



Samantha W. Zutler

Partner

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Pronouns: she, her, hers

Samantha Zutler is the City Attorney of the cities of Healdsburg and Watsonville and is District Counsel for Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County.

As City Attorney, Samantha advises on a wide range of general municipal law issues, including the Brown Act, conflicts of interest, and public records requests. She has also litigated writs challenging public records responses, constitutional challenges to land-use decisions, and contractual issues. Samantha also advises regarding general land use matters, CEQA, and [constitutional](#) issues.

Samantha also maintains a specialty practice in labor and [employment](#). She regularly defends claims of discrimination and harassment, wage and hour claims, and claims of wrongful discharge. She works with clients at all stages of the disciplinary process, from drafting and implementing new policies to defending employers in disciplinary appeals. Samantha has represented [public](#) and private sector clients in individual, collective, and class actions, and has extensive experience in litigating employment discrimination claims. Her clients include the City of Oakland, the City of Petaluma, the County of San Bernardino, and the County of Alameda.

Samantha is frequently called upon to conduct training for employees, managers and elected officials throughout California on a variety of topics, including ethics for public officials, Brown Act, prevention of sexual harassment, and best management practices. Her experience ranges from conducting individual, one-on-one remedial trainings to group trainings for over two hundred employees. Her audiences have included engineers, maintenance workers, police officers, firefighters, attorneys, mid-level and senior management employees, human resources personnel, Boards of Directors, City Councils, and the most difficult audience possible – lawyers.

Samantha lives in the bustling and vibrant city of San Francisco. She serves as a volunteer mediator for Community Boards, a nonprofit that

PRACTICES

Employment Law and Litigation

Litigation

Public Law

Workplace Investigations

EDUCATION

J.D., University of San Francisco
School of Law

B.A., Sociology, University of
Redlands

ADMISSION

State Bar of California

Supreme Court of the United
States

United States Court of Appeals
for the Ninth Circuit

United States District Court for
the Central District of California

United States District Court for
the Eastern District of California

United States District Court for
the Northern District of
California

United States District Court for
the Southern District of
California

AFFILIATIONS

Alameda County Bar
Association, Labor &
Employment Law Section
Bar Association of San Francisco
Barristers Club
Queen's Bench Bar Association

provides mediators to the community.

PUBLICATIONS

New Law Establishes Several New Protections For Employees Bringing
Harassment Claims

2016 Legal Trends

Court of Appeal Rules that Personnel Investigations are Privileged

2015 Legal Trends

2014 Legal Trends

The First District Rules that Police Departments Must Disclose Entire
Personnel Files to District Attorneys: Chipping Away at Officer
Confidentiality, or No Big Deal?

RECOGNITIONS

Selected to Northern California Super Lawyers, Rising Stars, 2013-2015