

Burke Expands Public Law Practice with Addition of Longtime City Attorney Michael Barrett

San Rafael, CA– Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP is pleased to announce that **Michael W. Barrett**, formerly the City Attorney for the City of Napa, has joined the firm's Public Law practice as a partner. Michael started his career in local government at the City of Oceanside as a law clerk and then began his practice of law with a private firm in San Diego, representing public and private clients. He then held in-house deputy and assistant city attorney positions at the City of Tracy and the City of Fremont.

From December 2005 through April of this year, Michael served as City Attorney for the City of Napa. During his 18 years with the City, Michael's diligent legal advice guided the Napa City Council and city officials in achieving a wide range of important goals for the community including a ballot measure for a transient occupancy tax to fund affordable and workforce housing, the negotiation of multi-agency public construction projects for flood control, parks, and street improvements, a City Charter amendment to facilitate the annexation and development of a 154-acre mixed use project, and policy changes that included the conversion to district-based elections of councilmembers, updates to the City's General Plan and Housing Element, and a plethora of City ordinances, resolutions, and administrative regulations. Michael also counseled the City through its responses to several severe local emergencies including a major flood in 2005, a sizable earthquake in 2014, destructive wildfires in 2017, and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Michael commented, "I look forward to collaborating with like-minded professionals to find and implement creative solutions to the challenges facing public agencies.

Burke Public Law practice group leader **Eric S. Vail** views Barrett's arrival to the firm as an "exceptional and elite addition" to the highly accomplished bench of 84 municipal law attorneys at Burke who day-to-day advise over 300 State agencies, cities, counties, special districts, school districts, and joint powers authorities throughout California.

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