



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES

CITY ATTORNEYS SPRING CONFERENCE

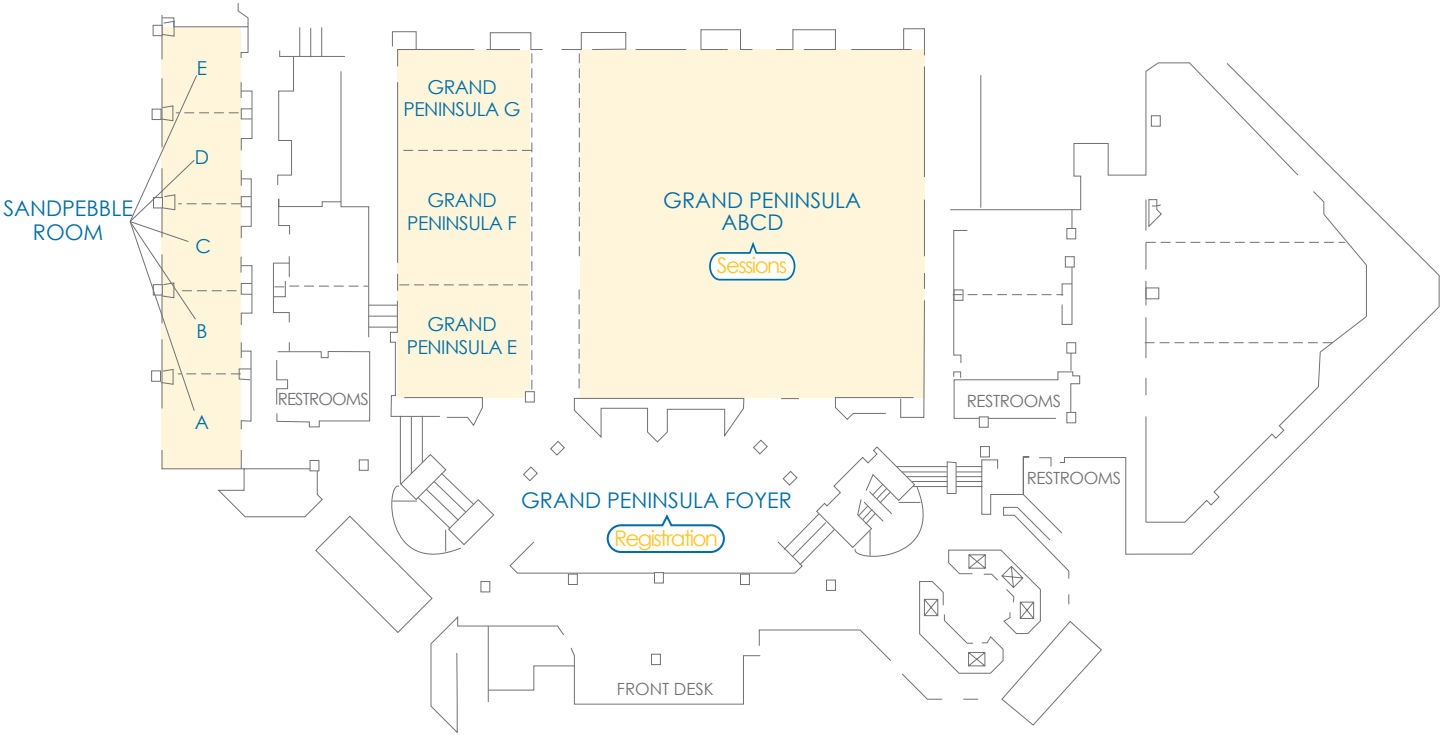
HYATT REGENCY SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT

May 7-9, 2025

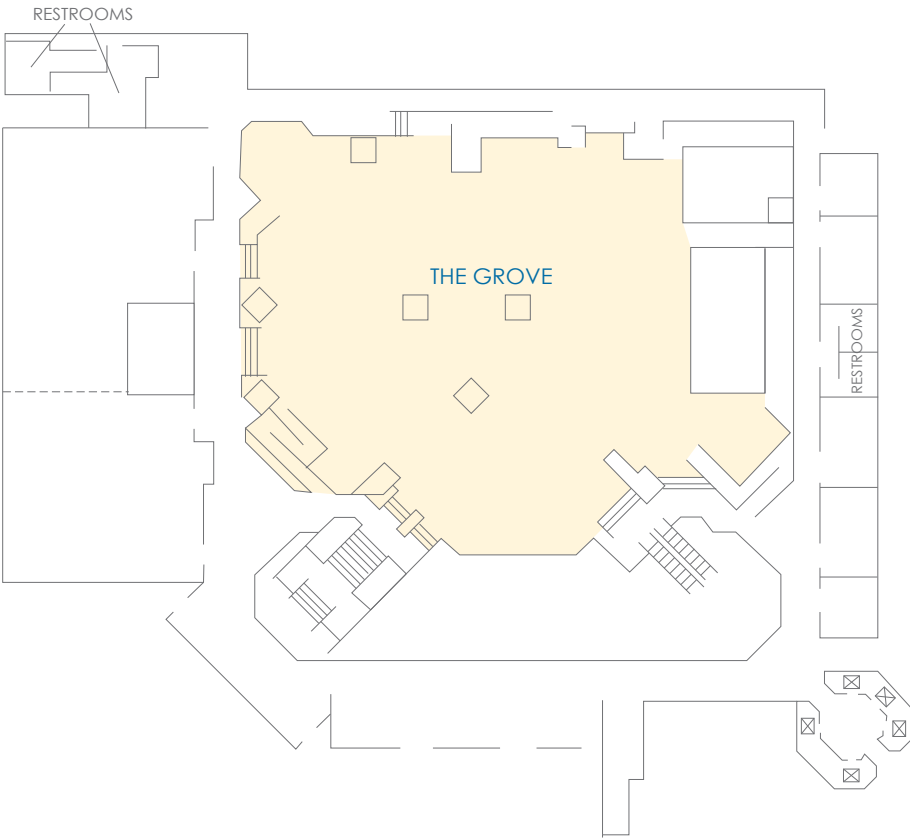


FLOOR PLAN

Lobby Level



Atrium Level



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

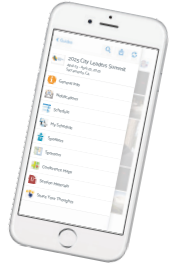


NETWORK
Cal Cities

PASSWORD
Attorneys25

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 Attorneys Spring Conference. 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/SpringConference or within the app under the "session materials" tab.

MCLE CREDIT

The League of California Cities¹ is a Multiple Activity Provider for California State Bar approved minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) and certifies this activity meets the standards for MCLE credit by the State Bar of California in the total amount of 10 participatory hours, including 1 hour of Legal Ethics subfield credit. ¹Provider No. 1985

To earn MCLE, please scan your badge at one of the available kiosks in each of these timeframes:

- ◆ Once during Wednesday afternoon sessions.
- ◆ Twice on Thursday: once during morning sessions and once after 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ Once during Friday morning sessions.

You will also be asked to scan in for the Department Business Meeting on Thursday afternoon. This is for tracking purposes for voting on bylaws amendments and will be in addition to your MCLE scans.

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 share your feedback on the conference by May 30.



SAVE THE DATES:

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO
OCTOBER 8-10 | LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

2026 CITY ATTORNEYS SPRING CONFERENCE
MAY 13-15 | HILTON UNIVERSAL CITY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration Open Grand Peninsula Foyer Come by the registration table early to avoid the crowd and get your badge! Your badge will be used to scan-in to receive MCLE credit.
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	New Lawyers Meet and Greet <i>(Under 10 years of municipal law practice)</i> Grand Peninsula E Meet colleagues, learn about the City Attorneys Department, share ideas about municipal law, and engage with the Cal Cities Attorney Development and Succession Committee.
11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own
1:00 - 3:15 p.m.	General Session <i>(Course ID S251 - 3.5 Hours of Participatory MCLE)</i> Grand Peninsula ABCD Moderator: Susana Alcala Wood, President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, Sacramento Opening Remarks: Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO, League of California Cities Michael Guina, City Attorney, Burlingame Land Use and CEQA Litigation Update This session will provide an update on litigation related to land use and the California Environmental Quality Act. Speakers: Rick Jarvis, Partner, Jarvis Fay, LLP Kevin Siegel, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP Changes in Federal Policy and Their Impacts on Local Governments Join us for a chat with California's Attorney General to discuss the latest news in the constantly evolving conversation of federal policy and how it may impact our cities. Strategies for Successfully Resolving CEQA and Land Use Disputes Building off the latest land use and CEQA litigation updates, this session features practical strategies for navigating CEQA and land use approvals. From project planning to litigation, settlement, and appeals, attendees will gain valuable insights and real-world tips to achieve successful outcomes. Speakers: Johanna Canlas, City Attorney, Coronado and Solana Beach, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP Nicole Gordon, Principal, Meyers Nave Gideon Kracov, Mediator, ADR Services, Inc. Tricks and Traps in Reviewing Housing Projects: How to Protect Your City This session will examine the challenges cities face in navigating California's ever-evolving housing laws, including common pitfalls in project approvals and emerging legal arguments from developers. Experts will discuss defensive strategies to help cities avoid litigation and compliance mistakes, with a focus on new housing laws taking effect in 2025. Speakers: Dolores B. Dalton, Partner, Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP Elena Gerli, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Break

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

General Session *(Course ID S251, Continued)*

Grand Peninsula ABCD

Moderator: Michael Lawson, Second Vice President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, Hayward

Sidewalk Vending Regulation and Enforcement

This session will examine the legal challenges and enforcement strategies surrounding unlawful sidewalk vending under SB 946. Through case studies and group discussions, attendees will gain a clearer understanding of regulatory options, jurisdictional differences, and practical approaches to addressing unlawful vending while remaining compliant with the law.

