



**Proposal to Provide General Counsel Services  
– Morongo Valley Community Services District & Fire  
Department**

February 03, 2026

# Firm Information

## Firm Information

White Brenner LLP (the “Firm” or “White Brenner”) is pleased to present this proposal to provide General Counsel services to the Morongo Valley Community Services District & Fire Department (the “District”) in response to the District’s Request for Proposals for General Counsel Services (“RFP”). Our attorneys practice every legal specialty that would be of interest to the District, providing full-service advice and counsel to our clients. The Firm is uniquely qualified and prepared to deliver the highest quality legal services at competitive rates.

## Firm Name, Address, and Contacts

White Brenner LLP  
1608 T Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Telephone: 916.468.0950  
Fax: 916.468.0951

### *Attorney Contacts*

#### **Proposed General Counsel**

Christina M. Pritchard  
1608 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95811  
T: 916.468.4678  
[Christina@WhiteBrennerLLP.com](mailto:Christina@WhiteBrennerLLP.com)

#### **Proposed Deputy General Counsel**

Douglas L. White  
1608 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95811  
T: 916.468.0947  
[Doug@WhiteBrennerLLP.com](mailto:Doug@WhiteBrennerLLP.com)

## Overview of Firm

White Brenner was established in 2013 to serve as a comprehensive resource for clients’ legal, legislative, regulatory, and litigation needs. Our founding partners came from some of the largest law firms in the country, including DLA Piper, Greenberg Traurig LLP, and Stoel Rives LLP. The Firm’s primary mission is to serve public clients’ General Counsel needs and provide Special Counsel services focusing on water supply, land use, infrastructure development, labor and employment, and regulatory compliance. Individually, each of our partners have decades of experience working with municipal and local government clients as well as other California public agencies. This combined experience not only benefits our clients but creates a culture that nurtures collaboration between our associate attorneys and partners, allowing the Firm to create a seasoned depth of bench not often found at other municipal law firms. Most importantly, we leverage our legal policy and legislative expertise to deliver exceptional results for our clients. Today, the Firm continues to represent public agency clients on a statewide level and is repeatedly recognized as a Top 20 Law Firm in the Sacramento Region.

As City Attorneys and General Counsel to cities and public agencies across the state, our attorneys regularly provide day-to-day legal advice and counsel on transactional and litigation matters relevant to the District. That advice and counsel includes, but is not limited to, issues related to regular Board meetings, as well as other special meetings; the Ralph M. Brown Act and Public Records Act; election law; the Political Reform Act and conflicts of interest; public contracts and prevailing wage compliance; environmental issues, including CEQA, NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and toxic substances; natural resources issues; fire and life safety regulations, including the Fire District Protection Law of 1987; California Emergency medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Care Personnel Act; planning, building, and development matters; employment law matters, including termination, discrimination, disciplinary actions, and labor negotiations; and litigation.

## **Number of Attorneys and Staff**

White Brenner is a limited liability partnership comprised of 19 attorneys who work out of one central office in Sacramento. The Firm's composition currently includes 6 partners, 3 of counsel attorneys, 5 senior associate attorneys, and 5 associate attorneys.

### ***Other Attorney Resources***

The Firm works collectively as a team for the benefit of our clients, and the District will benefit from the full resources of the Firm. White Brenner embraces a collaborative work model, while taking care to respect the needs and desires of each client regarding legal review and sensitive information. An integral piece of White Brenner's approach is that our City Attorney and General Counsel services are provided by the primary attorneys and supplemented by the other attorneys in our Firm. This approach encourages client and associate-counsel direct contact, disbursts client institutional knowledge, and provides our clients with more rapid response time, the varied expertise of our legal practitioners, and inherent continuity in our provision of legal services.

As such, the General Counsel will coordinate with the Deputy General Counsel and any other approved attorneys to provide significant opportunities to contribute to the success of District matters. If a scheduling conflict or unforeseeable extended absence should occur for the General Counsel, the District may rest assured that the Deputy General Counsel, or any of our other attorneys, will be able to step in to attend meetings, participate knowledgeably, and assist the District in any way necessary.

In addition to general public agency services, the Firm's partners and associates are highly trained and qualified in a wide range of legal areas that may be of interest to the District. Below is a list of the Firm's areas of expertise and the attorneys and staff that practice in each area.

- Public Law (municipal and special districts): Douglas White, Barbara Brenner, Nubia Goldstein, Tom Hallinan, Kerry Fuller, Will Creger, Rachel Rappaport, Joshua Varinsky, Christina Pritchard, Thomas Remlinger
- Public Safety Law: Christina Pritchard, William Creger
- Water (rights, quality, rate setting): Barbara Brenner, Kerry Fuller, Gage Marchini
- Employment and Labor Law: Debra Hinshaw Vierra, William Creger, Douglas White, Maria Fatima Gioletti, Christina Pritchard

- Workplace Investigations: Debra Hinshaw Vierra, William Creger
- Litigation: Angela Schrimp de la Vergne, Barbara Brenner, Nubia Goldstein, Maria Fatima Gioletti, Rachel Rappaport, Andrea Crawl, Gage Marchini, Christina Pritchard
- Environmental and Natural Resources: Barbara Brenner, Kerry Fuller, Joshua Varinsky, Gage Marchini
- Land Use and Real Estate: Douglas White, Barbara Brenner, William Abbott, Nubia Goldstein, Joshua Varinsky, Christina Pritchard, Thomas Remlinger
- Elections: Douglas White, Nubia Goldstein, Joshua Varinsky, Christina Pritchard, Kerry Fuller
- Administrative and Regulatory: Barbara Brenner, Nubia Goldstein, Christina Pritchard, Kerry Fuller
- Ethics and Conflicts of Interest: Douglas White, Nubia Goldstein, Christina Pritchard
- Legislative Advocacy: Randy Pollack, Nubia Goldstein, Elisabeth White

Resumes for the proposed attorneys, as well as the rest of the White Brenner legal team, follow under the “Attorney Resumes” tab of the proposal.

### ***Support Staff***

The Firm also utilizes administrative staff, law clerks, paralegals, file clerks, secretaries, and administrators to effectively allocate time and resources. We currently have 1 land development and acquisition manager, 3 law clerks, 1 firm administrator, 4 paralegals, 1 executive assistant, 1 billing coordinator, and 1 marketing manager. The Firm’s staff includes long-standing relationships with each attorney of the Firm, and they possess deep familiarity with our clients. All of our staff members are full-time and permanent employees, available and ready to assist with any relevant transactional, litigation, billing, and administrative issues during the Firm’s standard operating hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

# **Experience and Qualifications**

# Experience and Qualifications

## Public Agency Experience

Our attorneys proudly represent over 30 cities and special districts throughout the state. The Firm serves as City Attorney or Special Counsel to the cities of Angels Camp, Arcata, Arroyo Grande, Ceres, Dixon, Lone, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, and Sonora, to name a few. The Firm also serves as General Counsel or Special Counsel to the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority, San Miguel Community Services District, San Simeon Community Services District, San Lorenzo Valley Water District, San Joaquin County Local Agency Formation Commission, Groveland Community Services District, and Reclamation District 799. Our attorneys are often hired by other prominent public and municipal law firms seeking assistance with complex litigation, transactional, and regulatory compliance matters. The Firm rounds out the legal services offered to clients by providing governmental affairs and lobbying services.

Based in Sacramento, White Brenner is well-positioned to advise our public agency clients on the state laws and rulings that so often affect them. Whatever the context, most businesses, municipalities, or governmental bodies are in a perpetual cycle of growing, strengthening, or defending their business. White Brenner has the expertise to provide clients with the leadership, advocacy, and creative solutions they need to be successful.

In addition to the Firm's General Counsel services, below is a sampling of services and projects that the Firm has provided to public agency clients of similar size, industry, and interests as the District. These projects and abilities demonstrate not only our attorneys' qualifications to provide the requested scope of services, but also the expertise to assist with almost any other legal need the District may have.

### ***Governance, Board Support & General Counsel Duties***

Our attorneys assist clients in successfully maneuvering through legal complexities and governmental mandates. Serving as City Attorney and General Counsel to several public agency clients, our attorneys regularly provide day-to-day legal advice and counsel on transactional and litigation matters, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- General Counsel services at Board of Directors meetings, as well as other special meetings, as requested;
- Public law;
- The Ralph M. Brown Act and Public Records Act;
- Election law;
- The Political Reform Act and conflicts of interest;
- Public contracts, including professional consultants, public works and commercial services, and prevailing wage compliance;
- Environmental issues, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, and toxic substances;
- Natural resources issues, including water law, toxic waste health hazards, and air quality compliance;

- Fire & Life Safety regulations, including the Fire Protection District Law of 1987;
- California Emergency Medical Services Systems and the Prehospital Emergency Care Personnel Act
- Planning, building, and development matters;
- Code enforcement;
- Employment law matters, including termination, discrimination, disciplinary actions, and labor negotiations; and
- Litigation.

As part of the Firm's commitment to providing exceptional service to its clients, White Brenner is an active member of several public law organizations and associations, such as the League of California Cities, California Special Districts Association, and Association of California Water Agencies, as well as other similar organizations.

### ***Brown Act and Public Records Act***

Both proposed attorneys attend regular meetings and closed sessions for cities and special districts, where they provide public law advice on a regular basis. In addition, each attorney at the Firm is well-versed in the Ralph M. Brown Act ("Brown Act"). Our attorneys provide Brown Act trainings to public agency clients, and each new associate must present a Brown Act seminar as part of their development at the Firm.

White Brenner fully understands both the District's burden and the public's interest in obtaining timely responses to California Public Records Act ("CPRA") requests. The Firm has worked with many of our clients to streamline responses to records requests, by assisting with the creation of internal process flow-charts, and through agreements with internet consultants to implement electronic form requests and responses. In 2016, the Firm's legislative advocacy team worked with a state assemblyperson to successfully sponsor a bill ("SB 441") to expressly authorize public agencies to redact sensitive financial information from public records. This was in direct response to an attempted fraudulent transfer of funds made against one of our clients. The Firm also regularly provides e-alerts on legal updates to our public clients, such as the recent California Supreme Court case holding that private devices of local agency employees and public officials are covered under the CPRA.

### ***Employment and Labor Law***

Our attorneys regularly provide advice and litigation services to our clients in all types of complex labor and employment matters, including:

- Employee handbooks and employment policies;
- Employee health and safety;
- Employee privacy/background investigations;
- Workplace investigations;
- Workplace violence;
- Family and medical leave;
- Disability and discrimination claims;
- Drug and alcohol testing;

- Wage and hour law, including prevailing wage;
- Sexual harassment;
- Performance improvement programs;
- Public employment termination;
- Wrongful termination and retaliation;
- Unemployment compensation;
- Labor negotiations;
- Imposed last, best, and final offer;
- Labor strikes;
- The Affordable Care Act;
- Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 (Paid Sick Leave Policies);
- Public employee retirement benefits; and
- Public Health Emergencies (COVID-19).

Responding to labor and employment claims requires the utmost sensitivity and professionalism. Many attorneys at the Firm have coordinated employment investigations on behalf of our clients, most often through the engagement of an independent, outside investigator. The Firm has actively participated in the resolution of claims related to sexual harassment, drug and alcohol testing, disability discrimination, wrongful termination and retaliation, and unemployment compensation. Additionally, our labor & employment attorneys are well-versed in the requirements of the Firefighter Bill of Rights, the Peace Officer Bill of Rights, and the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act.

The Firm also participates in labor negotiations and, when requested, the Firm has coordinated with essential employees to develop action plans in response to threatened walkouts and strikes. For example, the Firm assisted the City of Dixon in developing an action plan in response to a potential walkout. Ultimately, the Firm assisted the City's executive management team in negotiating an agreement with the bargaining unit to avoid a walkout, saving the City from a potential shutdown of its wastewater treatment plant.

