



Proposal for General Counsel Services

Prepared for:



MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT &
FIRE DEPARTMENT

February 3, 2026



Prepared by

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Brittany Chavez, General Manager
Morongo Valley Community Services District & Fire Department
11207 Ocotillo St
Morongo Valley, CA 92256

RE: Proposal for General Counsel Services

Dear Ms. Chavez,

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP (“A&W”) is pleased to submit this proposal to serve as General Counsel to the Morongo Valley Community Services District (“District”). We appreciate the opportunity to offer our firm’s public agency experience and responsive, practical legal services in support of the District’s governance and operations.

For more than twenty years, Aleshire & Wynder has represented cities and special districts throughout California, providing general counsel and special counsel services tailored to the needs of small and mid-sized public agencies. We understand that community services districts such as Morongo Valley operate with limited resources while carrying significant responsibilities, particularly in the delivery of essential services and public safety functions. Our approach emphasizes clear guidance, proactive risk management, and cost-conscious staffing aligned with each client’s operational realities.

As proposed General Counsel, I would oversee all legal services provided to the District and advise the Board on governance, compliance, and strategic legal issues. I would be supported by a dedicated team, including a Deputy General Counsel and subject-matter specialists in labor and employment, public contracting, risk management, and real property as needed. This structure ensures continuity of counsel, responsiveness to staff and Board needs, and efficient use of District resources.

We are committed to serving as trusted advisors to the Board and staff, providing timely, practical legal advice that supports informed decision-making and defensible District actions. We value long-term relationships with our public agency clients and would welcome the opportunity to partner with the Morongo Valley Community Services District.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss our proposal and answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

ALESHIRE & WYNDER, LLP



Benjamin R. Jones, Partner | Proposed General Counsel

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meet Aleshire & Wynder	1
Firm Focus.....	2
I. Firm Background & Qualifications	3
A. Firm Background	3
B. Public Agency & Special District Experience	3
II. Understanding of the District & Legal Needs.....	4
III. Scope of Services & Experience	5
A. General Counsel Services.....	5
B. Governance & Compliance	5
C. Labor & Employment.....	5
D. Contracts & Transactions.....	6
E. Risk Management & Liability	6
F. Real Property & Facilities.....	6
IV. Proposed Team & Structure	6
A. Proposed Team	6
B. Staffing Plan & Organization.....	8
V. Approach to Service	8
VI. Fee Schedule.....	9
VII. References	11
The A&W Client Experience	12
Appendix A – Attorney Profiles.....	14
Attorney Profile Benjamin R. Jones <i>Partner</i>	15
Attorney Profile Minhvy Vu <i>Associate</i>	17
Attorney Profile Jennifer Krikorian <i>Senior Associate</i>	18
Attorney Profile Lisa Torossian <i>Senior Associate</i>	19
Attorney Profile Monserrat Reyes <i>Associate</i>	20
Attorney Profile Robert Lee <i>Partner</i>	21
Appendix B – Current Public Agency	22

MEET ALESHIRE & WYNDER



A full-service public agency law firm, Aleshire & Wynder, LLP (A&W) offers a deep bench of public law attorneys who support, advise, and represent public agencies across California. We share our clients' deeply held beliefs on the importance of public service, integrity, and accountability. These principles have propelled our notable five-fold growth since the firm's founding in 2003 in Irvine, California. The firm's additional locations include Oakland, Fresno, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, and Westlake Village. Appreciated for the strategic value we bring to engagements and the long-term client relationships that we build, A&W serves as creative and resourceful members of public agency teams and trusted counselors. Our representation of public entities is broad and sophisticated, and includes these entities:



FIRM FOCUS

The more than 75 attorneys of A&W are bound by an unwavering commitment: a deep appreciation for democratic values and processes at the local government level. This tenet attracts attorneys and professionals to the firm and is evident in every client engagement.

Many of our attorneys have more than 20 years of public service, with several having closer to 30 years or more.

