Spring 2023 City Attorneys Department Conference

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

Attorney Development and Succession Committee
Essential Skills Subcommittee

May 8, 2024
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?
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?

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