In addition, the Firm's employment group routinely reviews and updates employee handbooks and policies for our clients. The Firm tracks changes to federal and state laws, such as any changes to the Public Employees' Retirement System, which could affect the District.

The Firm can provide custom-tailored training to the District in all areas related to harassment and discrimination to ensure that the District meets its requirements under AB 1825 and AB 1661.

### **Disability Issues/FEHA/ADA**

As a part of our public employment and labor practice, our attorneys are knowledgeable and experienced in disability issues, including the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and have represented clients in Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") claims. We advise public agency clients regarding ADA compliance for access to public services, access to public meetings, land use concerns related to disability issues, and other concerns. We have also represented government agencies against ADA claims related to public utility practices such as customer communications and support.

### **Workers Compensation (Public Entity Employer)**

While the Firm's attorneys are readily familiar with the current workers' compensation laws, we limit our representation to Labor Code section 132a (discrimination) and Labor Code section 4553 claims (serious and willful violations). These claims are usually resolved before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, but, if necessary, we can also assist clients in those instances where these cases fall within the jurisdiction of the state or federal courts. Our attorneys will be happy to refer the District to an excellent workers' compensation attorney if legal services not provided by the Firm are required.

### ***Risk Management***

One of the Firm's primary goals is to minimize or mitigate the potential for legal exposure as part of a comprehensive legal risk management service. In order to accomplish this, Ms. Pritchard will work closely with District staff to understand all the current issues that the Board of Directors ("Board") is considering. She will initially meet with directors and staff to understand their day-to-day operations and projects, to assess how they are managing risk, and to assist with any District legal needs. As General Counsel, White Brenner looks at risk from a variety of levels and prioritizes impacts. The Firm prioritizes work based on need. If a response is needed immediately, we make every effort to meet that demand. For long-term projects, we develop internal deadlines and systems, as well as utilizing task-management software, to keep the project team on schedule. With regard to identifying future risks, the Firm's location in Sacramento makes our attorneys particularly attuned to legislative and regulatory changes, and our legislative advocacy team specifically focuses on emerging issues relevant to our public clients and special districts.

Our litigation attorneys are adept at the intricacies of insurance law. Several attorneys at the Firm have significant experience in insurance litigation. In addition, the Firm often coordinates with Joint Powers Insurance Agencies ("JPIA") and risk management authorities to resolve claims in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner for our clients. We have worked with JPIA outside counsel to assist in the defense of basic tort and wrongful termination claims, for example.

### ***Contracts, Local Agency Documents, and Agreements***

The attorneys at White Brenner regularly assist our public agency clients in the preparation and review of ordinances, resolutions, agreements, contracts, and related documents, forms, notices, certificates, deeds, and other local agency documents. We are experienced in drafting a variety of contracts and agreements relating to local fire agencies, local EMS agencies, JPAs, development, construction and public works contracts, purchase and sale agreements, lease agreements, and easements. The Firm provides advice regarding competitive bidding, prevailing wage laws, state and federal procurement, budgeting processes, and franchise negotiations.

The goal is to help clients avoid litigation through clear, concise, and forward-looking transactional documents and agreements. Our attorneys know that agreements can last years and decades in the future, while Board members and administrative staff can change over time. Agreements must be drafted to clearly guide future agency officials and staff through projects and obligations that can endure for years.

### **Regulations, Ordinances and Resolutions**

All our public law attorneys are experienced in drafting ordinances, resolutions, and policies. This experience spares you from unnecessary legal costs by allowing us to draw upon the vast library of documents and sample policies that currently exist in our network. We also know how to tailor our regulations and policy examples to meet the District's needs as they arise. We have drafted regulations and policies relating to tree and hillside preservation, landscape and water conservation, drought restrictions, habitat conservation, growth management, fire and life safety requirements and restrictions, and more.

### **Memorandums of Understanding**

The Firm has substantial experience negotiating, drafting, interpreting, and enforcing MOUs. Negotiations of MOUs and other contractual instruments is a key area of our practice. The variety of legal matters relative to MOUs that we have negotiated range from fire and EMS services to real estate, to LAFCO agreements, to maintenance of public facilities, to safety evacuation plans, to public/private partnerships, to electric supply.

### ***Land Use, Planning, Real Property***

The Firm provides a full range of legal services in the context of land use, planning, environmental review under CEQA and NEPA, infrastructure finance, natural resources management, land conservation, and real estate. The Firm represents public agencies in all aspects of the land use entitlement process, from project applications to administrative proceedings and legislative approvals.

Our land use group specializes in negotiation, review, and drafting of the agreements and approvals required for land development projects, including development agreements, reimbursement agreements, easements and licenses, deeds, improvement agreements, conditions for new public facilities constructed by developers, purchase and sale agreements and lease agreements. The land use group is well familiar with the interconnected nature of development projects situated in different jurisdictions, where such projects require coordination and attention throughout the approval process.

We have also assisted clients in complex enforcement issues requiring the application of overlapping general plan policies, ordinances, easements, and quasi-public enforcement of CC&Rs.

### ***Litigation***

The Firm takes a proactive approach to providing advice and counsel to its public agency clients. We feel strongly that each litigation matter should be evaluated based on legal costs, staff resources, public response, litigation risk, and potential for actual financial recovery. An evaluation of the potential benefits against cost, certainty of outcome, and litigation timeframe versus settlement should all be considered. Our attorneys effectively utilize alternative dispute resolution techniques to resolve matters quickly. The Firm's philosophy is to first attempt good faith negotiations before either party decides to go to court. Our attorneys typically seek informal resolution or formal mediation prior to recommending litigation as an option.

In some instances, litigation is the best option for enforcing the rights of one party over another. In this context, our attorneys have experience taking numerous cases to trial on behalf of local agencies, and the Firm has a track record of success in reaching favorable settlements and judgments. Our attorneys are adept at initiating or defending cases involving CEQA, challenges to development entitlements and specific plans, fee and rate challenges (including Proposition 218), disputes regarding hazardous materials and toxic clean-up, the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, water resources and quality, real estate, employment, public contracting and bidding disputes, equal protection and civil rights claims, First Amendment issues, and more. Our attorneys also handle a number of administrative actions on behalf of our public clients, including wage and hour claims, Public Employment Relations Board (“PERB”) claims, and sexual harassment claim filings. The Firm’s litigation attorneys practice in both federal and state court, at both the trial and appellate level, and are experienced in resolving disputes through arbitration and mediation.

Examples of a few key cases argued by the Firm’s attorneys, including the proposed legal team, are as follows:

- Successfully represented the City of Dixon in a pre-election challenge to two initiatives filed by a local taxpayer association on the basis the initiatives were unconstitutional and beyond the power of the electorate. By prevailing against the local taxpayer group, the City of Dixon was able to move forward with increasing its sewer rates to comply with a state regulatory mandate in order to protect the City’s groundwater from contamination and implement a wastewater solution for the next generation.
- Amador Water Agency engaged the Firm to defend a similar taxpayer challenge to the Agency’s water rate increase. In 2015, the Agency raised its rates in order to deal with a crippling budget deficit as a result of the drought and reduced water consumption. The Firm successfully defended the Agency in superior court. As a result, the water rate remains intact, helping to ensure that the Agency will remain financially solvent (pending an appeal by the taxpayer group).
- Successfully represented the City of Patterson in a decade-long dispute against members of the Patterson Hotel Associates, LLC (PHC). Following several years of litigation, the three-week trial stemmed from the City’s claim for unpaid taxes in the amount of \$237,000 and PHC’s various cross claims for approximately \$4,000,000. The court found in favor of the City for all taxes owed, plus interest, and nothing owed by the City to PHC. Since the City was the prevailing party, the City was also awarded attorneys’ fees and costs.
- Successfully defended the City of Benicia in proceedings before the federal Surface Transportation Board, to preserve local land use authority in connection with a conditional use permit application to develop a crude-by-rail transfer facility.
- Successfully represented the City of Riverbank in a CEQA litigation matter, which resulted in a \$4,000,000 settlement awarded to the City. This case was featured in the California Journal’s Top Plaintiff Settlement and Verdicts.

In addition to general litigation, the Firm provides guidance on procedural and substantive responses to claims against public entities and employees under the California Government Claims Act. Our experience generally involves the defense of public entities and public employees. We utilize defenses based on claims procedures, late claims, general and specific immunities of public entities and employees, and laws regarding dangerous conditions on public property. Our attorneys will vigorously defend the District. We have a thorough understanding of liability theories and the applicable immunities that can be claimed.

Our litigation attorneys are also extremely familiar with insurance law. Several attorneys at the Firm have significant experience in insurance litigation. In addition, the Firm often coordinates with Joint Powers Insurance Agencies (JPIA) and risk management authorities to resolve claims in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner for our clients. We have worked with JPIA outside counsel to assist in the defense of basic tort and wrongful termination claims, for example.

### ***Additional Services***

In addition to the above, the Firm can provide representation in the following matters and, if desired, provide more information upon request:

- Public Agency Elections
- Government Relations
- Environmental Law
- Public Contracting and Procurement

### **Fire, Emergency, Public Safety Experience**

The proposed General Counsel, Ms. Pritchard currently serves as General Counsel to the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority and Deputy General Counsel for the San Miguel Community Services District, which operates its own fire department. Ms. Pritchard also currently serves as General Counsel for CENCAL Fire & EMS Authority. The Firm also serves as City Attorney to numerous cities throughout California. In this capacity, our attorneys, including the proposed General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel work closely with the cities' fire, emergency, and public safety departments in such matters as employment and labor law, including labor negotiations, discipline, investigations, terminations, and the Firefighter Bill of Rights; code enforcement; contract review and negotiation; and more.

### ***Public Safety***

The Firm advises local public safety agencies on general compliance issues. These issues typically include determination of proper Public Records Act request responses, subpoena responses, responding to *Pitchess* motions, and general policy issues raised by the public safety aspects of fire services, EMS services, and law enforcement. The Firm monitors and advises its clients regarding important Public Records Act rulings and legislative efforts, especially those related to public safety efforts.

## Attorney Resumes

White Brenner is committed to proposing the most qualified attorneys to meet the needs of each client. In line with that commitment, the Firm proposes Christina Pritchard to lead the District’s legal team. The Firm also proposes Douglas White to serve as Deputy General Counsel.

### ***Proposed General Counsel: Christina Pritchard***

The Firm proposes Christina Pritchard as General Counsel. Ms. Pritchard has over 12 years of experience assisting public agencies. White Brenner is confident in her abilities to provide the requested services to the highest standards.

Ms. Pritchard’s counsel primarily focuses on litigation, general municipal and special district law, and public safety law matters. Her diverse experience in litigation management, public safety laws, privacy laws, and the broad scope of day-to-day legal matters affecting public agencies has prepared her to assist our clients on almost any legal issue. Her experience includes the Brown Act, Political Reform Act, Public Records Act, contracts and procurement, and real property development. Her areas of practice include civil litigation, real estate and land use, municipal and special district law, public safety law, and employment law.

Ms. Pritchard currently serves as the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Dixon, General Counsel for the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority, and Deputy General Counsel for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District and San Miguel Community Services District.

Ms. Pritchard has been with White Brenner since just after its inception in 2013. Before joining White Brenner, she worked on complex civil litigation matters for Downey Brand, McDonough Holland & Allen, and DLA Piper as a paralegal, specializing in health insurance contracts, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and hospital system compliance laws. During law school, Ms. Pritchard worked full-time at the Firm, immersing herself in what it takes to be a White Brenner attorney.

As both an attorney and staff member, Ms. Pritchard’s dedication and diligence has helped White Brenner become one of the most trusted municipal law firms in Northern California. She has been recognized as a Rising Star in the area of State, Local, and Municipal law by the Northern California Super Lawyers list in both 2025 and 2026.