Our public service mindset guides A&W's practical approach, along with our depth of experience and knowledge, in areas such as:

- Litigation and Appeals
- Labor and Employment
- Public Safety (including Police and Fire)
- Open Government (Brown Act, Public Records Act) and Conflicts of Interest
- Contracts and Public Works
- Environmental and Toxics
- Franchising and Telecommunications
- Tort Claims and Governmental Immunity
- Land Use and Zoning
- Mining
- Refuse and Recycling
- Elections
- Affordable Housing
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance
- Real Property Acquisition, Disposition, and Development
- Law Enforcement and Nuisance Abatement
- Civil Rights and First Amendment Law
- Parks & Recreation/Community Services
- Rent Control
- Public Finance and Prop 218
- Condemnation
- Water and Stormwater

We enjoy the unique challenges offered by public service, particularly navigating the complex and distinctive legal issues that can arise for local agencies providing public safety and community services. We also enjoy the dynamics of the political process and working with elected officials and professional staff.

I. FIRM BACKGROUND & QUALIFICATIONS

A. FIRM BACKGROUND

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP (“A&W”) is a California public law firm dedicated to the representation of cities, special districts, and other local public agencies. Founded in 2003, the firm was established by experienced municipal attorneys with the express purpose of providing sophisticated public-sector legal services while maintaining the responsiveness, accessibility, and practical judgment essential to effective local government operations.

A&W maintains offices throughout California, including Irvine (headquarters), Los Angeles, Oakland, Fresno, Riverside, San Diego, and Westlake Village. This statewide presence, particularly in South California allows the firm to deliver consistent day-to-day service while providing immediate access to subject-matter specialists as needed.

For more than two decades, Aleshire & Wynder has represented public agencies throughout California, serving as City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney, General Counsel, and Special Counsel to municipalities and special districts of varying size, complexity, and governance structure. The Firm includes more than 75 attorneys, supported by experienced paralegals and professional staff for a total of approximately 125 personnel, and is organized to provide continuity of counsel while offering efficient access to specialized expertise without unnecessary duplication of effort or cost.

A&W’s practice is structured around collaborative legal teams led by designated relationship partners or lead counsel, with matters staffed appropriately based on complexity and risk. This model ensures that clients receive senior-level judgment where required, supported by attorneys with the right experience for each matter, while remaining cost-conscious and operationally aligned with public-sector expectations.

B. PUBLIC AGENCY & SPECIAL DISTRICT EXPERIENCE

A&W represents a broad range of California public agencies, including general law and charter cities, community services districts, fire and water districts, housing authorities, successor agencies, joint powers authorities, and other regional and special-purpose entities. Many of the firm’s clients operate under contract-services models, requiring legal counsel who understand interagency coordination, service agreements, and the governance dynamics unique to those agencies.

The firm routinely provides comprehensive general counsel and city attorney services, including advice to governing bodies and executive staff, attendance at public and closed-session meetings, day-to-day legal counseling, and strategic guidance on governance, risk management, and regulatory compliance. A&W also serves as special counsel in discrete subject areas when agencies require targeted expertise.

Across these engagements, A&W’s scope of services commonly includes governance and ethics counseling, Brown Act and Public Records Act compliance, labor and employment advice, contract drafting and negotiation, ordinance, resolution and policy drafting and development, risk management support, and coordination with insurers and risk pools. The firm’s experience

is grounded in an understanding of how public agencies operate in practice, allowing its attorneys to deliver advice that is not only legally sound, but also practical, timely, and defensible.

A complete list of current public agency clients is located in the appendix.

II. UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISTRICT & LEGAL NEEDS

Aleshire & Wynder understands that the Morongo Valley Community Services District operates as a small special district with significant responsibilities, including fire protection and emergency medical services, while managing limited resources and heightened public accountability. Effective legal representation in this environment requires practical, timely advice that supports Board and staff decision-making without adding unnecessary process or cost.

District Operations and Legal Context

The District's operations involve a combination of governance responsibilities, public safety services, contracting for operational and support functions, and ongoing compliance with state and federal requirements applicable to special districts and fire agencies. Legal issues often arise in real time and in public settings, requiring counsel who can provide clear guidance on procedure, compliance, and risk while remaining sensitive to operational demands.

