Rules of Professional Conduct for City Attorneys

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Overview and the Evolution of the California Rules of Professional Conduct
Five Core Ethics Inquiries for City Attorneys

- Who is the client in the Office of the City Attorney?
- What is the proper methodology for communication with the city client?
- What is the application of the duty of confidentiality?
- What are the managerial and supervisory responsibilities within the Office of the City Attorney?
- What is the interplay between civility and ethics in the context of representation provided by the Office of the City Attorney?

Who is the client in the Office of the City Attorney?

- Rule 1.13
- *People ex rel Deukmejian v. Brown* (March 12, 1981) 29 Cal.3d 150
- Government Code section 41801
- Interplay with confidentiality and conflict of interest rules and laws
- Practical tips
What is the proper methodology for communication with the city client?

- Rule 1.14
- Business and Professions Code section 6068(m)
- Practical tips

What is the application of the duty of confidentiality?

- Business and Professions Code section 6068(e)
- Evidence Code provisions
- Roberts v. City of Palmdale (June 24, 1993) 5 Cal.4th 3
- New working environments
- Practical tips
What are the managerial and supervisory responsibilities within the Office of the City Attorney?

- Rules 5.1 and 5.3
- Practical tips

What is the interplay between civility and ethics in the context of representation provided by the Office of the City Attorney?

- “Beyond the Oath: Recommendations for Improving Civility” (September 2021)
- Practical tips
Thank You for Attending!

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