Federal Magistrate Judge Wayne D. Brazil in the Northern District of California. For nearly every year since 2006, Rick has been selected by Law & Politics for inclusion in its annual list of "Super Lawyers" in Northern California, which seeks to list the top 5% of lawyers in Northern California through a process of independent evaluation and peer review.



Inder Khalsa

Inder counsels local government agencies on all aspects of municipal governance, including the interpretation, application of, and compliance with the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, and other conflict of interest and ethics laws. Inder serves as City Attorney to the City of Davis, the City of Mill Valley, and the Assistant City Attorney to the City of Fairfield. Inder is the General Counsel to the Valley Clean Energy Alliance, San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission and the East Bay Community Energy Authority. Inder has represented a number of other public entities as Special Counsel.



Claire Lai

Claire S. Lai is Of Counsel in Meyers Nave's Municipal and Special District Law Practice Group. She currently serves as Assistant City Attorney for the City of South San Francisco, City of Walnut Creek, and Town of Los Altos Hills, as well as the General Counsel for Graton Community Services District and the Oro Loma Sanitary District. She also serves as Assistant General Counsel for the SSF Conference Center Authority and Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission. Additionally, Claire serves as supporting counsel for the Tri-Valley Transportation Council.



Eli Makus

Eli Makus is an employment attorney whose practice focuses on conducting impartial workplace investigations. Eli is the Managing Partner of Van Dermyden Makus Law Corporation. With over twenty-five attorneys across California, Van Dermyden Makus is devoted to promoting fair workplaces and safe campuses through industry-leading neutral fact-finding services. Drawing upon his extensive employment law background, Eli conducts complex and sensitive investigations involving a variety of workplace complaints for public and private employers throughout California. Eli regularly trains internal and external investigators on how to conduct impartial workplace investigations. Eli is the President for the Association of Workplace Investigators (AWI) Board of Directors and regularly serves as Faculty for AWI's ANSI-accredited Training Institute.



Jenica Maldonado

Ms. Maldonado is a seasoned attorney with ample experience advising cities, counties, and special districts regarding labor and employment law matters, general government, ethics, and election matters. Throughout her career, Ms. Maldonado has advised and defended public agencies in politically sensitive, high-stakes matters. Those experiences have afforded her the legal and political acumen necessary to support public agencies on complex and novel matters as outside counsel. Ms. Maldonado practices in the firm's Labor and Employment and Government Groups. Ms. Maldonado advises the firm's clients on a wide range of labor and employment issues, including evaluating meet-and-confer requirements under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, drafting employment policies and procedures, responding to administrative complaints, drafting separation agreements, negotiating pre-litigation resolutions, and navigating a wide variety of employment-related disputes. She also conducts workplace investigations and frequently advises clients on municipal law matters, including staffing public meetings, drafting resolutions and ordinances, providing legal advice and training regarding California's ethics laws, the Brown Act, and the Public Records Act, and drafting legal opinions. Prior to joining the Renne Public Law Group, Ms. Maldonado served as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office on the Ethics and Elections and Labor Teams and worked in private practice defending private and public employers in labor and employment litigation matters.



Ephraim Margolin

Ephraim ("Eppi") is an associate with Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley's municipal advisory practice group and resident in the firm's Pasadena office. Eppi advises municipal agency clients on public law issues, including the Public Records Act, land use, conflicts of interest, elections, public works and public contracting. While in law school, Eppi worked for several federal and local agencies including the Oakland City Attorney's Office, the Enforcement Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and completed an externship at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. He also served as the Publishing Editor of the Berkeley Journal of Entertainment & Sports Law. Eppi graduated from Berkeley Law with a Juris Doctor, receiving an American Jurisprudence Award and a Prosser Prize for academic excellence, and graduated magna cum laude from University of California, Los Angeles, with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy.