A&W recognizes that the District relies on legal counsel not only for formal opinions, but also for day-to-day guidance that allows staff to focus on service delivery and public safety responsibilities.

Key Legal Risks and Areas of Focus

Based on its experience representing community services districts and fire agencies, A&W understands that the District's primary legal needs include:

- Governance and open meeting compliance, including Brown Act and ethics requirements
- Labor and employment matters involving public safety personnel, including discipline, investigations, and Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights compliance
- Contracting and procurement for operational, professional, and service agreements
- Risk management and claims-adjacent issues
- Policy, ordinance, and resolution development to support District operations

These areas require consistent, informed legal support to avoid procedural missteps, manage risk, and ensure defensible District actions.

Proactive and Practical Legal Support

A&W's approach emphasizes proactive legal guidance tailored to the District's size, structure, and operational realities. By identifying potential issues early and providing practical solutions, the Firm assists the District in minimizing legal exposure, avoiding unnecessary disputes, and maintaining public confidence.

Through close coordination with the Board, General Manager, and staff, A&W provides legal services that are responsive, cost-conscious, and aligned with the District's mission and long-term operational needs.

III. SCOPE OF SERVICES & EXPERIENCE

Aleshire & Wynder provides comprehensive general counsel services tailored to the needs of the Morongo Valley Community Services District. The Firm's approach emphasizes responsive day-to-day legal support, practical guidance for public safety operations, and efficient use of District resources. Services are provided flexibly and scaled based on the nature and complexity of each matter.

A. GENERAL COUNSEL SERVICES

A&W provides ongoing general counsel services to the Board of Directors, General Manager, and District staff on all aspects of District operations. This includes advising on governance, compliance, policy development, and operational matters to support informed decision-making and legally defensible District actions.

General counsel services include attendance at regular and special Board meetings, workshops, and closed sessions as requested, with real-time legal guidance on procedural and substantive issues. The Firm also provides day-to-day legal support to staff, including responding to routine inquiries, reviewing documents, and advising on emerging issues to ensure continuity of operations.

B. GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

A&W advises the District on governance and open government compliance, including application of the Brown Act, agenda preparation, meeting procedures, and closed-session requirements. The Firm also provides guidance on Public Records Act compliance, including record retention, response obligations, exemptions, and document production.

In addition, A&W advises on ethics and conflict-of-interest matters, including FPPC requirements, incompatible offices or activities, and disqualification standards. The Firm prepares and reviews ordinances, resolutions, policies, and procedural documents to ensure legal compliance, clarity, and consistency with District objectives.

C. LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

A&W provides comprehensive public-sector labor and employment legal services, with particular experience advising fire and emergency services agencies. The Firm advises the District on personnel matters including discipline, investigations, terminations, working conditions, accommodations, and compliance with applicable federal and state employment laws.

A&W regularly assists public agencies in conducting administrative and workplace investigations, ensuring due process, and documenting employment actions in a legally defensible manner. The Firm also advises on compliance with the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act, including discipline and investigation requirements applicable to sworn personnel.

The Firm represents agencies in administrative hearings, appeals, and grievance proceedings and provides counseling on meet-and-confer obligations, labor relations strategy, and interpretation and enforcement of memoranda of understanding and personnel rules. A&W also advises on wage and hour compliance, harassment prevention, discrimination, retaliation, whistleblower protection, and related employment issues.

D. CONTRACTS & TRANSACTIONS

A&W assists the District with the drafting, review, and negotiation of a wide range of contracts and transactional documents, including professional services agreements, vendor and service contracts, public works and construction agreements, and interagency arrangements. The Firm's contract work emphasizes statutory compliance, clear risk allocation, and practical enforceability.

The Firm advises on procurement and public contracting requirements, including competitive selection processes and compliance with applicable state and local laws, and prepares and reviews interagency and joint powers agreements to ensure clear allocation of roles and responsibilities. Where appropriate, A&W provides standardized contract templates to promote efficiency and cost control.

E. RISK MANAGEMENT & LIABILITY

A&W supports the District in identifying and managing legal risk through proactive counseling and strategic guidance. Services include analysis of risk exposure associated with District operations, contracts, and policy decisions.