Attorney Name:	Christina M. Pritchard
Areas of Expertise:	Municipal and Public Law, Public Safety Law, Civil Litigation, Real Estate and Land Use, Employment Law
Education:	J.D., Lincoln Law School of Sacramento A.A., MTI College, Paralegal Studies
Employment History:	White Brenner LLP (formerly Churchwell White LLP), 2013-Present DLA Piper, 2010-2013 (via acquisition of MHA Health Group) McDonough Holland & Allen, 2007-2010 Downey Brand, 2005-2007

<p>Scholastic Honors and Professional Affiliations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed the CSDA Special District Board Secretary/Clerk Program (2017)</li> <li>• Member, California Lawyers Association, Public Law, Litigation, and Labor and Employment Law sections</li> <li>• Member, Sacramento County Bar Association</li> <li>• MTI College, Instructor, Introduction to Civil Litigation (2016- 2018)</li> <li>• MTI College, Instructor, Legal Ethics, Introduction to the Paralegal Profession, Client Interviewing, Investigation (2016- 2018)</li> <li>• Board Member, Sacramento Valley Paralegal Association (2007-2013)</li> <li>• Advocate, Sacramento Court Appointed Special Advocates (2008-2010)</li> </ul>
<p>Municipal and Public Sector Experience:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12+ years of Local Government Experience</li> <li>• General Counsel, South San Joaquin County Fire Authority</li> <li>• Current Deputy General Counsel for San Miguel Community Services District and San Lorenzo Valley Water District</li> <li>• Deputy City Attorney, City of Dixon</li> <li>• Former Deputy City Attorney for the City of Livingston</li> <li>• Former Deputy General Counsel for Georgetown Divide Public Utility District</li> <li>• Advises clients on matters relating to the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Public Records Act, privacy laws, local government actions, public safety laws, labor &amp; employment, Proposition 218, and public contracting</li> <li>• Represents clients in litigation, government claims, public contract negotiations, commercial transactions, and leasing</li> <li>• Prepares ordinances, resolutions, contracts, policies &amp; procedures, and related correspondence and reports.</li> <li>• Engages in and assists clients with negotiations of contracts</li> <li>• Assists all new public clients with an audit of their policies and procedures in order to identify areas of improvement or potential updates required to comply with current laws</li> <li>• Assists clients with code enforcement matters, including obtaining judicial relief when necessary</li> </ul>

***Proposed Deputy General Counsel: Douglas White***

Mr. White is the Firm’s Managing Partner, and his practice focuses on every aspect of municipal law, including the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, Elections Code, Proposition 218, real estate, land use, planning, and redevelopment law. His clients include numerous cities and special districts. He has specific expertise in land use entitlements and project approvals, environmental reviews, real estate contracts and commercial transactions, leasing, building and project certifications, project financing, eminent domain, public contracting, and regulatory and governmental affairs. In addition to his municipal work, Mr. White has also successfully represented public and private clients in high-profile litigation matters and has obtained favorable judgments and settlements, including a \$4,000,000 settlement for the City of Riverbank in a CEQA litigation matter.

Mr. White currently serves as City Attorney for the cities of Angels Camp, Arcata, Dixon, and Sonora; serves as General Counsel for the San Miguel Community Services District; and serves as Deputy City Attorney for the cities of Ceres, Oakdale, Patterson, and Riverbank. He also provides Special Counsel services for a number of other cities. He advises public entities and officials on issues pertaining to the Brown Act, Political Reform Act, Public Records Act, public contracting, code enforcement, and other municipal and public law matters.

Prior to forming White Brenner, Mr. White served as legal counsel and Vice President of Government Affairs for the California Bankers Association, legal staff for the Fair Political Practices Commission and Chief of Staff, Legislative Director, and a consultant to various elected officials, including former Congressman Dennis Cardoza and former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell.

Mr. White has been recognized as one of the leading attorneys in the United States on issues related to renewable energy and sustainability and been named by the California Real Estate Journal as one of California’s Green Leaders. He has been selected as a Northern California Super Lawyer by *Super Lawyers Magazine* and has been featured as a speaker and moderator at state and national conferences. Mr. White is an AV Rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell and has been honored by his peers as Best of the Bar by the *Sacramento Business Journal* every year since 2014.

Attorney Name:	Douglas L. White
Areas of Expertise:	Municipal and Public Law, Land Use, Real Estate
Education:	J.D., McGeorge School of Law, 1998 B.A., University of California, Davis, 1995
Professional Background:	White Brenner LLP (formerly Churchwell White LLP), 2013-Present DL White Law Group, 2011-2013 Weintraub Tobin, 2010-2011 Greenberg Traurig LLP, 2009 Hoge Fenton Jones & Appel, 2007-2008
Scholastic Honors and Professional Associations:	Member, California State Bar, Real Estate Section Member, California State Bar, Environmental Section Former licensed Real Estate Broker
Municipal and Public Sector Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20+ years of Local Government Experience</li> <li>• Current City Attorney for the cities of Angels Camp, Arcata, Dixon, and Sonora</li> <li>• Deputy City Attorney for the cities of Ceres, Oakdale, Riverbank, and Patterson</li> <li>• General Counsel to the San Miguel Community Services District</li> <li>• Mr. White has contributed to the California Municipal Law Handbook</li> <li>• Advises municipal clients on matters relating to land use and planning, development and redevelopment, real estate, and public contracting</li> <li>• Represents public clients in land use entitlements and project approvals, CEQA and NEPA, real estate contracts and commercial transactions, leasing, building and project certifications, and project financing</li> <li>• Successfully represented the City of Riverbank in a CEQA litigation matter, which resulted in a \$4,000,000 settlement awarded to the city. This case was featured in the Daily Journal’s Top Plaintiff Verdicts and Settlements.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully represented the City of Dixon in a pre-election challenge to two initiatives filed by a local taxpayer association on the basis the initiatives were unconstitutional and beyond the power of the electorate. By prevailing against the local taxpayer group, the City of Dixon was able to move forward with increasing its sewer rates to comply with a state regulatory mandate in order to protect the City’s groundwater from contamination and implement a wastewater solution for the next generation.</li> <li>• Successfully represented public and private clients in various ADR proceedings, including mediation and arbitration.</li> </ul>
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Full resumes for Ms. Pritchard, Mr. White, and the rest of the White Brenner legal team can be found under the “Attorney Resumes” tab of the proposal.

# **Approach to Service**

# Approach to Service

## Role of the General Counsel

We believe the General Counsel plays an integral role in facilitating and ensuring that the District is able to accomplish its missions and goals within the complex framework of federal, state, and local laws and regulations. In order to do so, they should provide the highest quality legal services possible, in an efficient, cost-effective, non-political manner. The General Counsel is not just a legal counselor but also an advocate and at times a member of the District's management team. Our approach to tackling the array of challenges a public agency may face is to maintain an active and cooperative relationship with the General Manager, Fire Chief, Board, and staff. We believe this active level of involvement and candid communication in the strategy and management of the District's legal affairs leads to creative and optimal results.

In addition to proactive and frequent communication with the General Manager, Fire Chief, and Board, we anticipate the General Counsel would discuss long-term legal strategies with the General Manager and any other staff chosen by the General Manager. The General Counsel would also discuss legal issues with the Board on an ongoing basis, either during open meetings, as needed during closed sessions, and in regular correspondence to the Board, acting through the General Manager. The Firm remains committed, however, to operate all best practices in accordance with the District's specific organizational structure.

Having experience with many cities and special districts, White Brenner is prepared to advise on District processes, documents, and procedures and make recommendations for process improvements. Our priority is to have the most qualified attorneys and legal professionals work on projects within their respective practice areas. There are specific times when attorneys from outside the Firm will be required or favored. For instance, if the need arose, our Firm would assist the District with procuring bond counsel and disclosure or workers' compensation counsel. There are also times when hiring an outside attorney is preferable. Examples include labor negotiations where tough negotiations may compromise the General Counsel's ability to maintain District employee trust necessary to accomplish day-to-day activities. In the end, priority will always be given to achieving the best result for the District and those it provides services to.

### ***Staffing Plan***

As General Counsel, Ms. Pritchard would have day-to-day responsibility to the District, Board, and District staff, supervise all provided legal services, and ensure that the most qualified attorneys are responding to the District's needs. The proposed Deputy General Counsel, Mr. White, would assist with District matters and represent the District should the General Counsel be absent or unavailable, as well as work with the Board and attend their meetings. All proposed attorneys have extensive experience representing cities and other public agencies throughout the state and could capably help lead the District's legal team.

## ***Proactive Approach***

Our attorneys are committed to staying at the forefront of legal developments. A benefit to having an active governmental relations group within the Firm is their immediate involvement in the early stages of any and all legislation that may have a direct effect on our public agency clients. In addition to our government relations communications, the Firm also tracks and regularly sends out e-alerts to clients on a variety of relevant topics, including the latest public law, constitutional, Medicare and Medi-Cal reimbursement regulations and changes, real property and land use, ethics, and conflicts of interest updates; new and ongoing legislation; and major state and federal decisions.

As a complimentary service to our clients, and to keep them in full compliance with the law, the Firm regularly coordinates and schedules mandated trainings, covering topics such as AB 1234, AB 1825, and AB 1661. We also offer trainings on the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Public Records Act, Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedures, and many other topics that may be of interest to the District. In conjunction with these trainings, the Firm frequently publishes other resources, such as the Brown Act Pocket Guide, which serves as a handy reference material for clients.

## **Availability and Commitment to Provide Services**

Communication is key to delivering exceptional client service. The Firm believes that before taking significant action, it is imperative that we consult with our clients to keep them informed of major developments. The attorneys at White Brenner believe in being readily available and accessible to their clients and are committed to providing whatever turn-around time is needed to meet each client's expectation, including urgent and after-hours matters. It is customary for attorneys to provide same-day response to all emails and phone calls, in the absence of an established expectation. Ms. Pritchard will be primarily responsible for day-to-day provision of services to the District. If unavailable, or based on agenda, meetings will be covered by Mr. White or an attorney appropriate to the agenda items. District staff are encouraged to communicate with us on any issue that needs attention. We encourage our clients to share with us all expectations and concerns regarding our services during the course of our representation.

In order to facilitate communication and timely responses, the Firm is committed to staying at the leading edge of technology. All attorneys at White Brenner have smart phones, laptop computers, and highly-secured remote access to the Firm's document management system and other critical software applications. As we understand the need to be flexible, it is standard for us to communicate with our clients through all of these mediums, including email, text message, and phone call. Our office is equipped for video and phone conferencing, which allow for direct and efficient communication, and in some cases reducing the cost and hassle of travel. The Firm prides itself on providing its attorneys and staff with the most recent technology available in order to support the Firm's commitment to being readily accessible to clients and providing its clients with exceptional service.

Another key element to meeting client expectations is receiving meaningful feedback. Our staff and attorneys are all proficient and regularly work in Microsoft Word and the rest of the Microsoft Office Suite. To solicit and track comments from all interested stakeholders, we use project management, file management, and email systems to track documents and communications with clients. The Firm currently uses NetDocs as its primary file management system. NetDocs integrates with Microsoft Word and allows our attorneys and legal staff to accurately track document creation, ownership, and changes, as well as incorporates state-of-the-art review systems. The Firm can provide files electronically or via multiple mail and delivery services. For physical and original files, the Firm primarily utilizes FedEx as our overnight freight service. Clients can also upload and download documents and files of all types and sizes through the Firm's secure client portal, which is accessed through the Firm's website selecting "Login" at the bottom of the navigation bar or through the URL <https://whitebrennerllp.sharefile.com>.

## **Meeting Attendance and Staff Support**

Our team pledges to be available at the client's convenience. As General Counsel, we believe in fostering an engaging and productive relationship between the District's legal team and the Board, General Manager, Fire Chief, and District staff. What makes this possible is frequent contact between all involved in order to advance the District's legal and other objectives. We encourage the General Manager to continually check in with us, whether on a regular basis or as-needed.