Yuval Miller

Yuval Miller maintains a nationwide practice as an arbitrator and mediator of labor and employment disputes, including public- and private-sector permanent panels throughout the Western United States. An esteemed speaker and moderator on labor issues, he also trains other neutrals, publishes on dispute resolution, and speaks frequently on public-safety reform modalities and their consequences. Among other affiliations, he is on the Faculty of the Labor Arbitration Institute (LAI), a PERC Law Enforcement Arbitrator, and Editor in Chief of the treatise Aitchison et al., *INTEREST ARBITRATION* (3d ed., LRIS Books, forthcoming 2022). Prior to becoming a full-time neutral, Arbitrator Miller earned his JD at Yale Law School, served as a Fulbright Scholar, taught courses at the Budapest University of Public Administration, and received his BA with Highest Distinction from the University of California, Berkeley. After clerking for the Honorable Dolores K. Sloviter of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, he represented management (Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP) and unions (McCracken, Stemerman & Holsberry, LLP) for over a decade.



Jennifer Mizrahi

Jennifer A. Mizrahi 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. During the course of representing public entities for nearly 20 years, 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 legal leaders in the cannabis 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. Recently, in September 2021, Ms. Mizrahi co-authored "Seed to Sale: A Guide to Regulating Cannabis in California Cities" published by League of California Cities. 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 California League of Cities Attorney Succession and Development Committee, the League of Cities 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.



Alex Mog

Alex Mog is Of Counsel with the Municipal and Special District Law Practice Group. He serves as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Union City, Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City of San Leandro, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Pinole, the General Counsel of Bodega Bay Public Utility District, and advises numerous other municipalities and special districts.



Joseph Montes

Joseph Montes is a partner with Burke, Williams & Sorensen and is the City Attorney for Alhambra, San Marino and Santa Clarita.



Rebecca Moon

Rebecca Moon is a graduate of U.C. Davis and U.C. Hastings College of Law. After beginning her career at an insurance defense litigation firm, she joined the Sunnyvale City Attorney's office in 2001 and has, by this time, covered almost every aspect of municipal law. During the past several years, she has focused on planning and land use and is the legal advisor to the Planning Commission.



Neil Okazaki

Neil is an Assistant City Attorney for the City Attorney's Office in Riverside. He currently manages the Public Safety Division, a motivated team of talented professionals who provide legal services for the Riverside Police Department, Riverside Fire Department, and Riverside Code Enforcement. His career has included the following: • Completing 18 jury trials • Completing 12 binding arbitrations and 14 non-binding arbitrations • Handling 2 state administrative hearings • Serving as Police Department Legal Advisor • Serving as Fire Department Legal Advisor • Serving as Human Resources Department Legal Advisor • Serving as Legal Advisor to the ADA Coordinator • Overseeing Quality of Life Initiatives for the City Attorney's Office • Setting up the City's Gun Violence Restraining Order program • Speaking at 3 League of California Cities conferences • Serving as an Attorney Settlement Officer for the United States District Court for the Central District of California



Jennifer Palagi

Jennifer Palagi provides representation and counsel to Liebert Cassidy Whitmore clients in all matters pertaining to employment and labor law with a focus on state and federal wage and hour issues. In addition, she provides her clients with extensive preventative services, such as advice and counsel, state and federal wage and hour audit services, and management and employee trainings. Jennifer has provided trainings on numerous employment law issues and the Fair Labor Standards Act.



Joseph Petta

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.



Scott Porter

Mr. currently serves as Assistant City Attorney to the City of Whittier, and as Deputy City Attorney for Fullerton and has served as City Attorney in two other cities. Mr. Porter has been with the law firm of Jones Mayer since 2015. His primary practice areas are municipal law, land use, housing, and telecommunications. An acknowledged expert in land use and housing laws, Mr. Porter has advised dozens of cities on the implementation of new state housing laws affecting accessory dwelling units, and now urban lot splits under Senate Bill 9. Mr. Porter has provided dozens of trainings on land use, telecommunications and CEQA, including lecturing at California State University Northridge on state ethics laws and the planning process. Mr. Porter has published various articles in the California Real Estate reporter and previously presented well-acclaimed papers to the League of California Cities and other attorney organizations.