The Firm coordinates with insurers and risk pools as appropriate and provides claims-adjacent counseling, including early assessment and guidance intended to reduce exposure and avoid escalation into litigation.

F. REAL PROPERTY & FACILITIES

As applicable, A&W provides legal services related to real property and facilities, including the preparation and negotiation of leases, licenses, acquisitions, and dispositions. The Firm advises on property-related matters to ensure statutory compliance, protection of District assets, and alignment with operational needs.

A&W also assists with facilities-related agreements, access and use arrangements, and development-related documentation necessary to support District operations and capital projects.

IV. PROPOSED TEAM & STRUCTURE

Aleshire & Wynder proposes a dedicated team of attorneys with direct experience in public agency general counsel services and the specific practice areas relevant to the District's operations. The team is structured to provide consistent senior-level guidance, supported by subject-matter attorneys assigned based on the nature and complexity of each matter.

A. PROPOSED TEAM

General Counsel – Benjamin R. Jones (Bar No. 292176)

Benjamin Jones will serve as General Counsel and lead attorney for the District. In this role, he will oversee all legal services, advise the Board of Directors, and provide strategic legal guidance to the General Manager and staff on governance, compliance, and operational matters. Mr. Jones has extensive experience advising public agencies in a general counsel capacity, including attendance at governing body meetings, counseling on open government and ethics requirements, and guiding agencies through complex policy and operational issues. With over 12

years of experience dedicated to serving local public agencies, Mr. Jones brings a practical, solutions-oriented approach focused on effective communication, honesty and integrity, and clarity in decision-making, founded upon hard work, a broad range of experience, a proven ability to swiftly handle urgent and sensitive matters with level-headedness and poise, and a commitment to providing consistent, responsive legal support tailored to the needs of the public agencies he represents.

Deputy General Counsel – Minhvy Vu (Bar No. 355365)

Minhvy Vu will serve as Deputy General Counsel and a primary point of contact, along with Mr. Jones, for District staff on day-to-day legal matters. In this role, she will provide responsive legal support on governance, contracts, ethics and open government compliance, and operational issues, and will assist in coordinating legal services under the direction of the General Counsel. Ms. Vu has experience serving public agencies in advisory roles, including prior service as Assistant General Counsel and Deputy City Attorney, and brings a strong background in public contracts, regulatory compliance, and ordinance and resolution drafting. Her practice is focused on providing practical, detail-oriented legal guidance that supports efficient operations and sound decision-making.

Subject-Matter Experts

The following attorneys will support the District on specialized matters, ensuring rapid, senior-level expertise without additional onboarding time:

Labor & Employment - Jennifer Krikorian (Bar No. 313788)

Jennifer Krikorian will provide labor and employment counsel, including advice on discipline, investigations, terminations, administrative hearings, and labor relations matters. She has significant experience representing public agencies in disciplinary proceedings, grievance matters, and administrative hearings, including matters involving public safety personnel. Ms. Krikorian's experience allows her to provide informed, defensible guidance on sensitive employment matters while accounting for operational realities.

Public Contracting - Lisa Torossian (Bar No. 305266)

Lisa Torossian will provide support on public contracting and transactional matters, including drafting, review, and negotiation of professional services agreements, vendor contracts, and other operational agreements. Her practice focuses on public contracts, ordinance and resolution drafting, and compliance with procurement and open government requirements, supporting efficient and legally compliant agency operations.

Risk Management & Liability - Monserrat Reyes (Bar No. 340638)

Monserrat Reyes will provide assistant-level legal support to the District under the supervision of the General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. Ms. Reyes has experience representing public entities in litigation and administrative matters and has worked with city attorney and district attorney offices on enforcement and regulatory matters.

Ms. Reyes will assist with research, drafting, claims support, and overflow matters, providing cost-effective support for District legal needs while allowing senior attorneys to focus on complex or strategic issues.

Real Property - Robert Lee (Bar No. 219829)

Robert Lee will provide specialized legal services related to the California Coastal Act, CEQA, land use, and environmental compliance. Mr. Lee has extensive experience advising and representing public agencies on coastal development issues, environmental review, permitting, and land use litigation.

