City Attorneys Spring Conference
May 8-10, 2024
Rancho Mirage, CA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. |
Registration Open
Celebirty Foyer

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. |
General Session
Celebrity D-H

Moderator: Joseph Montes, President, City Attorneys Department, City Attorney, Alhambra, San Marino, and Santa Clarita, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

Welcoming Remarks
Speaker: Steven B. Quintanilla, City Attorney/City Prosecutor, Rancho Mirage, President/Owner, Law Offices of Quintanilla & Associates

Land Use and CEQA Litigation Update
Speakers: Christine Leigh Crowl, Senior Partner, Jarvis Fay, LLP
John M. Luebberke, Of Counsel, Herum/ Crabtree/Suntag

Introduction to the New Surplus Land Act
Speakers: Jena S. Acos, City Attorney, Carpinteria, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Sydne Rennie, Associate Attorney, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

(Not) Burning Down the House
Speakers: Rubin E. Cruse, Jr., Of Counsel, Renne Public Law Group
Jonathan Holtzman, Founding Partner, Renne Public Law Group
Kathryn Oehlschlager, Partner, Downey Brand

3:15 - 4:45 p.m. |
General Session
Celebrity D-H

Moderator: Susana Alcala Wood, First Vice President, City Attorneys Department, City Attorney, Sacramento

Mass Casualty Events: What Nobody Taught You and You Didn’t Want to Learn
Speakers: Vanessa Bechtel, President and CEO, Ventura County Community Foundation
Karl H. Berger, City Attorney, Bellflower and Monterey Park, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP
Catherine Engberg, City Attorney, Half Moon Bay, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP

Ascending the Organizational Chart – How to Get and Keep the Public Agency Job You Want
Speakers: Susana Alcala Wood, First Vice President, City Attorneys Department, City Attorney, Sacramento
Christina Burrows, Assistant City Attorney, Culver City
Valerie Gaeta Phillips, President and Owner, Bob Murray & Associates
Scott C. Smith, City Attorney, Aliso Viejo and Laguna Nigel, Parter, Best Best & Krieger LLP

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. |
New Lawyers Meet and Greet (Under 10 years of municipal law practice)
Celebrity D-H

Meet colleagues, learn about the City Attorneys Department, share ideas about municipal law, and engage with the Cal Cities Attorney Development and Succession Committee.

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. |
Networking Reception
Masters Plaza

Make new friends and see old ones while enjoying delicious appetizers and tasty beverages during the evening networking reception. Drinks available for purchase.

MCLE Credit
The League of California Cities 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 11.25 hours, including 1 hour of Technology in the Practice of Law subfield credit.

To earn MCLE, please scan your badge at one of the available kiosks during these timeframes:
- Once during Wednesday afternoon sessions.
- Twice on Thursday: once during morning sessions and once during afternoon sessions.
- Once on Friday during morning sessions.
THURSDAY, MAY 9

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  Registration Open
Celebrity Foyer

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.  Networking Breakfast
Ambassador 4

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.  Concurrent Group Discussions
Grab breakfast off the buffet and join one of these topical group discussions:

Coastal Cities
Ambassador 5
Moderator: Cindie K. McMahon, City Attorney, Carlsbad

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Town Hall
Ambassador 6-7
Moderator: Michael Lawson, City Attorney, Hayward

Homelessness and the Unsheltered
Ambassador 2-3
Moderator: Andrew Jared, Senior Counsel, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

Law Office Administration
Celebrity A
Moderator: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney, Riverside

Solo and Small City Attorney Offices
Ambassador 1
Moderator: Heather Leyn Stroud, City Attorney, South Lake Tahoe

9:45 - 11:15 a.m.  General Session
Celebrity D-H
Moderator: J. Christine Dietrick, Director, City Attorneys Department, City Attorney, San Luis Obispo
The CBRT and Other Hot Topics in Municipal Revenues
Speakers: Michael G. Colantuono, Managing Shareholder, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC
Margaret Prinzing, Partner, Olson Remcho