The proposed attorneys will attend regularly scheduled meetings when requested in order to keep the District informed of all ongoing legal matters, trends, and developments. The General Counsel will be prepared to discuss all ongoing general and litigation matters with the Board during closed sessions. Regularly scheduled check-in calls with the General Manager are also encouraged so that we can be informed of new concerns as they arise. In the event an issue arises that needs more immediate attention, we will work directly with the General Manager or whomever the General Manager designates to determine the best approach in developing a response.

The Firm maintains a detailed internal task-tracking database which tracks every assignment ensuring timely completion. In addition to regularly scheduled check-in calls, White Brenner routinely produces a status report on all litigation matters handled or monitored by the Firm. Upon request by the District, all non-litigated matters can also be included, with the exception of assignments completed on short order, as including such matters would result in the report being out-of-date by the time it is generated. The Firm also regularly provides our public agency clients with a variety of reports, including staff reports, Board summary reports, memorandums and resolutions, among others.

We do not believe there is a one-size-fits-all model as it relates to our style of participation in Board, special, and staff meetings. While we typically take a proactive approach in representing our clients' best interests, there are times when the more appropriate approach is to step back and manage a particular issue in a more reactive manner. Flexibility is key, and we focus on the needs of each client. Our commitment is to communicate early and often to ensure that our services are provided in a way that will exceed the District's expectations.

# Fee Schedule

# Fee Schedule

Our Firm understands the challenges public agencies face in trying to balance selecting a firm that is the most qualified with the firm that is the most cost-effective. White Brenner combines both of these factors by implementing more cost-effective and efficient systems for delivering high-quality legal services in a timely fashion and at an affordable cost. We believe the quality and depth of our experience and expertise is unmatched by any other firm, large or small.

White Brenner will monitor the District's legal expenses and budget on a regular basis. Actively monitoring expenses allows our Firm the ability to work with the Board, General Manager, Fire Chief, and District staff to proactively address any budgetary concerns and set expectations. Overwhelmingly, our Firm is able keep General Counsel legal charges at or below the budgeted amount. However, when adjustments need to be made it is largely due to unforeseen issues such as unexpected litigation. When these unexpected events do occur, the Board and General Manager are immediately informed, and an estimated budget for the unexpected event is created. Most importantly, the Board and General Manager are put in a position to be able to put together a budgetary plan even when the unexpected happens.

During the interview process, our Firm would welcome the opportunity to discuss a fee structure that would best suit the District's needs. Prior to any such discussions, the Firm proposes the following compensation arrangement. Below is an hourly fee structure for our public clients, which reflects our discounted rates for both General and Special services.

## Hourly Billing

The Firm proposes to bill straight by-the-hour for General Legal services. White Brenner bills at a blended rate for all legal professionals, including attorneys, paralegals, and law clerks. Hourly time is billed in increments of 1/10 of an hour. The Firm does not charge for administrative professionals.

General Legal Services: Blended at \$210.00 per hour for all attorneys, paralegals, and law clerks

Examples of the legal services that are considered general legal services include the following:

- Attendance at all scheduled Board meetings and special meetings (including regular sessions, closed sessions and as needed work sessions);
- Attendance, as requested, at staff meetings, workshops, and closed sessions;
- Routine legal advice, consultation, and opinions to the District and staff;
- Preparation, review, and revision of staff documents, including, but not limited to, initiation of memorandums concerning legal issues, contracts, agreements, ordinances, resolutions, land use decisions on appeal, and staff reports;
- Advice on the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act, and Elections;
- Consultation with the Board, General Manager, Fire Chief, and staff as needed—rendering of legal advice and opinions concerning legal matters that affect the District, including new legislation and court decisions. Perform research and interpret laws, court decisions and other legal authorities in order to prepare legal opinions and to advise the Board and staff on legal matters pertaining to District operations;

- Monitoring pending and current state and federal legislation and case law as appropriate;
- Assistance in the preparation and review of agendas in preparation for Board meetings;
- Advice on parliamentary procedures;
- Assistance in the preparation and review of ordinances, resolutions, agreements, contracts and related documents, forms, notices, certificates, deeds, and other documents required by the District;
- Consultation with the Board or Board’s labor counsel regarding personnel matters, labor relations matters, litigation, and other matters; and
- Coordinating the work of outside legal counsel as needed and as directed by the Board or General Manager.

Special Legal Services: Blended at \$310.00 per hour for all attorneys, paralegals, and law clerks

Special legal services include all research, preparation, and follow-through on various types of specifically requested special services matters, including, but not limited to, litigation, review and preparation of contracts, water, complex land use and real estate matters, matters paid for by enterprise funds, complex environmental, and complex labor and employment services.

Cost Recovery/Reimbursable Services: Blended at \$410.00 per hour for all attorneys, paralegals, and law clerks

Legal services provided to the District for which the District receives reimbursement (i.e., from a developer or other third party) will be billed at the blended hourly rate of \$410.00.

## **Reimbursements and Expenses**

The Firm makes no separate charge for secretarial or other administrative charges. Our fees include all routine word processing, secretarial, and office costs associated with the provision of legal services.

Reimbursement of costs advanced by us on behalf of the District, as well as other expenses, will be billed in addition to the amount billed for fees. These currently include, but are not limited to, automobile mileage at the authorized IRS rate, actual expenses away from our office on District business, long-distance telephone calls, extraordinary photocopy charges at \$0.25/page, and any costs of producing or reproducing photographs, documents, and other items necessary for legal representation.

### ***Travel Billed to the District***

The Firm will charge actual attorney travel time and mileage when our physical presence is requested at meetings and other events. Automobile mileage will be charged at the authorized IRS rate. In order to save the District on costs related to travel, the attorneys can appear at meetings virtually as may be requested by the District.

## Monthly Itemized Billing

White Brenner will provide the District with detailed monthly invoices for legal services performed and expenses incurred. Each monthly invoice reflects both fees for services rendered through the end of the prior month, as well as expenses incurred on the District's behalf that have been processed by the end of the prior month. Processing of some expenses may be delayed until the next month and billed thereafter. Fees are not contingent upon any aspect of the matter.

Our invoices for hourly services reflect the activity of each billing professional (attorney/clerk/paralegal) in detail as to the date, amount of time, nature of work performed, and cost. The invoices provide sufficient detail to track reimbursable legal expenses.

The Firm can accept payment via check or ACH transfer. Payment is due within thirty (30) days after the date of our invoice.

## Tracking and Managing Legal Costs

In order to provide the most cost-effective and quality service to our clients, we consider experience, attorney rates, and the District's requests very seriously when we assign work. For example, if a particular task can be completed by a paralegal versus an attorney, the Firm will endeavor to assign the work to the most cost-effective and best-suited person.

The District will receive a monthly itemized billing statement with detailed information of each matter that was worked on in that month, which attorney or staff member performed the work, and the amount of time worked on each matter. Should the Firm foresee a month where services are anticipated to be higher than average, the Firm will communicate with the District in advance so there are no surprises when the invoice arrives. The monthly invoice details the work performed and the types of charges incurred. Payment is due within thirty (30) days after the date of our invoice.

If any questions arise regarding the Firm's invoices, we ask that the District contact the Firm promptly so that issues can be handled expeditiously and fairly. If needed, we will be happy to sit down with District staff after receipt of our first few monthly invoices to ensure that the description of services provided meets the District's expectations.

## Rate Increases

The Firm's rates may be adjusted annually according to All Urban San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Consumer Price Index ("CPI").

# References

# References

White Brenner is proud to identify the following public agency references, to which the Firm currently provides services to. All references demonstrate our ability to provide the scope and complexity of services listed in the RFP:

## ***Reference 1: City of Dixon***

**Contact:** Jim Lindley, City Manager

**Phone:** (707) 678-7000 ext. 1101

**Email:** [jlindley@ci.dixon.ca.us](mailto:jlindley@ci.dixon.ca.us)

**Scope of Work:** City Attorney and Special Counsel Services

**Date of Services:** 2013-Present

## ***Reference 2: San Miguel Community Services District***

**Contact:** Kelly Dodds, General Manager

**Phone:** (805) 467-3388

**Email:** [kelly.dodds@sanmiguelcsd.org](mailto:kelly.dodds@sanmiguelcsd.org)

**Scope of Work:** General and Special Counsel Services

**Date of Services:** 2015-Present

## ***Reference 3: South San Joaquin County Fire Authority***

**Contact:** Randall Bradley, Fire Chief

**Phone:** (209) 831-6737

**Email:** [randall.bradley@sjcfire.org](mailto:randall.bradley@sjcfire.org)

**Scope of Work:** General Counsel and Special Counsel Services

**Date of Services:** 2020-Present

Additional municipal and public agency references are available upon request.

# Conclusion

## Conclusion

White Brenner is excited about this opportunity, and we would be pleased to provide General Counsel services to the Morongo Valley Community Services District & Fire Department. We encourage the District to focus on our qualifications, our commitment to the provision of quality legal services and exceptional service, as well as our ability to offer these services at the most cost-effective rates available. We hope that you will strongly consider offering our Firm the opportunity to interview with the District so we can discuss our qualifications and experience in more detail.

Thank you for your consideration. If you require any additional information, please contact me at 916.468.0947 or at [doug@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:doug@whitebrennerllp.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
WHITE BRENNER LLP



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Douglas L. White  
Managing Partner

# Attorney Resumes



**Christina M. Pritchard**  
Attorney

D 916.468.4678

[christina@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:christina@whitebrennerllp.com)

## EDUCATION

J.D., Lincoln Law School of Sacramento

A.A., MTI College, Paralegal Studies

CA Bar Admission Date: 11/2022

Bar No. 346040

Christina Pritchard has been with White Brenner LLP since just after its inception in 2013. Before joining White Brenner, Christina worked on complex civil litigation matters for Downey Brand, McDonough Holland & Allen and DLA Piper as a paralegal, specializing in health insurance contracts, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and hospital system compliance laws. Christina's dedication and diligence has helped White Brenner become one of the most trusted municipal law firms in Northern California.

Christina's focus is on litigation and general municipal matters. Her diverse experience in litigation management, privacy laws, and the broad scope of day-to-day legal matters affecting public agencies has prepared her to assist our clients on almost any legal issue. Christina's experience includes the Brown Act, Political Reform Act, Public Records Act, contracts and procurement, and real property development. Her areas of practice include civil litigation, real estate and land use, public law and employment law.

During law school, Christina worked full time at White Brenner, immersing herself in what it takes to be a White Brenner attorney. She accomplished all of this as a mother of three wonderful children. In her spare time, Christina enjoys relaxing with family and friends.

## Significant Projects and Representations:

- Assists all new public clients with an audit of their policies and procedures in order to identify areas of improvement or potential updates required to comply with current laws
- Over 10 years of HIPAA compliance experience, including policy review and preparation, as well as on-site visits to review office composition and identify areas of concern with regard to HIPAA
- Currently the point-person for all public clients' Public Records Act requests and third-party subpoenas
- Advises clients on Brown Act compliance
- Drafts ordinances and resolutions
- Drafts, negotiates, and advises clients on public contracts

- Assists clients with code enforcement matters, including obtaining judicial relief when necessary
- Advises public clients on personnel issues, policies, and employment agreements
- Over 17 years of litigation experience

#### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- J.D., Lincoln Law School of Sacramento (2022)
- A.A., MTI College, Paralegal Studies
- Completed the CSDA Special District Board Secretary/Clerk Program (2017)
- Member, California Lawyers Association, Public Law, Litigation, and Labor and Employment Law sections
- Member, Sacramento County Bar Association
- MTI College, Instructor, Introduction to Civil Litigation (2016-2018)
- MTI College, Instructor, Legal Ethics, Introduction to the Paralegal Profession, Client Interviewing, Investigation (2016-2018)
- Board Member, Sacramento Valley Paralegal Association (2007-2013)
- Advocate, Sacramento Court Appointed Special Advocates (2008-2010)
- Member, Heald College Advisory Board (2009-2015)



**Douglas L. White**  
Managing Partner

D 916.468.0947  
[doug@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:doug@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., University of California,  
Davis

CA Bar Admission Date: 5/2000

Bar No. 206705

As a founding and managing partner of White Brenner LLP, Doug White has set himself apart as a widely respected thought leader and legal practitioner. Doug's "clients first" approach is focused in the areas of real estate, land use, municipal law and litigation. His diverse groups of clients range from cities, counties, special districts, and other public agencies to private developers, builders, lenders, professional associations, unions and business owners. Doug has vast experience in land use entitlements and project approvals, CEQA and NEPA, real estate contracts and commercial transactions, leasing, building and project certifications, project financing, eminent domain, public contracting and regulatory and governmental affairs.