He will assist the District with environmental compliance, coastal permitting, regulatory coordination, and related matters as needed.

B. STAFFING PLAN & ORGANIZATION

The proposed staffing model is designed to provide the Morongo Valley Community Services District with consistent senior-level legal leadership, responsive day-to-day support for District staff, and access to specialized public-agency expertise as needed. The General Counsel will oversee all legal services and advise the Board, while serving as the primary point of contact for the General Manager and staff on governance, operational, and compliance matters.

Subject-matter specialists will be engaged only when the nature or complexity of an issue warrants additional expertise, ensuring that services are right-sized to the District's needs.

This approach provides continuity of counsel, flexibility to respond to changing legal demands, and effective stewardship of District resources while maintaining a high level of legal service.

V. APPROACH TO SERVICE

Service Philosophy

Aleshire & Wynder approaches its representation of the Morongo Valley Community Services District as a collaborative, long-term partnership. The Firm's focus is on delivering clear, timely legal guidance in a manner that is accessible, practical, and aligned with the District's operational needs and resource constraints. Legal advice is provided with an emphasis on responsiveness, consistency, and sound judgment, allowing the District to address issues efficiently and confidently.

Matters are staffed at the appropriate level based on complexity, ensuring that routine work is handled efficiently while senior-level oversight and specialized expertise are applied when warranted.

Interaction with the Board, General Manager, and Staff

Aleshire & Wynder works closely with the District's Board of Directors, General Manager, and staff to ensure effective communication and consistent legal support. The General Counsel serves as the primary advisor to the Board and coordinates directly with the General Manager on governance, compliance, and operational matters. Day-to-day interaction with staff is handled through designated counsel to promote continuity and efficiency.

Attorneys are available to attend regular and special Board meetings, workshops, and closed sessions as requested and provide clear, practical guidance to support informed decision-making in public and closed-session settings.

Communication and Case Management

The Firm emphasizes regular, transparent communication regarding ongoing legal matters. The District is kept informed through timely updates, written memoranda when appropriate, and direct consultation with designated counsel. For claims or dispute-related matters, Aleshire & Wynder provides periodic status updates addressing key developments, anticipated next steps, and budget considerations.

When matters involve multiple stakeholders or regulatory agencies, the Firm coordinates communications to ensure consistency and to keep District leadership apprised of developments that may affect operations or timelines.

Availability and Responsiveness

Aleshire & Wynder recognizes that legal issues may arise outside normal business hours, particularly in connection with public safety operations. Attorneys are available for consultation on short notice, including after-hours when necessary, and are accustomed to responding to time-sensitive matters.

Response times are tailored to the urgency of the issue, with priority given to matters affecting Board action, regulatory compliance, personnel issues, public safety, or continuity of District services.

Fee Management and Cost Control

The Firm is committed to responsible fee management and transparency. Matters are staffed efficiently, with routine and document-intensive work assigned to appropriately experienced attorneys under senior supervision. Upon request, the Firm can provide task-based cost estimates and will promptly notify the District if circumstances arise that may materially affect anticipated costs.

Billing is detailed and clearly itemized to allow the District to track legal expenditures effectively and align services with budget expectations.

Proactive Risk Management and Advisories

Aleshire & Wynder monitors legal developments that may affect the District and provides advisories or guidance as appropriate. Through regular interaction with District leadership and staff, the Firm seeks to identify emerging issues, recurring concerns, or operational practices that may benefit from additional guidance or policy refinement.

This approach supports early issue identification and informed planning while avoiding unnecessary disruption to District operations.

VI. FEE SCHEDULE

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP proposes to provide legal services to Morongo Valley Community Services District & Fire Department on an hourly basis, unless otherwise agreed in writing for a specific matter. Time is recorded in six-minute increments (0.1 hour). The proposed billing rates set forth below are valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days from the proposal due date.

We generally charge on an hourly basis for all time expended in 6-minute increments (0.1 of one hour). We bill monthly with payment due within 30 days after the invoice date. Past-due amounts (beyond 30 days) will incur interest in the amount of ten percent per annum.

