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BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN, LLP



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Pronouns: she, her, hers

Samantha Zutler is the City Attorney of the cities of Brisbane, Healdsburg and Watsonville and 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. Samantha 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. Samantha also performs personnel investigations, advises agencies in performing investigations, and advises agencies in defending claims related to personnel investigations. Samantha is frequently called upon to advise on complicated personnel issues that involve high level executives or elected officials, allowing her to draw on her experience as a City Attorney and labor and employment litigator.

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.

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

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Alameda County Bar Association, Labor & Employment Law Section

Bar Association of San Francisco

Barristers Club

Queen's Bench Bar Association

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

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