Doug currently serves as the City Attorney for the cities of Angels Camp, Arcata, Dixon, and Sonora, as well as Deputy City Attorney for the cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, Patterson, and Ceres, and is also special counsel for a number of other cities. Doug also serves as General Counsel to San Miguel Community Services District. As both a City Attorney and General Counsel, he advises public entities and officials on issues pertaining to the Brown Act, Political Reform Act, Public Records Act, public contracting, code enforcement, and other municipal and public law matters. In addition to his municipal work, Doug has also successfully represented his public and private clients in high-profile litigation matters and has obtained favorable judgments and settlements.

Prior to forming White Brenner, Doug served as legal counsel and Vice President of Government Affairs for the California Bankers Association as well as legal staff for the Fair Political Practices Commission. Doug also benefits from his extensive political experience as Chief of Staff, Legislative Director and consultant to various elected officials, including former Congressman Dennis Cardoza and former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

Doug has been recognized as one of the leading attorneys in the United States on issues related to renewable energy and sustainability and has been named by the *California Real Estate Journal* as one of California's Green Leaders. He has been selected as a Northern California Super Lawyer by *Super Lawyers Magazine* and been featured as a speaker and moderator at state and national conferences. Doug is an AV Rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell and has been

honored by his peers as Best of the Bar by the *Sacramento Business Journal* every year since 2014.

Doug is not only an innovative leader in his field, but also in the office. As managing partner, he leads by example, incorporating his business experience and technological know-how into ensuring White Brenner remains at the forefront in providing exceptional legal services to its clients.

## **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- As City Attorney, represents the cities of Angels Camp, Arcata, Dixon, and Sonora in all municipal and legal matters
- Deputy City Attorney for the cities of Ceres, Oakdale, Patterson, and Riverbank
- Facilitated the development of the Restoration Hardware distribution center in the City of Patterson, which is expected to generate over 350 new jobs for the City
- Guided the City of Patterson's efforts in processing the necessary city approvals for a project consisting of a 120-acre business park, expected to bring over 1,000 new jobs to the City
- Responsible for the planning of a 1,100-acre industrial and commercial business park for the City of Patterson
- Assist cities in the preparation and evaluation of general and specific plan updates and adoptions
- Represented the City of Riverbank in CEQA litigation, resulting in a \$4M settlement for the city
- Successfully mediated and settled litigation cases on behalf of both private and public clients

## **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Member, California State Bar, Real Estate and Environmental Sections
- Member, Sacramento County Bar Association
- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers™ in America* 2021 Edition, Real Estate Law

- Northern California Super Lawyer
- Top Lawyer, *Sacramento Magazine*



**Barbara A. Brenner**  
Partner

D 916.468.0625

[barbara@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:barbara@whitebrennerllp.com)

## EDUCATION

L.L.M., Pace University School of Law

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., Sonoma State University

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/1989

Bar No. 142222

Barbara A. Brenner is a partner of White Brenner LLP with extensive experience in the areas of natural resources, environmental, land use, energy and municipal law. Prior to joining White Brenner, Barbara was a partner at Stoel Rives LLP, practicing in their natural resources and environmental group as well as land use. As a leader of the White Brenner team, Barbara advises public and private clients in general municipal matters, regulatory compliance, transactional and litigation matters predominantly in water resources, endangered species, land use, and eminent domain. She currently serves as General Counsel to Grizzly Flats Community Water District, Reclamation District 799, and San Lorenzo Valley Water District, and Special Counsel to the cities of Arroyo Grande, Banning, San Bruno, Dixon and Patterson, as well as to Merced Irrigation District, San Joaquin County, and San Miguel Community Services District.

Barbara's municipal practice includes serving as general and special counsel to special districts, joint power agencies, cities, and counties. Barbara regularly advises on compliance with the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Public Contract Code, as well as various other laws impacting public agencies.

In the area of water resources, Barbara has extensive experience with the protection and acquisition of water resources, water contract interpretation and negotiations, water supply planning and assessments, aquifer storage and recovery, water transfers and water quality. Barbara's in-depth experience in water law allows her to represent water districts and other purveyors, growers, ranchers, and other rural landowners, as well as various industry clients, including those involved in the agricultural, timber, renewable energy, and land use and development sectors that are addressing California's myriad of water supply and quality challenges.

Within her natural resources practice, Barbara assists clients with the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, wetlands, land conservation permitting, and related litigation.

Barbara's land use practice includes representing private land owners, developers, and public agencies in matters involving local government planning and zoning, Coastal Act permitting, CEQA and NEPA compliance, Clean Water Act compliance, land development strategy, eminent domain and related litigation.

## **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- General Counsel to San Lorenzo Valley Water District, Grizzly Flats Community Water District, and Reclamation District 799
- Special Counsel to the cities of Arroyo Grande, Banning, San Bruno, Dixon, and Patterson, as well as to Merced Irrigation District, San Joaquin County, and San Miguel Community Services District
- Lead counsel for an irrigation district through the federal and state entitlements for the development of a water banking project, including state and federal endangered species consultation
- Assisting a biomass project through the land use permit approval process involving CEQA compliance and air permitting including subsequent legal challenges to the favorable permits obtained
- Lead endangered species counsel for a variety of solar and wind projects

## **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Member, American Bar Association, Natural Resources, Environmental and Litigation Sections, 1984-Present
- Member, Agribusiness Subcommittee Business Law Section, State Bar of California, 2011-Present
- Member, Referendum Review Committee, California Women Lawyers
- Member, Legal Committee, Association of California Water Agencies, 2010-2023
- Member, Federal Committee, Association of California Water Agencies, 2007-2009
- Member, American Council of Engineers of California, Water Resources and Land Use Planning Committees
- Board Member, Placer Land Trust

- Selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers<sup>™</sup> in America* 2018-2024 Editions, Environmental Law and Natural Resources Law
- Northern California Super Lawyer
- Martindale-Hubbell<sup>®</sup> Distinguished<sup>SM</sup> Rated
- Top Lawyers, *Sacramento Magazine*



**Randy Pollack**  
Partner

D 916.468.0621

[randy@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:randy@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., State University of  
New York, Buffalo

CA Bar Admission Date: 06/1987

Bar No. 127933

Randy Pollack is a seasoned expert in government and regulatory affairs, focusing on lobbying and strategic advocacy for businesses and trade associations in California. With over 30 years of experience, he has adeptly navigated legislative and regulatory issues related to chemical policy, consumer products, financial services, privacy, water, and franchise relationships.

Additionally, he has extensive knowledge in working with the California Department of Food & Agriculture, Cal-EPA, Department of Health Services, Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, and various other state agencies and departments to resolve issues on behalf of his clients. In a November 2009 survey, California Legislators voted Randy as the “Most Underrated Lobbyist” working at the Capitol—a testament to the effective and pragmatic approach he employs on behalf of his clients.

Before founding White Brenner LLP, Randy founded his own firm focusing on legislative and regulatory affairs. Prior to that, Randy was a shareholder of a national law firm where he crafted and directed legislative and regulatory strategies for Fortune 500 companies and trade associations. Randy’s distinguished government experience includes serving as Chief Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary to former Governor George Deukmejian, where he counseled the Governor and senior staff on a variety of legal, public policy and legislative issues. As Chief Consultant to the Assembly of Agriculture Committee, he oversaw vital issues affecting California’s \$20 billion agricultural industry. In addition, Randy served as legal advisor to the California Public Employment Relations Board.

#### Significant Projects and Representations:

- Advocated for and passed legislation requiring third-party franchise brokers to register with the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, enhancing consumer protection and transparency
- Successfully passed legislation mandating that physicians counsel patients on alternatives to opioid prescriptions, addressing the opioid crisis and promoting safer pain management options
- Collaborated with businesses to ensure adherence to California’s stringent plastic packaging laws, supporting environmental sustainability and compliance

- Played a key role in a coalition that successfully defeated legislation aimed at redesigning consumer products, preventing costly redesigns for businesses
- Represented a California direct seller in passing legislation that makes it easier for companies who are exporting products to other countries to obtain approval by the California Department of Public Health in an expedited manner
- Represented a data management company in defeating legislation that would have made it difficult for businesses to market consumers through online ads

#### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Speaker, Synthetic Turf Conference – Topic: microplastics, extended producer responsibility PFAS, 2024
- Speaker, Pacific Water Quality Association – Topic: California's SAFER Program and member engagement
- Speaker, California Ground Water Association – Topic: working with the California State Water Board and the Legislature
- Chief Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary to former Governor George Deukmejian
- Chief Consultant, Assembly Agriculture Committee
- Legal Advisor, California Public Employment Relations Board
- Northern California Super Lawyer
- AV® Peer Review Rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell
- Member, California State Bar
- Member, New York State Bar



## **Nubia I. Goldstein**

Partner

D 916.468.0946

[nubia@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:nubia@whitebrennerllp.com)

### EDUCATION

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., California State University,  
Sacramento

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/2010

Bar No. 272305

### LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent)

If Nubia Goldstein's career seems perfectly tailored towards municipal law, that's because it is. From majoring in Government at California State University, Sacramento to choosing Public Law and Policy as her academic focus at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Nubia has developed a background in politics and policy that continually influences her diverse public agency work today.

As part of the White Brenner LLP team, Nubia's areas of practice include real estate and land use, litigation, eminent domain and legislative advocacy. Nubia serves as City Attorney for the cities of Newman, Ceres and Patterson and Deputy City Attorney to the cities of Angels Camp, Arcata, Dixon, and Sonora, as well as General Counsel to the California Electronic Recording Transaction Network Authority (CeRTNA) and San Simeon Community Services District and Special Counsel to the city of Redwood City. She advises White Brenner LLP's municipal and special district clients on issues related to the Brown Act, conflicts of interest, election law and land use matters. She represents the firm's public and private clients in all stages of litigation, mediation and alternative dispute resolution. She is a member of the Public Law section of the California State Bar, a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, and a registered lobbyist.

Before entering law school, Nubia gained legislative experience working at the Capitol for a California Assemblywoman and political know-how while working on local election campaigns. The time spent staffing bills and communicating with constituents and lobbyists naturally carried over to her desire to practice law. While at McGeorge, Nubia participated in several student organizations and served as President and Executive Chair of McGeorge's Public Legal Services Society. In addition to graduating with distinction, she earned the Witkin Award for Excellence in two courses, was admitted to the Traynor Honor Society, and received the Outstanding Student service Award for her significant contributions to the McGeorge community.

Outside of her academic honors, Nubia built upon her governmental relations and legal experience at the California Attorney General's Office, Fair Political Practices Commission, and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. She also previously worked in the Civil Law and Motion Department of the Sacramento County Superior Court. The accumulation of all these experiences naturally drew Nubia towards municipal law as an intersection of politics, policy, and law.