Hourly rates are generally reviewed on an annual basis and, when appropriate, may be adjusted to reflect changes in seniority, experience, and inflationary factors. Any reimbursable costs and expenses incurred on behalf of the District—including litigation-related expenses, delivery services, reproduction, and authorized travel—are billed separately at actual cost or the applicable IRS mileage rate, with sufficient detail to identify the nature of the expense.

No travel time or lodging expenses will be billed for attendance at Board meetings, staff meetings, or other District business. For most matters, the firm proposes the following hourly rates:

CLASSIFICATION	PROPOSED HOURLY RATES
General	\$335 Associate \$360 Senior Associate \$440 Partner
Special Services/ Risk Management	\$350 Associate \$385 Senior Associate \$465 Partner
Paralegals and Law Clerks	\$200
Document Clerks	\$130

Alternative fee arrangements may be considered for discrete matters upon mutual agreement.

Rate Adjustments

Starting January 1, 2027, and each January 1 thereafter, there will be an annual cost of living adjustment, rounded to the nearest dollar. The cost-of-living adjustment shall be set by the most recent 12-month Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (“CPI-U”) for the West Region, as published by the United States Government Bureau of Labor Statistics or \$10 per hour, whichever is higher.

Note: A&W reserves the right to defer, or even decline, an annual adjustment.

Monthly Statements

The Firm will provide a statement for fees, costs, and expenses incurred on a periodic basis (generally monthly). Such statement(s) shall indicate the basis of the fees, including the hours worked, the hourly rate(s), and a brief description of the work performed. Separate billing categories can be established to track costs associated with the District’s funding categories or to track project costs, or such other basis as the District may direct. Reimbursable costs shall be separately itemized.

Payments shall be made by the District within thirty (30) days of receipt of the statement, except for those specific items on an invoice which are contested or questioned and are returned by the District with a written explanation of the question or contest, within thirty (30) days of receipt of

the invoice. Payments made more than thirty (30) days after the due date shall draw interest at the legal rate.

Reimbursable Expenses

In addition to the hourly rates, the firm would be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses such as photocopies (\$0.25 per page) and other reproducing costs, facsimile charges, messengers and couriers, court reporters, mileage costs to court and administrative proceedings, travel expenses outside of the District, and other costs and expenses incurred on your behalf. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we do not charge for word processing, routine computer-assisted legal research, or calls.

As explained above, no travel costs or hourly fees will be charged for travel to the District. Travel costs including mileage (current IRS rate), parking, airfare, lodging, meals, and incidentals are only charged in connection with administrative or judicial proceedings and when traveling on behalf of the District. In addition, the District would be responsible for paying the fees of any consultants and other outside experts who are retained after consultation with the District.

VII. REFERENCES

Reference	
Bradley Dandridge CITY OF SANTA MARIA, Fire Department Fire Chief e: bdandridge@cityofsantamaria.org p: 805-361-9571	Clara Miramontes CITY OF PERRIS City Manager e: cmiramontes@cityofperris.com p: 951-943-6100 ext 250
Joshua Boudreaux CITY OF CARSON Director of Human Resources e: jboudreaux@carsonca.gov p: 310-952-1736	Lula Davis-Holmes CITY OF PERRIS Mayor e: ldavis-holmes@carsonca.gov p: 310-952-1700
Preston Prince SANTA CLARA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY Executive Director e: preston.prince@scchousingauthority.org p: 408-275-8770	

THE A&W CLIENT EXPERIENCE

As a uniquely focused, specialty public law firm, we have developed high-impact ways to serve our public agency clients and further their success. Here's how we shape our clients' experience:



Cost Controls & Accountability

We define accountability as not only achieving a good result but doing so at a reasonable cost to the client. Controlling costs requires clear mechanisms for reporting, supervising, staffing, and recovering costs from developers whenever possible. Another important measure is preventive counseling to identify issues before they turn into litigation and resolve them informally when possible.

Our attorneys evaluate a case or transaction early. We never want our clients to be surprised by the outcome of a lawsuit or negotiation, either by the results or the cost.

