



#### RELATED PRACTICES

California Commercial Litigation  
California Real Estate Litigation  
California Environmental Law  
California City Attorney  
Public Law  
Real Estate and Business Law  
Environmental, Land Use, and  
Natural Resources  
Litigation

#### RELATED PEOPLE

Mark J. Austin  
Thomas B. Brown  
Johanna N. Canlas  
Elena Q. Gerli  
Michelle Marchetta Kenyon  
Kevin D. Siegel

## Burke Public Law Presents at CalCities City Attorneys Spring Conference 2025

---

Burke Public Law practice group partners **Kevin D. Siegel**, **Johanna N. Canlas**, **Elena Q. Gerli**, **Thomas B. Brown**, **Michelle Marchetta Kenyon**, and **Mark J. Austin** will present at the **League of California Cities City Attorneys Spring Conference 2025**, taking place on May 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency – San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, CA. This CA State Bar CLE accredited conference provides city attorneys with in-depth information about the latest municipal law issues, along with opportunities to meet, and re-connect, with colleagues from around the state. Burke Public Law attorneys will present during the following sessions.

### **Wednesday, May 7th** **General Session – Grand Peninsula ABCD**

#### ***Land Use and CEQA Litigation Update***

This session will provide an update on litigation related to land use, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Speakers: **Kevin D. Siegel**, Partner, **Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP** and Rick Jarvis, Managing Partner, Jarvis Fay LLP

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm

#### ***Strategies for Successfully Resolving CEQA and Land Use***

Building off the latest land use and CEQA litigation updates, this session features practical strategies for navigating CEQA and land use approvals.

Speakers: **Johanna N. Canlas**, City Attorney, **Coronado and Solana Beach and Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP**; Gideon Kracov, Mediator, ADR Services, Inc.; and Nicole Gordon, Principal, Meyers Nave LLP

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm

#### ***Tricks and Traps in Reviewing Housing Projects: How to Protect Your City***

This session will examine the challenges cities face in navigating California's ever-evolving housing laws, including pitfalls in project approvals and emerging legal arguments from developers. Experts will discuss defensive strategies to help cities avoid litigation and compliance mistakes, with a focus on new housing laws taking effect in 2025.

Speakers: **Elena Q. Gerli**, Partner, **Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP** and

Dolores B. Dalton, Partner, Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP  
Time: 1:00 pm to 3:15 pm

***Politically Astute, but Not Political...Politics and the Role of the City Attorney***

This session will explore the challenges city attorneys face as neutral advisors in politically charged environments, focusing on local elections and intergovernmental conflicts. Speakers will discuss best practices for handling election-related disputes, managing interagency tensions, maintaining objectivity under political pressure, and navigating legal issues such as campaign laws, public communications, and state mandates.

Facilitator: Joesph Petta, Assistant City Attorney, Marina and Partner, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP

Speakers: [Thomas B. Brown, Of Counsel, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP](#); Mara W. Elliott, City Attorney, Retired; Lynn Tracy Nerland, City Attorney, Retired; and Greg Stepanicich, City Attorney, Retired

Time: 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

**Thursday, May 8th**

**Concurrent Group Breakfast Discussions  
Sandpebble C**

***Coastal Cities***

Moderators: [Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, City Attorney, Pacifica, Rohnert Park, Piedmont, Calistoga, Moraga and Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP](#) and Anthony Condotti, City Attorney, Santa Cruz and Managing Partner, Atchison, Barisone & Condotti, APC

Time: 8:15 am to 9:15 am

**Friday, May 9th**

**General Session - Grand Peninsula ABCD**

***General Municipal Litigation Update***

This session will provide an update on litigation in federal and state courts, as it pertains to California cities.

Speakers: [Mark J. Austin, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP](#) and Meghan Wharton, Senior Counsel, Colantuono Highsmith & Whatney, PC

Time: 9:15 am to 10:30 am

Advance registration is now closed. Please register onsite at the conference.