## **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- City Attorney for the cities of Newman, Ceres, and Patterson
- Deputy City Attorney for Angels Camp, Arcata, Dixon, and Sonora
- Representing the City of Patterson in all aspects of litigation with local developers
- Representing local business owners in obtaining entitlements for emerging industries
- Advising public agency clients in evaluating compliance with California and federal election laws
- Represented the City of Patterson in litigation regarding environmental and permit conditions related to storm drainage
- Assisting the City of Newman in developing an urban growth boundary
- Representing solar developers in obtaining entitlements and drafting contracts related to large-scale photovoltaic systems
- Represented the City of Riverbank in CEQA litigation, resulting in a \$4M settlement for the city

## **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Member, Hispanic National Bar Association
- Registered Lobbyist
- President and Executive Chair of McGeorge's Public Legal Services Society
- Recipient, Witkin Award for Excellence
- Member, Traynor Honor Society
- Recipient, Outstanding Student Service Award
- Contributor and Reviewer, California Municipal Law Handbook
- Contributor and Reviewer, California Special District Association's Sample Policy Handbook

- Selected for inclusion as a Super Lawyers Rising Star
- Best of the Bar, *Sacramento Business Journal*
- Top Lawyers, *Sacramento Magazine*
- Selected Participant, Latina Commission 2017 Leadership Academy, Hispanic National Bar Association
- Designated National Institute for Trial Advocacy Training (NITA) Advocate



**Angela Schrimp de la Vergne**  
Partner

D 916.468.0859

[angela@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:angela@whitebrennerllp.com)

**EDUCATION**

J.D., University of California,  
Davis, School of Law

A.B., Stanford University

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/1993

Bar No. 166521

Angela Schrimp de la Vergne is a partner of White Brenner LLP with nearly 30 years of experience in civil litigation, business counseling and real estate. Prior to joining White Brenner, Angela was a shareholder at Damrell, Nelson, Schrimp, Pallios & Silva, a pre-eminent litigation firm in the Central Valley, where she practiced with her father, Roger Schrimp. Prior to Damrell, Angela was a partner at Knox, Lemmon, Anapolsky & Schrimp. As a native of Oakdale, Angela has strong ties to the Central Valley and its agricultural businesses.

During her 30 years of practice, Angela has amassed significant litigation experience in multiple areas, including commercial transactions, real estate disputes, corporate dissolutions, business operating disputes and landlord tenant. Angela's transactional experience spans corporate and entity formation and dissolutions, secured transactions, real property transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and employment counseling. Angela's diverse clients range from multi-generational agricultural businesses to single-person start-ups. Angela brings her breadth of experience to every client and every issue, which positions her to "problem solve" from multiple angles. A versatile litigator, Angela understands how a litigation matter might affect other areas of a client's business. Angela's litigation background includes diverse experience, from issues involving rail transportation to creditor representation in bankruptcy.

Angela is an AV-rated attorney and was included as a 2022 Northern California Super-Lawyer in the areas of civil litigation and corporate counseling. Angela is a fellow in the American Leadership Forum, Mountain Valley Chapter (Class XI), past president of The Effort (now known as WellSpace Health) and is a past hearing board member of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District.

**Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Successfully litigated outcomes in many matters including disputes between owners of businesses, involuntary corporate dissolutions, contract interpretation, real estate matters, secured transactions, creditor claims, landlord tenant, and employment
- Successfully guides companies through transitions in ownership, including selling the business and bringing in new owners

- Represented lender in placing loans of over \$120M in the Sacramento region and then selling that portfolio
- Provides advice and general counsel to businesses that do not have in-house counsel in the areas of corporate governance, employment matters, contract drafting, and handling disputes with clients.
- Represents clients in bid protests involving state contracts

**Professional Honors and Activities:**

- J.D., UC Davis School of Law
- A.B., History, Stanford University
- Member, California State Bar, Real Estate and Litigation Sections
- Member, Sacramento County Bar Association
- Member, Sacramento Women Lawyers
- Member, California Women Lawyers
- Member, Anthony M. Kennedy Inn of Court
- Northern California Super Lawyer, 2022
- Court Admissions: Eastern District, Northern District, Central District, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal



**Elisabeth L. White**  
Partner

D 916.468.0949  
[elisabeth@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:elisabeth@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., University of California,  
Santa Barbara

CA Bar Admission Date: 6/2008

Bar No. 256966

Elisabeth L. White is a partner with White Brenner LLP whose practice focuses on issues related to healthcare law, administrative law, and government affairs. As a registered lobbyist, Elisabeth has assisted a wide variety of both public agencies and private companies. Her experience as an attorney sets her apart as a lobbyist, providing her with a thorough understanding into the nuances of legislation and the language of a bill.

Prior to joining White Brenner LLP, Elisabeth lobbied on behalf of Costco Wholesale, the California Construction Trucking Association, West Basin Municipal Water District, the City of La Canada Flintridge, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Elisabeth represented the City of Inglewood and advocated on their behalf before the California State Legislature. A significant project of impact involved working with Southern California water agencies and other Southern California cities to successfully oppose the City and its residents from being charged additional money for the water they were receiving.

Apart from lobbying, Elisabeth also advises clients on issues related to healthcare compliance, State licensing and certification, Medicare certification, Medicare and Medi-Cal enrollment and complex healthcare agreements. She also advises clients on, among other things, required governmental filings (e.g., Statement of Economic Interests) and political law issues including committee and campaign reporting.

Elisabeth has represented large hospital systems, foundations and physician groups. She has also worked in an in-house setting as a law clerk for both UC Davis Health System and Dignity Health. As a legislative advocate, she advanced the interests and priorities of healthcare organizations, Southern California cities, large corporations and special interest associations before the State Legislature. Elisabeth is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association and the California Society for Health Care Attorneys. She was named a 2015, 2016 and 2017 Rising Star by *Super Lawyers Magazine* in the areas of Government Relations, State, Local & Municipal Law, and Health Care.

#### **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Worked with a team of attorneys and regulatory specialists for a major health organization to accomplish

a change of ownership with applications pending before the California and Federal Administration, including the Department of Public Health, Board of Pharmacy, Medi-Cal, Department of Social Services, and many others

- Actively tracked legislation and lobbyist dealings related to all rail issues in order to catch key California transportation and regional growth issues for the San Diego Association of Governments
- Successfully blocked legislation to raise water rates as a representative of the City of Inglewood and part of a coalition of Los Angeles County water agencies
- Assisted the California Construction Trucking Association with a variety of administrative issues, including wage and hour regulations

#### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Super Lawyers Rising Star
- Registered Lobbyist
- Member, American Health Lawyers Association
- Member, California Society for Health Care Lawyers
- Attorney, DL White Law Group
- Law Clerk, UC Davis Health System
- Law Clerk, Dignity Health (formerly CHW)
- J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
- B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara



**William W. Abbott**  
Of Counsel

D 916.425.0571

[BillAbbott@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:BillAbbott@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., University of California, Davis

CA Bar Admission Date: 11/1978

CA Bar No. 83976

William “Bill” Abbott has over 40 years of experience representing private property owners, private developers, and public agencies throughout California with respect to land use, real estate, and development issues. Bill’s areas of practice include land use and planning law, real estate law, local government, and environmental law (CEQA and NEPA).

As special counsel on numerous land use matters, his experience includes lead counsel for major development projects, trial and appellate advocacy, and counseling pertaining to initiatives and referenda involving land use approvals. Locally, Bill has advised developers and property owners on development issues throughout Northern California. He has similar experience in representing public agencies from all over the state, including numerous cities, counties, Local Agency Formation Commissions, and special districts all the way from Siskiyou County to the City of Calexico.

A long-time instructor, lecturer, editor, and author in matters related to land use law, Bill has also served as a mediator, arbitrator, and as an expert witness on California land use proceedings in state and federal court.

Prior to joining White Brenner LLP, Bill served as Of Counsel at Abbott & Kindermann, Inc., a Sacramento-based law firm focusing on land use issues. He also previously served as Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, responsible for the Local Government Unit, before moving to private practice.

Over the course of his career, Bill has been awarded an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell, recognized by Best Lawyers in America®, selected for inclusion to the Northern California Super Lawyers list, and named as a top twenty-five attorney in Sacramento.

#### **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Successful general plan and CEQA defense of major policy initiatives approved by the County of El Dorado
- Successful defense of the Tehama County General Plan and EIR before the Third Appellate Court
- Extensive experience in trial and appellate court litigation
- The Eagle Crest Pump Storage Energy Project: a 1100+ megawatt pump storage hydroelectric project located in the Chuckwalla Valley, reusing the former Kaiser iron mine site

- Timilick Golf and Residential Project: a destination golf and residential project located in Martis Valley
- Dyer Mountain: a 4-season resort community in Lassen County

#### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
- B.A., University of California, Davis
- Member, California State Bar
- AV<sup>®</sup> Peer Review Rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbel
- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers<sup>™</sup> in America* 2009-2026 Editions
- Northern California Super Lawyer, 2004 – 2026
- Top 25: Sacramento Super Lawyers, 2016 – 2017, 2019
- Top 100: Northern California Super Lawyers, 2010



**Tom Hallinan**  
Of Counsel

D 209.324.6205  
[tom@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:tom@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., Lincoln Law School of  
Sacramento

B.A., California State University,  
Fresno

CA Bar Admission Date: 06/1994

Bar No. 170196

Tom Hallinan brings a career's worth of extensive municipal knowledge to the White Brenner team. Tom has represented over ten cities and special districts and currently represents the cities of Oakdale and Riverbank as City Attorney. He has also served as Special District General Counsel to the communities of Grayson, Crows Landing, and Empire. As such, he is experienced in providing legal advice on the Brown Act, Political Reform Act, Public Records Act, contracts and procurement, and all phases of real property development including public finance. He also prosecutes all municipal code violations.

A 20-year member of the Central Valley City Attorney's Association, Tom is also active in the League of California Cities' City Attorney Department, where he has served as the Department's representative to the Annual Conference Planning Committee and on the Transportation, Communication and Public Works Committee. In addition, he assists the League's Legal Advocacy Committee as an appointed representative of the Central Valley.

Tom is an elected member of the Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees, where he is currently serving his fifth four-year term. He also serves on the Stanislaus-Ceres Oversight Board of the former Redevelopment Agency, and the Stanislaus County Assessment Appeals Board. Hallinan has served as a Governor's appointee to the 38<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association, and on numerous local non-profit boards and commissions. In 2015, Tom was appointed to the California Law Revision Commission by Governor Brown. He has also served as an appointed member of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee of the California Gambling Control Commission.

Prior to joining White Brenner LLP, Tom worked in the California Legislature, and for the State of California, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Having served for two decades as both an elected official and federal, state, county and city appointee, Tom is knowledgeable of and works well with all government agencies.

#### **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- As City Attorney, represents the cities of Oakdale and Riverbank in all municipal and legal matters

- Represented the City of Oakdale in preparing and evaluating general and specific plan updates for development projects
- Advises cities on Prop 218 matters and negotiates related franchise agreements
- Represented the City of Patterson in land use and City code matters to expedite economic development projects, such as the Restoration Hardware distribution center

#### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Member, Gaming Policy Advisory Committee or the California Gambling Control Commission
- Chairperson, California Law Revision Commission
- Governor's Appointee, 38<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association
- Board Member, Stanislaus County Assessment Appeals Board
- Board Member, Stanislaus-Ceres Oversight Board of the former Redevelopment Agency
- Elected Member, Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees
- Central Valley Representative, League of California Cities' Legal Advocacy Committee
- Member, Central Valley City Attorney's Association
- Northern California Super Lawyer
- Top Lawyer, *Sacramento Magazine*



**Debra Hinshaw Vierra**  
Of Counsel

D 916.468.4243

[debra@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:debra@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., Santa Clara University,  
School of Law

B.A., University of California,  
Santa Barbara

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/1983

Bar No. 110672

With over 25 years of employment law experience, Debra Hinshaw Vierra is a recognized and trusted source of advice to human resources professionals and public and private employers all over the state. Her extensive experience includes representing employers in collective bargaining negotiations and arbitrations; unfair labor practice and representation proceedings; and all types of employment discrimination and harassment proceedings, from mediation and administrative proceedings through litigation. She also advises both public and private clients on disability accommodation, family and medical leave issues, personnel policies, and employment agreements.

