



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES

CITY CLERKS NEW LAW AND ELECTIONS SEMINAR

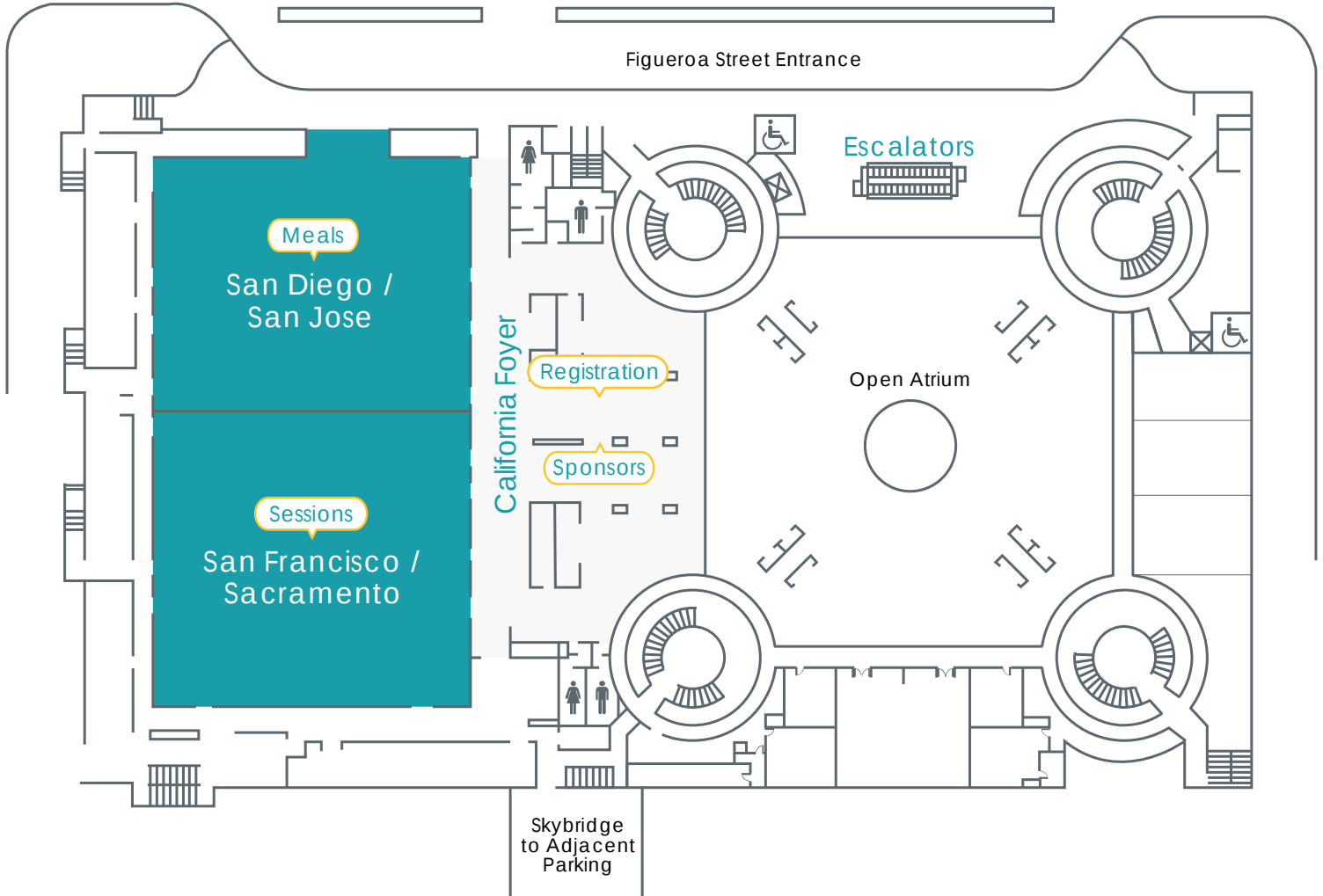
The Westin Bonaventure
November 12 - 14, 2025

Navigating change, powering progress.

FLOOR PLAN

Please note: the second floor cannot be accessed via the hotel elevators, and can only be accessed by taking a short escalator ride up from the lobby. An ADA elevator is available if needed.

Level Two



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

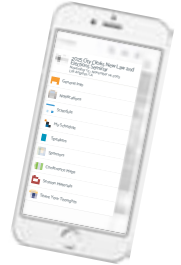


NETWORK
CCNLES

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Clerks2025

DOWNLOAD THE APP!