Speaker: Curtis Wright, Managing Partner, Serviam by Wright, LLP

Politically Astute, but Not Political . . . Politics and the Role of the City Attorney

This session will explore the challenges city attorneys face as neutral advisors in politically charged environments, focusing on local elections and intergovernmental conflicts. Speakers will discuss best practices for handling election-related disputes, managing interagency tensions, maintaining objectivity under political pressure, and navigating legal issues such as campaign laws, public communications, and state mandates.

Facilitator: Joseph Petta, Assistant City Attorney, Marina, Partner, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP

Speakers: Thomas B. Brown, Of Counsel, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

Mara Elliott, City Attorney, Retired

Lynn Tracy Nerland, City Attorney, Retired

Greg Stepanicich, City Attorney, Retired

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Networking Reception

The Grove

Network with colleagues while enjoying delicious appetizers and tasty no-host beverages during the evening networking reception.

2024 – 2025 Department Officers

President, Susana Alcala Wood, City Attorney, Sacramento

First Vice President, Prasanna W. Rasiah, City Attorney, San Mateo

Second Vice President, Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney, Maywood and South Pasadena, Richards, Watson & Gershon

Second Vice President, Michael Lawson, City Attorney, Hayward

Department Director, J. Christine Dietrick, City Attorney, San Luis Obispo

THURSDAY, MAY 8

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open Grand Peninsula Foyer
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Networking Breakfast The Grove Enjoy a networking breakfast in The Grove or grab breakfast from the Grand Peninsula Foyer and join one of the below group discussions.
8:15 - 9:15 a.m.	Concurrent Group Breakfast Discussions Grand Peninsula Foyer Grab breakfast off the buffet and join one of these topical group discussions: Coastal Cities Sandpebble C <i>Moderators: Anthony Condotti, City Attorney, Santa Cruz, Managing Partner, Atchison, Barisone & Condotti</i> <i>Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, City Attorney, Pacifica, Rohnert Park, Piedmont, Calistoga, Moraga, Partner, Burke Williams & Sorensen, LLP</i> Disaster Recovery Grand Peninsula G <i>Moderator: Dawn McIntosh, City Attorney, Long Beach</i> Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Town Hall Grand Peninsula E <i>Moderator: Michael Lawson, Second Vice President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, Hayward</i> Homelessness and the Unsheltered Grand Peninsula F <i>Moderator: Andrew Jared, City Attorney, Yreka, Montague and Etna, Senior Counsel, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley</i> Law Office Administration Sandpebble A <i>Moderator: Andrew Janz, City Attorney, Fresno</i> Solo and Small City Attorneys Offices Sandpebble B <i>Moderator: Scott Rennie, City Attorney, Belmont</i>
9:15 - 9:30 a.m.	Break

THURSDAY, MAY 8

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

General Session *(Course ID S252 - 2.75 Hours of Participatory MCLE)*

Grand Peninsula ABCD

Moderator: J. Christine Dietrick, Department Director, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, San Luis Obispo

Water Rates, Prop. 218 and 26 Litigation, and Other Developments in the Law of Municipal Revenues

This session will cover key legal developments affecting utility ratemaking, including an update on *Coziahr v. Otay Water District* and other emerging issues such as Prop. 6, infrastructure bond approvals, and utility-related fees and taxes.

Speakers: Taylor Anderson, Senior Counsel, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

Michael Colantuono, Shareholder, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

Claire Collins, Partner, Hanson Bridgett

Matthew Slentz, Senior Counsel, Colantuono, Highsmith and Whatley, PC

The Next Streaming Wars: Local Taxation of Online Streaming Services

This session will explore the legal and procedural challenges cities face in enforcing video users' taxes on online streaming services. Using Santa Barbara's enforcement efforts as a case study, the presentation will examine key legal defenses raised by streaming companies, the impact of *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, and enforcement strategies available to cities.