One of the key components of Deb's practice is her exhaustive experience in conducting workplace investigations. Throughout her career, she has conducted over 275 workplace investigations, an area where she excels not only on her knowledge of the law, but on her critical thinking, research, and communications skills. As a result, Deb has been retained by both private and public entities to advise on in-house investigations, as well as to conduct neutral third-party investigations. The range of claims that she has investigated include claims of harassment, discrimination and retaliation; failure to investigate; failure to reasonably accommodate; theft and destruction of Company trade secrets and other company property; ethical violations; actual and threatened workplace violence; and other violations of employer policies and practices. Her background and training ensure thorough investigations and sound conclusions supported by evidence.

Prior to joining White Brenner, Deb served as Of Counsel at Cook Brown LLP, as a shareholder at Littler Mendelson, the nation's largest labor and employment firm, and was a founding partner of Employment Law Counsel, LLP.

As a noted expert in her practice, Deb is often asked to author, teach, and lecture on employment law matters, and is frequently called upon to provide expert testimony on the adequacy of workplace investigations. She also provides customized workplace training for both managerial and non-managerial staff on subjects such as sexual harassment, discrimination, and management practices.

Deb is admitted to practice before all California state courts and all U.S. District Courts in the State of California.

## **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Provides advice and counsel, training on management practices and harassment, discrimination and diversity awareness for private and public associations, public agencies, local governments, and companies in a wide range of industries, including construction, manufacturing, restaurant, service, and banking
- Negotiated collective bargaining agreements for healthcare, food processing, manufacturing, and mining industry clients
- Successfully guided companies in the food processing, healthcare, manufacturing, entertainment, and wine industries through union organizing attempts
- Investigated student and employee complaints of discrimination and harassment in several school districts
- Represented elected officials during investigations into alleged misconduct
- Conducted a department-wide sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and bullying investigation for several California counties
- Conducted an agency-wide harassment and retaliation investigation for a California special district
- Conducted a department-wide investigation involving pregnancy, age, gender, and sexual discrimination and harassment claims, as well as employee theft claims, for a California special district

## **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Sustaining Member, AOWI (Association of Workplace Investigators)
- Member, AOWI Seminar Committee
- Member, AOWI Local Circle
- Member, California State Bar Association, Labor and Employment Section
- Northern California Super Lawyer

- Judicial Clerk to Presiding Justice, California Court of Appeal, 4th District
- Board Member, St. Francis High School Parent Guild
- Assistant Chair, Christian Brothers Auction/Holy Bowl Fundraiser



**Kerry Fuller**  
Senior Attorney

D 916.468.0950  
[kerry@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:kerry@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., University of California, Davis  
School of Law

B.A., University of California,  
Santa Barbara

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/2013

Bar No. 292466

Kerry Fuller's exposure to California's complex water system started early. Her father worked as an engineer for a water agency in the San Bernardino Valley, and through discussions and observation of his work, Kerry became fascinated with the vast web of infrastructure and accompanying laws and agreements that govern California's water.

In her legal practice, Kerry takes this early interest and applies it in the context of public, water, land use, and environmental law. She provides advice and counsel to the Firm's clients on those subject matters and focuses on mentorship and training of the Firm's attorneys in the early stages of practice. She currently serves as Deputy City Attorney to the City of Newman and Deputy General Counsel to Del Paso Manor Water District, Rio Linda-Elverta Community Water District, North Yuba Water District and Reclamation District 799. She also advises the firm's other public agency clients on a variety of matters including the Brown Act, Public Records Act and Political Reform Act.

After graduating from the University of California, Santa Barbara with degrees in Political Science and Psychology, Kerry spent several years working in Washington D.C. for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential primary campaign, as well as for Defenders of Wildlife, an environmental nonprofit. It was there, encouraged by her mentors and still fascinated by California's water system, that Kerry became inspired to become a lawyer. As a result, Kerry returned to California, where she graduated from the University of California, Davis with her Juris Doctor. She has worked as a law clerk at the California Attorney General's Office in the Environment, Land Law, and Natural Resources Section.

From inspiration to actuality, Kerry now flexes her decision-making and problem-solving skills as a member of the White Brenner team. Kerry is a member of the California State Bar and channels all her experiences into her municipal, water, and environmental practices.

#### **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Deputy General Counsel to Del Paso Manor Water District, Rio Linda-Elverta Community Water District, North Yuba Water District, and Reclamation District 799
- Successfully participated in establishing prescriptive groundwater rights through a jury trial on behalf of a public agency
- Engaged in water right defense hearings for both public and private clients
- Regularly provides conflict of interest, Brown Act, and general counsel advice to public entities

- Participated in the successful defense at the trial court level of CEQA documents used by public agencies in approvals of a land use development project
- Served as the point of contact in shepherding land use development projects through the implementation process in several California jurisdictions
- Drafting ordinances that were successfully adopted in several California cities with topics including limiting the sale and use of e-cigarettes, establishing rules regarding city-owned skate park use, and noise control regulations

**Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Super Lawyers Rising Star, Environmental
- Top Lawyers, *Sacramento Magazine*
- Member, California State Bar
- Law clerk at the California Attorney General's Office; Environment, Land Law, and Natural Resources Sections
- Intern for California Assembly Member, Anthony Rendon



**Maria Fatima Gioletti**  
Senior Attorney

D 209.535.7153  
[fatima@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:fatima@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., Santa Clara University  
School of Law

B.A., California State University,  
Stanislaus

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/2001

Bar No. 218335

#### LANGUAGES

Portuguese (fluent)

Fatima Gioletti joins White Brenner as a senior attorney, bringing over twenty years of experience handling business and agricultural litigation and transactional matters for clients in the Central San Joaquin Valley from the Sacramento Delta to Fresno.

Fatima comes from a strong farming background, having been born and raised on her family's dairy farm in Hilmar, California, and being married to a fourth-generation dairy farmer in Turlock. Fatima and her husband have an active household raising three busy children and being steeped in their country community. In addition to dairying, Fatima's family farms forage almond crops in the Central Valley, as well as peaches.

Fatima has represented clients in various aspects of the agricultural industry, handling transactional and litigation matters involving landlord/tenant relationships, employment issues, animal feed contamination, feed and mineral transportation, pesticide drift, almond and other crop disputes, feed and cattle supply liens, farm equipment and real property purchase agreements, insurance coverage, eminent domain, public agency, and other areas. Fatima also handles general business and civil litigation and transactional matters and has been involved in several complex litigation matters in federal, state, and out-of-state courts, including several matters before the California Courts of Appeal and having briefed public agency issues before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Fatima earned her juris doctorate degree from Santa Clara University School of Law and while there, received the Richard R. Rosenberg Prize for Excellence in Labor Law and a Cal Jur Award for Employment Law. Prior to that, Fatima graduated summa cum laude from California State University, Stanislaus and was named the 1998 Department of Criminal Justice Outstanding Student of the Year.

Being the daughter of Azorean immigrants, Fatima is fluent in Portuguese and regularly participates in cultural and religious events. Fatima and her husband serve on various local and industry boards and stewardship committees, including having chaired weekend-long parish festival events that generate the annual operating income for their parish. Fatima also volunteers teaching weekly religious education classes and is a founding director of a non-profit called *Spirit of Father Mata*, an organization that continues her family's commitment to supporting ministries that serve children and elderly people in need.

#### Significant Projects and Representations:

- Areas of practice include agricultural law, business law, business transactions, pesticide contamination, and family and small business dissolutions
- Additional areas of practice include complex business litigation, general civil litigation, and employment litigation

- Represents clients in various aspects of the agricultural industry, including handling transactional and litigation matters involving landlord/tenant relationships, employment issues, animal feed contamination, feed and cattle supply liens and more
- Handles general business, civil litigation and transactional matters and has been involved in several complex litigation matters in federal, state and out-of-state courts
- Briefed public agency issues before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

#### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law, 2001
- Member, Stanislaus County Bar Association
- Member, California Women for Agriculture
- Member, State Bar of California
- Recipient, Richard R. Rosenberg Prize for Excellence in Labor Law
- Recipient, Cal Jur Award for Employment Law
- Summa cum laude (Criminal Justice), California State University, Stanislaus, 1998
- Outstanding Student of the Year, 1998 Department of Criminal Justice
- Founding Director, *Spirit of Father Mata* non-profit



**William Creger**  
Senior Attorney

D 916.468.0945  
[william@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:william@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., University of California, Davis

CA Bar Admission Date: 04/2007

Bar No. 248697

A seasoned labor and employment attorney, Will Creger represented both employers and unions before joining White Brenner. His diverse experience affords him a unique perspective when addressing challenges faced by the Firm's clients. In addition to providing his organizational clients with advice and training on a wide variety of subjects as their general counsel, Will has defended their interests in all phases of union organizational campaigns and collective bargaining processes, including prosecuting and defending unfair labor practice charges and complaints.

Will prides himself on his ability to find creative resolutions to disputes and his capacity to maintain congenial and long-term relationships with the people on the other side of the bargaining table. When settlement has proven elusive, Will has successfully represented his clients in a litany of judicial and quasi-judicial forums including state superior and appellate courts, the National Labor Relations Board, the Public Employment Relations Board, the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, the Office of Administrative Hearings, the State Personnel Board, the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, the Department of Fair Employment and Housing/ Civil Rights Department, and the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

As a former advocate for public safety unions, Will has comprehensive familiarity with all facets of the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act, the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act, the Meyers-Milias Brown Act, and related legislation. He is practiced in workplace investigations and has consistently obtained positive results for his clients through a myriad of disciplinary appeals, grievances, impasse procedures, and other disputes related to collective bargaining agreements before arbitrators, administrative law judges, and various panels, commissions, and tribunals.

In his free time, Will enjoys the outdoors with his family and his Australian Cattle Dog, Merlin.

#### **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Represented large public safety unions and non-profits as general counsel
- Represented multi-state agricultural employers and subsidiaries
- Negotiated collective bargaining agreements and successor agreements for California Employers
- Defended employers in serious and willful misconduct petitions

- Awarded a record attorney's fee by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, which was upheld on appeal
- Advised local businesses and non-profits on employment matters
- Served as a panel attorney for the Peace Officers Research Association of California's Legal Defense Fund

**Professional Honors and Activities:**

- J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
- B.A., Political Science, University of California, Davis
- Member, California State Bar
- Frequent key lecturer on the Meyers-Milias Brown Act, public-sector collective bargaining, the Peace Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act, the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act, and workplace investigations of public employees
- Lectured at employer symposiums on union avoidance, unfair labor practices, and wage and hour compliance



**Rachel Rappaport**  
Senior Attorney

[rachel@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:rachel@whitebrennerllp.com)

#### EDUCATION

J.D., University of Washington,  
School of Law

B.A., University of Oregon

WA Bar Admission Date: 05/2011

WA Bar No. 43600

CA Bar Admission Date: 05/2024

CA Bar No. 355736

Rachel Rappaport joins White Brenner LLP with over ten years of experience as a practicing attorney. After graduating from the University of Washington School of Law, Rachel worked at small law firms before transitioning into an Assistant Attorney General role with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General. As an Assistant Attorney General, Rachel regularly appeared in court and represented her state agency client in trials and appeals. Rachel was also part of her client agency's legal headquarters team where she provided advice on a wide range of matters under state and federal law.

Before law school, Rachel developed a passion for creative problem solving through her work in dispute resolution. Although Rachel is an experienced litigator, she is also trained in mediation and works with her clients to find the most efficient and cost-effective ways to resolve disputes. In addition, Rachel has experience helping to improve state agency processes and efficiencies as a performance auditor with the California State Auditor's Office. Most recently, Rachel investigated discrimination and harassment complainants as an investigator at a large California public university's Equal Employment Opportunity and Title IX Office.

Rachel has been licensed by the Washington State Bar Association since 2011. She recently passed the California bar exam and was admitted to the California State Bar in May 2024.