Christina "Tina" Ro-Connolly

Christina (Tina) Ro-Connolly is a Partner at Oppenheimer Investigations Group LLP. Her practice is exclusively on neutral work: investigations and trainings. She previously worked as an attorney advocating for employers. But she grew weary of the constant battles and noticed, when reviewing these matters, that there were often missed opportunities early on for mediation and communication. She recognized the value of letting all parties be heard earlier in the process, addressing matters and seeking resolution before issues escalated. And, after overseeing many workplace investigations, she was intrigued by the role of a neutral investigator. That interest, coupled with a stroke of perfect timing, brought her to OIG. Tina has more than a decade of labor and employment law experience. Her investigations include allegations of discrimination and harassment, allegations of abusive conduct, sexual misconduct, retaliation and workplace misconduct. She has handled investigations against high-level executives and elected officials. She has worked in both the public and private sectors. Tina conducts Title IX investigations and is a Title IX hearing officer. She also leads sexual harassment prevention trainings and workplace investigation trainings. Tina spent 11 years at the Contra Costa County Counsel's Office, advising departments on labor and employment matters. This included representing departments in civil service hearings, arbitrations and before the Public Employment Relations Board. Tina is a member of the Executive Committee of the Labor and Employment Section of the California Lawyers Association, a graduate of the AWI's Training Institute for workplace investigators and a frequent trainer and presenter on employment law matters.



Heather Rosing

Heather L. Rosing is a Shareholder with Klinedinst PC, with five offices across the West. Ms. Rosing chairs the firm's Professional Liability and Ethics Department and serves as the CEO and President. Ms. Rosing litigates and tries complex malpractice and fraud cases, advises in the areas of ethics and risk management, and serves as an expert witness. In her decades of defending lawyers and other professionals, Ms. Rosing has numerous notable victories in legal malpractice cases in state court, federal court, and arbitration. She also defends judicial officers before the Commission on Judicial Performance. Well known for her advocacy and contributions to the profession, Ms. Rosing was one of 18 lawyers honored as "Lawyer of the Decade" by the Daily Journal in January 2021. In September 2021, the San Diego legal community came together at the annual Red Boudreau Trial Lawyers Dinner to recognize Ms. Rosing with the Daniel T. Broderick III Award, which honors the highest standards of civility, dedication, and professionalism in the practice of law.

Ms. Rosing is a certified specialist in legal malpractice and a former member of the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers Professional Liability. She served as an appointed advisor to the Rules Revision Commission of the State Bar of California, which recommended wholesale revisions to the Rules of Professional Conduct (adopted in large part by the California Supreme Court in 2018), and as an appointed member of the Mandatory Insurance Working Group of the State Bar. She frequently speaks on a pro bono basis on malpractice, ethics, and risk management issues across California and the country. Ms. Rosing was also appointed to serve as the co-vice chair of the Civility Task Force, which is a joint effort among the California Lawyers Association (CLA), the State Bar, and the California Judges Association (CJA). In addition, Ms. Rosing is a member of the CJA's Judicial Fairness Coalition, which focuses on education about the judicial branch and the importance of judicial independence. She is also an appointed member of the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization, which accredits specialty certification programs for lawyers in particular fields of law offered by private organizations. In 2020, when the COVID 19 pandemic disrupted the judicial system, Ms. Rosing was part of the Steering Committee of RESOLVE Law San Diego, which offered free mediations and discovery referee services to civil litigants across the county.

In 2018 and 2019, Ms. Rosing served as the inaugural President of the CLA, the largest statewide voluntary Bar Association in the country. During her tenure, she launched the organization, focusing on its 16 Sections, the California Young Lawyers Association, governmental affairs, bar relations, and initiatives in the areas of diversity, access to justice, and civics education. Under her leadership, CLA took over the Annual Meeting, which has brought together judges, lawyers, and organizations from across the State for several days of meetings for over 80 years. Ms. Rosing is now the President of the philanthropic sister organization of CLA, the California Lawyers Foundation (CLF). CLF focuses on supporting organizations, causes, and projects related to the core CLA initiatives.