Speaker: Gabriel McWhirter, Partner, Jarvis Fay, LLP

11:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

General Session *(Course ID S252 - Continued)*

Grand Peninsula ABCD

Moderator: Michael Lawson, Second Vice President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, Hayward

City Attorney's Guide to Navigating Cybersecurity and Lessons Learned

This session will provide city attorneys with essential guidance on cybersecurity threats, legal considerations, and risk management strategies. Panelists will discuss best practices for protecting sensitive data, collaborating with IT teams, and ensuring regulatory compliance. Learn best practices and lessons learned from real-world cyber-attack scenarios.

Speakers: Jason Alcalá, City Attorney, Livermore

Mitesh Bhakta, Senior Assistant City Attorney, Mountain View

Derek Cole, City Attorney, Oakley and Sutter Creek, Partner, Cole Huber, LLP

Donald Hester, Cybersecurity Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

Municipal Tort and Civil Rights Litigation Update

This session will provide an update on municipal tort and civil rights litigation, as it pertains to California cities.

Speakers: Sean Richmond, Senior Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento

Andrea Velasquez, Supervising Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Networking Luncheon

The Grove

THURSDAY, MAY 8

1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

General Session

Grand Peninsula ABCD

Moderator: *Susana Alcala Wood, President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, Sacramento*

Department Business Meeting and Colleague Recognition

This meeting is open to all members of the City Attorneys Department. Join us for updates from the Department President and Director. Learn about recent developments and leadership opportunities.

Members will be asked to vote on amendments to the City Attorneys Department Bylaws proposed by the Enhancing Participation and Inclusion Committee (EPIC) and supported by the Department Officers.

Please remember to **scan your badge** to record your attendance at the Business Meeting. Each member city in attendance can cast one vote.

Late Breaking: San Francisco's Legal Challenge to Federal Policy

Join us for a late breaking discussion on the latest developments in high-profile litigation between San Francisco, Santa Clara County, and the federal government. This session will highlight key legal arguments and potential implications for municipal authority.

3:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

General Session *(Course ID S253 - 1.5 Hours of Participatory MCLE)*

Grand Peninsula ABCD

Moderator: *Prasanna W. Rasiah, First Vice President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, San Mateo*

AI and Policing

This session will explore the growing role of AI in law enforcement, highlighting both its potential benefits and legal challenges. Speakers will discuss how City Attorneys can help police departments integrate AI responsibly while minimizing liability.

Speakers: *James Brown, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore*

Neil Okazaki, Senior Deputy City Attorney/Constitutional Policing Advisor, Corona

Labor and Employment Litigation Update

This session will provide an update on labor and employment litigation, as it pertains to California cities.

Speaker: *Elizabeth Tom Arce, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore*

5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Department Committees Open House Mixer

Grand Peninsula Foyer

The City Attorneys Department Executive Committee Officers invite all interested attendees to join them for an open house mixer to engage with members of the City Attorneys Department committees. This is your chance to meet colleagues, ask questions about exciting opportunities within the department and get more involved while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and no host beverages.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Registration Open
Grand Peninsula ABCD

8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Networking Breakfast
The Grove

9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

General Session (*Course ID S254 - 2.25 Hours of Participatory MCLE, Includes 1 Hour of Legal Ethics Subfield Credit*)
Grand Peninsula ABCD

Moderator: Roxanne Diaz, Second Vice President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, Maywood and South Pasadena, Shareholder, Richards Watson & Gershon

General Municipal Litigation Update

This session will provide an update on litigation in federal and state courts, as it pertains to California cities.

Speakers: Mark J. Austin, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP
Meghan Wharton, Senior Counsel, Colantuono Highsmith & Whatley

CARE Court: Can California Cities Make it Work?

This session will provide a practical overview of CARE Court, California's new state-mandated program for treating individuals with serious mental health and substance use disorders. Panelists will share insights from the program's rollout, including best practices, political and jurisdictional challenges, and strategies for cities to navigate the process effectively. With CARE Court expanding statewide, this discussion will offer timely lessons and recommendations for improving access to critical services.

Speakers: Ann Marie Council, Senior Deputy City Attorney, San Diego
Arvinder Kaur, Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento
Jordan Lowery, Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento
Aaron Meyer, Behavioral Health Officer, San Diego

10:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Break

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

General Session (*Course ID S254, Continued*)
Grand Peninsula ABCD

Moderator: Prasanna W. Rasiah, First Vice President, City Attorneys Department and City Attorney, San Mateo

The Latest in Legal Ethics for Municipal Lawyers

This session will cover the latest legal ethics developments in public law, including AI use in government offices, organizational client representation, balancing public duties with advocacy, and confidentiality obligations. A panel of experts will provide practical guidance on navigating these complex and recurring ethical challenges.

Speakers: Rebecca Moon, City Attorney, Sunnyvale
James Ross, Of Counsel, Renne Public Law Group
Andrew Shen, Partner, Renne Public Law Group



LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

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