The Cal Cities mobile app provides a personalized conference experience with access to the full program, key updates, a customized schedule, and more. Download through your device's app store by searching "League of California Cities" or "Cal Cities." Once downloaded, select "Find Guides" and search for 2025 City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar. Don't forget to allow push notifications to receive up-to-date conference information.



PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS

Looking for presentation slides and session materials? All materials submitted are posted as they are received and can be found online at www.calcities.org/CCNLESmaterials or within the app.

VISIT OUR SPONSORS!

Sponsors will be set up in the California Foyer Wednesday and Thursday. Make sure to schedule time to say hello and learn what all of our sponsors have to offer.



WEAR YOUR BADGE!

Please remember to wear your attendee badge at all times as this is your admission ticket to all sessions, meals, and receptions. If you lose or damage yours, please visit the registration desk for a new one.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Scan the QR code to send us your feedback on the seminar by December 1.



SAVE THE DATES:

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO
SEPTEMBER 23-25 | ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER

**2026 CITY CLERKS NEW LAW AND
ELECTIONS SEMINAR**
NOVEMBER 18-20 | REDONDO BEACH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Registration Open
California Foyer

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | Premium Sponsor Tables Open
California Foyer

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Opening General Session: Balance is Bullsh*t: Thriving in the Tension of Municipal Life and Leadership
San Francisco/Sacramento



Everyone talks about finding “work-life balance” in public service, but what if that’s the wrong goal? What if chasing balance is actually what’s burning you out? For city clerks, balance isn’t just hard — it’s impossible. You’re the keeper of the record, the point of contact for elected officials and citizens, the organizer behind every meeting, every election, and every ordinance. You’re at the crossroads of policy and people, process and pressure, and it’s not getting easier. In this bold and energizing keynote, Seth Winterhalter pulls back the curtain on the myth of balance and offers something better: a new way of thinking that frees clerks to lead with clarity, strength, and purpose, even in the chaos. If you’ve ever felt unseen, stretched thin, or asked to do everything without being recognized for anything, this keynote is for you.

Opening Remarks: Marc A. Donohue, President, City Clerks Department and Government Services
Director/City Clerk, Eastvale

Keynote Speaker: Seth Winterhalter, President, HaltingWinter Municipal Solutions

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Networking Luncheon
San Diego/San Jose

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. | Election Security in the Face of Threats: How to Protect the People and Facilities Who Run America’s Elections
San Francisco/Sacramento

The 2024 election tested the nation’s voting system with unprecedented threats, including coordinated bomb scares at polling and ballot-counting sites in at least 25 counties. Years of preparation and close coordination between election officials and law enforcement proved critical to keeping the process safe and accessible. This session will explore how these partnerships protected election integrity and the key strategies law enforcement is using to safeguard future elections. Panelists will examine strategies to safeguard the electoral process.

Moderator: LaTasha Hill, Advocacy Campaign Strategist, Brennan Center for Justice

Speakers: Tina Barton, Co-Chair, Committee for Safe and Secure Elections

Aaron Hayman, Founder/CEO, SocialScout

Lauren Knapp, Counter Threat Manager, Charleston County Public Safety

3:00 - 3:30 p.m. | Exclusive Premium Sponsor Break
California Foyer

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. | Read All About It (Or Not): Legal Publication Requirements in a Digital Age
San Francisco/Sacramento

City clerks and attorneys continue to navigate the increasingly outdated but legally binding world of legal publication requirements, even as the public shifts its attention from broadsheets to browser tabs. In an era when your residents are more likely to read city updates on Instagram than in a classified ad behind garage sale listings, how do you uphold legal mandates and keep the public meaningfully informed? This session covers California’s legal publication requirements, including the persistent use of “newspapers of general circulation” and the procedural minefields that follow when those newspapers go out of business or lose eligibility. You’ll leave knowing what’s legally required, what’s merely tradition, and how innovation can modernize transparency without risking compliance.

