BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN, LLP



Elena Q. Gerli

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Elena Gerli has spent her entire legal career representing public entities. Her areas of expertise include housing, zoning and land use, CEQA, free speech and constitutional law, complex contract negotiation and drafting, and legislative drafting. Elena also advises her public agency clients regarding the Political Reform Act (conflicts of interest), the Brown Act (public meeting laws), the Public Records Act, elections, revenue measures, and Proposition 218 rate setting.

Elena currently serves as general counsel for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Regional Housing Trust, and the Bell Canyon Community Services District. She also serves as the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Lawndale, and the City of Camarillo. Elena has also served as the City Attorney for the City of Suisun City and the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, and as Assistant City Attorney for the City of La Cañada Flintridge, the City of Bell, and the City of Carson.

Elena has negotiated and drafted development agreements, exclusive negotiating agreements, and disposition and development agreements on behalf of cities. She has worked on general plans and specific plans, zoning code and housing regulations, as well as affordable housing agreements.

Elena regularly handles issues related to purchasing, public works construction projects, including development of notices inviting bids, reviewing bids and recommendations of award, bid protests, stop work notices, liquidated damages, and prevailing wage issues.

Elena has experience in real estate transactions, including preparing purchase and sale agreements, leases, easements, and license agreements.

Elena provides AB 1234 training, and has presented multiple times at municipal conferences on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Elena has served as President for the City Attorneys Association of Los Angeles County. Additionally, she has been an active alumna

PRACTICES

Public Law

EDUCATION

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, 2003

B.A., Brown University, 1990

Cornell University Diversity and Inclusion Certificate, November 2020

Cornell University Diversifying Your Workforce Certificate, April 2022

ADMISSION

State Bar of California

California Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

United States District Court for the Central District of California

AFFILIATIONS

City Attorneys Association of Los Angeles County, Past President (2024)

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volunteer for her alma mater, Brown University, and is currently a class leader and serves on the Brown University Alumni Association Board of Governors.

INSIGHTS

Public Law Update – Tax Measure Amending the California Constitution on the November Ballot

Public Law Update – Noteworthy Changes to the Political Reform Act

Public Law Update – SB 707 Provides Significant Changes to the Brown Act

Public Law Update – Recent Appellate Cases Exhort Public Agencies to Carefully Document the Proportionate Costs of Services Charged

Public Law Update: Court of Appeal Rules That A Mixed-Use Development May Not Rely On State's Cap-And-Trade Program To Offset Project's Greenhouse Gases Impacts

Incompleteness Letters for Development Projects Under the Permit Streamlining Act

Public Law Update – AB 1785 Revises the California Public Records Act to Further Protect Officials' Personal Information

PUBLICATIONS

Western City Legal Notes – Six Local Government Transparency Changes City Officials Need to Know

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