Ethics Complaints Against a Council Member
Speaker: Steven Miller, Partner, Hanson Bridgett

Segmentation, Participation and Lots of Complications
Speaker: Kevin G. Ennis, City Attorney, Moorpark, Shareholder, Richards Watson & Gershon

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  General Session
Celebrity D-H
Moderator: Roxanne M. Diaz, Second Vice President, City Attorneys Department, Shareholder, Richards, Watson & Gershon
Municipal Tort and Civil Rights Litigation Update
Speakers: Neil Okazaki, Senior Deputy City Attorney and Constitutional Policing Advisor, Corona
Alana Rotter, Appellate Lawyer, Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland LLP

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  Networking Luncheon
Ambassador 4-7
THURSDAY, MAY 9

1:45 - 3:15 p.m.  General Session
Celebrity D-H

**Moderator:** Joseph Montes, President, City Attorneys Department, City Attorney, Alhambra, San Marino, and Santa Clarita, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP

- Department Business Meeting and Colleague Recognition
  - President’s Report
  - Report on Enhancing Participation and Inclusion
  - Director’s Report
  - Colleague Recognition

- Update on Open and Public Publication – A Focus on the Brown Act
  **Speakers:** Javan Rad, Chief Assistant City Attorney, Pasadena
  Sujata Reuter, Chief Assistant City Attorney, Santa Clara

3:30 - 5:15 p.m.  General Session
Celebrity D-H

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

- Executive Director Remarks
  **Speaker:** Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO, League of California Cities

  **Speakers:** Kevin Bibler, Senior Vice President, Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.
  Michael W. Pott, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Legal Counsel, Public Risk Innovation Solutions and Management (“PRISM”)
  Karen Rogan, Assistant City Attorney, Chula Vista

- Labor and Employment Litigation Update
  **Speakers:** Elizabeth Arce, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
  Jennifer Rosner, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

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**2023 – 2024 City Attorneys Department Officers**

- **President:** Joseph Montes, City Attorney, Alhambra, San Marino, and Santa Clarita, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP
- **First Vice President:** Susana Alcala Wood, City Attorney, Sacramento
- **Second Vice President:** Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney, Maywood and South Pasadena, Richards, Watson & Gershon
- **Second Vice President:** Prasanna W. Rasiah, City Attorney, San Mateo
- **Department Director:** J. Christine Dietrick, City Attorney, San Luis Obispo

League of California Cities  
2024 City Attorneys Spring Conference
FRIDAY, MAY 10

7:00 - 7:45 a.m.  
**Fun Run**  
*Sponsored by*  
Celebrity Foyer

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Registration Open**  
Celebrity Foyer

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
**Networking Breakfast**  
Ambassador 4-7

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
**General Session**  
Celebrity D-H  
*Moderator:* Susana Alcala Wood, First Vice President, City Attorneys Department, City Attorney, Sacramento  
**General Municipal Litigation Update**  
*Speakers:* Mark J. Austin, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP  
Meghan A. Wharton, Senior Counsel, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC  
Balancing Acts: Constitutional Rights vs. Meeting Decorum in California Cities  
*Speaker:* David Mehretu, Principal, Meyers Nave

10:45 a.m. - noon  
**General Session**  
Celebrity D-H  
*Moderator:* Prasanna W. Rasiah, Second Vice President, City Attorneys Department, City Attorney, San Mateo  
**Are You Smarter Than an AI?** (MCLE Specialty Credit for Technology in the Practice of Law)  
*Speaker:* Marc Zafferano, Senior Counsel, Boucher Law  
Closing Remarks

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SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!  
Send us your [feedback](#) on the conference by scanning this QR code.
FLOOR PLAN

Save The Dates:

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO
OCT. 16-18 | LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

2025 CITY ATTORNEYS SPRING CONFERENCE
MAY 7-9 | BURLINGAME

League of California Cities
2024 City Attorneys Spring Conference
Strengthening California Cities through Advocacy and Education