Moderator and Speaker: Stephanie Smith, Director of Election Services, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Speaker: Matthew Richardson, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Networking Reception
California Foyer

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open California Foyer
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Premium Sponsor Tables Open California Foyer
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast San Diego/San Jose
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	New Law and Election Update <i>Featuring remarks from Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., California Secretary of State</i> San Francisco/Sacramento It's that time of year again! In this session, we will share highlights from the previous legislative session and discuss new bills related to open meetings, records, and more. We will also work to identify legislative solutions to future challenges in the profession, especially as it relates to elections. Prior to the session, join us for a fireside chat with Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., California Secretary of State. Moderator: Randi Johl, Department Director, City Clerks Department and Legislative Affairs Director/City Clerk, Temecula Speakers: Artin Berjikly, Assistant City Attorney, Anaheim Ruban Duran, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP Johnnie Piña, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities Javan Rad, City Attorney, Ventura Christine Wood, Partner/Director of PRA Services & E-Discovery Counsel, Best Best & Krieger LLP
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Networking Luncheon San Diego/San Jose
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Not at City Hall: Prohibited Campaign Activity and Employee Campaign Contributions San Francisco/Sacramento This session provides a primer on the prohibition of public resources for campaign activity and highlights the recent decision in <i>Progressive Democrats for Social Justice v. Bonta</i> (2023), in which the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal overturned the long-established prohibition on soliciting political contributions from fellow employees. Moderator: Candice Alvarez, First Vice President, City Clerks Department and City Clerk, Lake Elsinore Speakers: Laura Aguilar, City Clerk, Sierra Madre Patricia Bravo-Valdez, Deputy Director of City Clerk Services, Rancho Cucamonga Aleks Giragosian, Senior Counsel, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

MMC/CMC Credit

3.4 MMC Advanced Education/Professional and Social Contribution Points and CMC Education/Experience points will be available with completed learning assessment. All sessions are eligible for both MMC and CMC points unless otherwise noted.

At the beginning of each session, please scan your badge at one of the available kiosks.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Exclusive Premium Sponsor Break California Foyer
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Navigating the Catch-All Exemption: Strategies for Balancing Transparency with the Public's Interest San Francisco/Sacramento Ahoy! Set sail on a comprehensive voyage into the "catch-all" exemption under the California Public Records Act. Attendees will navigate through the legal waters that form the foundation and purpose of this exemption, tackling the tough challenge of balancing the fundamental right of access to public records against the right to privacy and other public interests. Key topics will include the legal standards that serve as a compass, significant court decisions that buoy these standards, and practical examples that illuminate the journey ahead. This session will also explore complex situations relating to this exemption, such as overly burdensome requests and the ever-exotic deliberative process privilege. Moderator: Ashton R. Arocho, Past President, City Clerks Department and City Clerk, Westminster Facilitator: Christine Wood, Partner/Director of PRA Services & E-Discovery Counsel, Best Best & Krieger LLP

2025 - 2026 City Clerks Department Officers

*President, Marc A. Donohue
Government Services Director/City Clerk, Eastvale*

*First Vice President, Candice Alvarez
City Clerk, Lake Elsinore*

*Second Vice President, Thai Nam Pham
City Clerk, Union City*

*Department Director, Randi Johl
Legislative Affairs Director/City Clerk, Temecula*

*Past President, Ashton R. Arocho
City Clerk, Westminster*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Registration Open
California Foyer

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast
San Diego/San Jose

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Creating an Administrative Record: The Good, Bad, and Ugly
San Francisco/Sacramento

This session will explain what an administrative record is, its legal requirements, and the practical considerations of creating one. Discover how to create a defensible administrative record from the perspective of a local agency when it approves or denies a project. The session will include a focus on the important roles of the Public Records Act and Brown Act.

Moderator: Thai Nam Pham, Second Vice President, City Clerks Department and City Clerk, Union City
Speaker: Jolie Houston, City Attorney, Los Altos

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Government Leadership Lessons From H-O-L-L-Y-W-O-O-D!
San Francisco/Sacramento



Award-winning author and leadership expert Andy Masters creatively uses the magical imagery of Hollywood to help city clerks develop and empower their organizations in a positive work culture — while defeating the current succession planning and staffing crisis. Attendees will analyze leadership challenges from popular movies and hear the latest research from Harvard Business Review, Deloitte, and Glassdoor, inspiring them to create real organizational change. This interactive session will provide attendees with immediate “take-home” action items to embrace our new workforce revolution in today’s government work environment.

Closing Remarks: Candice Alvarez, First Vice President, City Clerks Department and City Clerk, Lake Elsinore

Keynote Speaker: Andy Masters, MA, CSP, Author/Speaker/Trainer



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