#### Significant Projects and Representations:

- Completed more than 20 internal investigations including intake, case assessment, gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses, and report issuance
- Facilitated trainings for UCLA staff on the University of California's Nondiscrimination and Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment policies
- Managed caseload of approximately 60 ongoing child welfare matters from 2014 to 2017 including motion practice and trials
- Selected to join team of Assistant Attorneys General to provide agency leadership with counsel on statewide policy and legal issues
- Conducted presentations at multiple child welfare conferences and facilitated statewide trainings for Assistant Attorneys General on child welfare matters

#### Professional Honors and Activities:

- J.D., University of Washington, School of Law
- B.A., Psychology, University of Oregon

- Professional Mediation Skills Training Program, University of Washington School of Law
- Staff Appreciation and Recognition (STAR) Award Recipient, University of California Los Angeles
- Performance Plus Award Recipient, Washington State Office of the Attorney General
- Co-author, “Low Bono: Serving Those with Real Needs but Limited Means,” published in *NW Lawyer*
- Member, California State Bar
- Member, Washington State Bar
- Co-Chair, Juvenile Law Section Executive Committee

**Andrea Crowl**  
Attorney

D 916.458.4932  
[andrea@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:andrea@whitebrennerllp.com)

**EDUCATION**

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
School of Law

B.S., University of California,  
Berkeley

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/2016

CA Bar No. 313624

Andrea Crowl has nearly 9 years of legal experience as an attorney with the state, local firms, and public agencies, including serving as Senior Litigation Counsel for CalSTR. Her practice includes an emphasis in environmental law and civil litigation.

A Stanislaus County native, Andrea grew up surrounded by a wide variety of agriculture, which instilled in her a deep respect for the environment at an early age. She began her legal career by receiving a B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley in Society and Environment and then attended University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where she received a Certificate of Concentration in Environmental Law.

Andrea joined White Brenner LLP in the fall of 2025 with the goal of getting back to her roots – applying her litigation experience in the land use and environmental law arena.

**Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Litigated matters on behalf of California State Teachers' Retirement System
- Litigated successful outcomes for injured victims, including personal injury, wrongful death, and complex wildfire litigation

**Professional Honors and Activities:**

- Certificate of Concentration in Environmental Law
- 2022-2023 Super Lawyers “Rising Star”
- 2020-2023 National Trial Lawyers “Top 40 Under 40”
- Witkin Award, Taking and Defending Depositions
- Witkin Award, Persuasive Written and Oral Advocacy
- J.D., University of the Pacific, School of Law
- Honors in Advanced Legal Research
- Member, California State Bar



**Joshua Varinsky**  
Attorney

D 916.468.4578  
[josh@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:josh@whitebrennerllp.com)

**EDUCATION**

J.D., University of California,  
Davis, School of Law

M.A., University of Southern  
California

B.A., Tulane University

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/2019

Bar No. 328951

Joshua Varinsky's traversing of cities, both domestic and abroad, landed him in the fields of land use and municipal law. At White Brenner, Josh focuses on land use and planning matters for the firm's municipal clients. His background in urban planning and public policy helps him tackle regulatory issues affecting all tiers of government. Josh's areas of practice include planning and zoning law, the Subdivision Map Act, CEQA, housing, development agreements, public finance and Local Agency Formation Commissions.

During law school at the University of California, Davis, Josh held internships with the Oakland City Attorney's Office and the California Attorney General's Office. Josh also spent a semester in Washington, D.C., externing in the Rulemaking Division of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. For his Master of Urban Planning at the University of Southern California, Josh concentrated in economic development and real estate finance, interning with affordable housing and economic development firms.

Josh graduated from Tulane University with majors in Political Science and Spanish. After college, Josh worked in Texas, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Eventually, Josh made his way to Sacramento, not far from his upbringing in Oakland.

When not solving land use and local government puzzles, you can often find Josh at the golf course or a neighborhood music venue. If you cannot find him, he probably snuck off to New Orleans.

**Significant Projects and Representations:**

- 5+ years of Local Government Experience
- City Attorney for the City of Ione
- Deputy General Counsel for Reclamation District 799, a special district with responsibility for levee and drainage facilities
- Deputy General Counsel for Groveland Community Services District
- Deputy General Counsel for Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District
- City of Dixon General Plan 2040 Update, including EIR review, and drafting of resolutions and CEQA findings.

- Advised City of Newman through mail ballot election for annexation of 362 acres into city limits, to advance development of Master Plan for residential, business park, and public uses.
- Drafted Development Agreement for ~130 acres planned for residential and commercial uses in City of Patterson.
- Prepared ordinances establishing development fees on properties within Specific Plan to reimburse Master Developer for infrastructure and entitlement costs.
- Advised municipality through 4-mile sewer trunk line repair project, including review of historic easements and construction routes, and drafted property owner notification letters and access agreements.
- Facilitated suspension of growth-control ordinance, as part of Housing Element Update and compliance with the Housing Crisis Act.
- Drafted Improvement and Maintenance Agreement between Developer and Reclamation District, as well a Joint CFD Maintenance Agreement between City of Oakley and Reclamation District regarding construction of new levees and drainage facilities as part of a 409-acre subdivision.
- Facilitated redevelopment of former U.S. Army ammunition plant requiring conveyance of 5 parcels from Federal Government to City of Riverbank, and subsequent transfer from City to Master Industrial Developer; site included on National Priorities List under Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Federal “Superfund” statute).
- Guided city clients through processing SB-330 applications for large residential subdivisions.
- Advised City Elections Official through initiative ballot measure to restrict urban development and maintain agricultural and open space lands.
- Represented clients in writ proceedings involving CEQA and State Planning and Zoning Law challenges.

#### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- J.D., UC Davis School of Law

- Member, California State Bar
- Witkin Award – Local & State Government

**Gage Marchini**  
Attorney

D 916.468.4672  
[gage@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:gage@whitebrennerllp.com)

EDUCATION

J.D., University of the Pacific,  
McGeorge School of Law

B.A., California State University,  
Fresno

B.S., California State University,  
Fresno

CA Bar Admission Date: 06/2019

CA Bar No. 325736

D.C. Bar Admission Date: 07/2021

D.C. Bar No. 1739246 (*inactive*)

Gage Marchini is a native of California's San Joaquin Valley, where his family farms and where he was raised with an appreciation of California's water resources. As an attorney with White Brenner, Gage brings extensive litigation experience and expertise in water and environmental law. Gage represents public agencies, water districts, and private clients in complex water rights matters, groundwater adjudications, CEQA compliance, land use entitlements, and environmental regulatory proceedings. His practice encompasses both transactional work and high-stakes litigation, with a particular focus on California's evolving water landscape and the intersection of water resources with land development.

Prior to joining White Brenner, Gage honed his water and environmental law expertise at several prominent Sacramento firms. At Abbott & Kindermann, Inc., he focused on land use, environmental, and water law matters for both public and private clients. His experience at Stoel Rives LLP included representing public agencies and private clients in comprehensive groundwater adjudications, CEQA litigation, and complex environmental regulatory matters, including compliance with the Brown Act and Political Reform Act and implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. However, before developing his water and environmental practice, Gage began his career at Dreyer Babich Buccola Wood Campora LLP, where he cut his teeth managing a robust civil litigation caseload, handling all aspects of litigation from client intake to the courthouse.

Gage's commitment to water law extends beyond practice to scholarship. He authored "Connecting the 'Drops' of California Water Data: Analysis of AB 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act," published in The University of the Pacific Law Review, demonstrating his thought leadership in water resource management and policy. Gage earned his Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where he received a Certificate of Concentration in Water and Environmental Law. He graduated from California State University, Fresno with dual bachelor's degrees in Agriculture Business and Economics, along with a Certificate in Legal Studies and Moot Court. His agricultural background provides valuable insight when representing clients in California's water-dependent industries.

A recognized leader in the legal community, Gage was selected as a Top Lawyer in General Litigation by Sacramento Magazine in 2023. He serves on the Sacramento Environmental Commission as a Sacramento County appointee and on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Garden & Arts Center.

## Significant Projects and Representations:

- Represented water districts and agricultural clients in water rights proceedings and water transfer negotiations.
- Advised public agencies on compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and Clean Water Act.
- Secured multimillion-dollar settlements and verdicts in complex civil litigation matters.
- Provided strategic counsel on water supply planning, aquifer storage and recovery projects, and water quality compliance.

## Professional Honors and Activities:

- Certificate of Concentration in Water and Environmental Law, McGeorge School of Law
- J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
- Top Lawyer: General Litigation, Sacramento Magazine
- Sacramento Environmental Commission, Sacramento County Appointee
- Board of Directors, Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
- Member, California Lawyers Association, Environmental Law Section
- Member, Lambda Legal



## **Thomas Remlinger**

Attorney

D 916.468.0624

[thomasr@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:thomasr@whitebrennerllp.com)

### EDUCATION

J.D., University of California,  
Davis, School of Law

B.A., University of Washington

CA Bar Admission Date: 12/2024

Bar No. 359053

Tom Remlinger is a recent graduate of King Hall, U.C. Davis School of Law. In Law School, Tom was a counselor in the Workers' Rights clinic, a member of the King Hall Legal Foundation, clerked for Legal Services of Northern California, was an extern with the California Department of Transportation's Legal Division, and has been working with White Brenner since summer 2023. Tom's practice areas of interest are municipal law, land use, and natural resources.

With a background in public interest and hailing from Stockton, California, Tom is interested in serving residents of the Central Valley. Prior experience as an assistant investigator at the San Joaquin County Public Defender's Office kicked off Tom's legal career. Working for the County and interfacing with community members sparked his interest in local government.

Tom received his bachelor's in finance and information technology from the University of Washington Foster School of Business. Tom spent five years in winemaking and viticulture prior to his legal career. In his free time, Tom enjoys working on his family's vineyard in Lodi, road cycling, and hanging out with his parents' basset hounds.

### **Significant Projects and Representations:**

- Assists municipal clients with matters including land use and planning, environmental projects, and ordinance and contract drafting

### **Professional Honors and Activities:**

- J.D., UC Davis School of Law
- B.A., Finance and Information Technology, University of Washington



**Michelle Thompson**  
Land Development and  
Acquisition Manager

D 916.468.0620  
[michelle@whitebrennerllp.com](mailto:michelle@whitebrennerllp.com)

**EDUCATION**

M.A., Business Administration

M.A., Project Management

B.A., Human Resource  
Management

California Brokers License: 2007-  
present

Michelle Thompson is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in land development, municipal relations, wireless permitting and construction, and real estate in California. She has a proven track record of successfully navigating the complex regulations and laws surrounding these areas and is well-versed in the latest industry trends and developments. With her in-depth knowledge and experience, Michelle can provide clients with the guidance and support they need to achieve their goals. Whether you are a developer looking to build a new project, a business owner seeking to expand your operations, or an individual with real estate needs, Michelle can help you navigate the legal landscape and achieve your objectives.

Throughout her career, Michelle has built a reputation as a dedicated and hardworking professional who is committed to helping her clients succeed. She is known for her attention to detail, her ability to think strategically, and her ability to communicate complex legal concepts in a clear and understandable way. Her clients appreciate her proactive approach, as well as her ability to develop creative solutions to the challenges they face. Michelle provides her clients with the highest level of service and support. She works closely with each client to understand their unique project goals and develops customized solutions that are tailored to their specific situation.

Michelle's experience in land development, municipal relations, wireless permitting and construction, and real estate has given her a diverse skill set that sets her apart from others in the field. With her knowledge and experience, she can help her clients avoid costly delays and navigate the permitting process with ease. In addition to her technical skills, Michelle is also known for her exceptional client service. She is responsive, professional, and always willing to go the extra mile to ensure her clients' satisfaction. She is a great listener and is able to understand her clients' needs and concerns, which enables her to provide them with the best possible service.

In addition to her professional experience, Michelle is also an active member of her community. She is involved in various organizations that support local businesses and the community. She also volunteers her time to help local schools and non-profit organizations.