Previously, she served for four years on the State Bar of California's Board of Trustees as Vice-President, Treasurer, and Chairperson of the Regulations, Admissions, and Discipline Oversight

Committee. A strong advocate for judicial and legal diversity, Ms. Rosing served as President of ChangeLawyers (formerly the California Bar Foundation), which awards pipeline grants, scholarships, and fellowships across the State. Ms. Rosing has also served in leadership roles of many other organizations, including as President of the San Diego County Bar Association in 2008. During her presidency, she launched a Diversity Fellowship Program, spearheaded a civility initiative, and founded a pro bono program to assist active duty service members.

The recipient of numerous accolades, Ms. Rosing was recognized by the Daily Journal as Top Lawyer of the Decade in 2021, as well as Top 100 Lawyers in California (2018-2021). Best Lawyers in America® has recognized Ms. Rosing for a number of years, and honored her in both 2014 and 2022 as Lawyer of the Year in Legal Malpractice Law Defense. She also has been frequently honored by San Diego Super Lawyers, including Top 25 Women San Diego Super Lawyers, Top 50 San Diego Super Lawyers, and Number 1 Attorney in San Diego County. Ms. Rosing was named Woman of Influence in Law 2021 by the San Diego Business Journal, which previously honored her as CFO of the Year (2011, 2014, 2016). She is the recipient of the San Diego Law Library Foundation's Excellence in Public Service Award (2019), Fastcase 50 (2019), Earl B. Gilliam Bar Foundation's Corporate Commitment to Diversity Award (2016), Lawyer of the Year by the San Diego Defense Lawyers (2015), and the Exemplary Service Award by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (2014). She holds the Highest AV®-Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating by Martindale-Hubbell.



Geoffrey S. Sheldon

As the Chair of the Liebert Cassidy Whitmore's Public Safety Practice Group, Geoff oversees the firm's extensive public safety practice. In addition to help establishing best practices for service to the firm's public safety clients, Geoff routinely assists public agency clients and law enforcement and fire service executive associations with matters such as personnel management, investigation and discipline, unfair labor practices, grievances, medical and other types of leaves of absence, fitness for duty and disability accommodation, and public safety retirement issues.



Daniel Sodergren

Dan 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.



Teresa L. Stricker

Teresa Stricker recently began as City Attorney of San Pablo, succeeding Lynn Tracy Nerland following her retirement. Previously, Ms. Stricker served as City Attorney for the City of Richmond, California. Before joining Richmond, Ms. Stricker was a partner at Renne Public Law Group where she headed the firm's general local government practice. Ms. Stricker previously served as Town Attorney for the Town of Corte Madera, Interim City Attorney for the City of Santa Rosa, Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco and City of Brisbane, and General Counsel and Special Counsel for a variety of local agencies statewide. Ms. Stricker has been a member of the Cal Cities' City Attorney's Department FPPC Committee since 2019, and served as its chair from March 2020 through March 2022.



Vida Thomas

Vida Thomas is a Partner and Co-Owner of Oppenheimer Investigations Group. An AV-rated attorney, Vida has practiced employment law for over 25 years, and spent much of that time advising employers on all aspects of employment law and human resources management. Over the years she also developed a substantial workplace investigations practice. Vida has conducted hundreds of workplace investigations, and teaches human resources professionals how to conduct effective workplace investigations. She also conducts inherent bias and diversity and inclusion training for private and public sector employers. Clients have complimented Vida's knack for making the law accessible, explaining complex legal concepts in a way that is both thorough and easy to understand. She believes training is most effective when it provides concrete, useful tips for navigating today's complicated and highly regulated workplace. She also serves as an expert witness in state and federal employment lawsuits and mediates litigation and non-litigation matters. Vida assists parties and attorneys in resolving employment claims, and routinely conducts sexual harassment prevention training (including AB1825 compliance training) for state agencies and private companies. Before joining Oppenheimer Investigations Group, Vida was an Of Counsel attorney with Stoel Rives LLP and Weintraub Tobin Chediak Coleman Grodin Law Corporation. She began her legal career as an employment litigator at Kronick Moskowitz and then co-founded Carlsen Thomas, LLP, a boutique employment law firm that offered workplace investigations and employee training throughout California for 13 years.