For example, we may advise a public agency board of directors, usually in a closed session discussion, whether a litigation matter is winnable and at what cost. If a client decides to litigate, we make sure our advice is clear, and strategies are cost effective, which includes maintaining a dedicated team of attorneys and paralegals on the case.

A&W's cost control mechanisms are fine-tuned and informed by their real-world efficacy. They are also readily customized to the unique needs of each client.



Communication & Responsiveness

Members of our firm are clear, concise and effective communicators, both in writing and in conversation. We understand the critical role communications play in the official business of cities. We practice an "always on duty" mentality in serving our clients, especially in a crisis. Additionally, we are accustomed to working within the "tyranny" of agenda deadlines.

Our work with public agency boards and other entities includes drafting staff reports, memos and emails to make sure that everyone is up to date and on the same page. Typically, our advice includes options for clients to consider, and we will provide our legal opinions in an independent manner, even if it is not popular with some, so that the board of directors will be fully aware of its options and can make an informed decision.

Once a decision has been made, we are committed to supporting the policies and decisions of the public agency, even when it may be in a different direction than our legal recommendations. We have seen enough public comment periods and closed session rooms to know that there are a full range of items that must be considered and balanced by the board of directors as part of any decision-making process.

Clients note that response time is one of our strengths. To maintain high quality, timely service, we make sure attorneys' workloads allow for sufficient bandwidth to provide each client with prompt attention.



Convenience

The legal issues public agencies face rarely occur in a vacuum. Often concerns arise that require expertise or legal knowledge in related areas. A&W provides a one-stop, full-service law resource for public agencies. Our investment in developing specialized expertise encompasses every aspect of public law, including labor and employment, financial advice, environmental, real estate, land use, water and other areas. Clients can always count on being able to access an attorney who is familiar with their matter.



Consistency & Care

A&W is not a large bureaucracy. Our attorneys enjoy a collaborative working relationship with each other and with our clients. No one gets “lost in the shuffle.” We believe that, as a mid-sized law firm, we offer focus in lieu of bureaucracy, timeliness rather than delay, and a consistent “team” of known attorneys rather than just a group of researchers.



Support Staff

We have a highly experienced team of full-time support staff, including certified paralegals, professional legal secretaries, litigation documentation and research analysts, and administrative and support staff, who are dedicated to serving the Firm’s clients. We do not anticipate the need for any immediate staffing changes should we be awarded a contract with the City. We are always monitoring, however, whether more attorneys and support staff are required to properly service our clients.



Committed

We believe commitment, in all its varied forms, to be the most valuable benefit we offer clients and the most critical element of our success. One demonstration of our commitment to public agencies and public law is how seamlessly we function as a part of their teams. As participants in the democratic process and as “officers of the court,” we play a critical role in protecting the integrity of governmental decision making. We uphold fairness by being responsive to staff deadlines and by anticipating difficulties and problems. As counselors, we advise by not being defensive and shifting blame, and look to demonstrate honesty and integrity in every encounter. Our commitment to community is shown by our firm’s participation and interest in community issues, events, and activities. A preference for collaboration permeates our representation and team approach. We regularly assist and work cooperatively with Boards, managers, and staff to find the best solutions for the public agency.

APPENDIX A – ATTORNEY PROFILES

ATTORNEY PROFILE



1 Park Plaza, Suite 1000
Irvine, CA 92614

P | (949) 250-5430
F | (949) 223-1180

bjones@awattorneys.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- ▶ Elections Law
- ▶ Cannabis
- ▶ Code Enforcement
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Public Contracts
- ▶ Labor & Employment
- ▶ Ethics & Open Government
- ▶ Telecommunications
- ▶ Environmental Law
- ▶ Mobile Home/Rent Control
- ▶ Land Use & Zoning

PUBLIC OFFICES

Assistant City Attorney:

- ▶ City of Carson
- ▶ City of Perris

EDUCATION

- ▶ Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, CA, JD, 2013
- ▶ Emory University, Atlanta, GA, BA, 2009

ADMISSIONS

- ▶ State Bar of California
- ▶ US District Court, Central District of California

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ 2023: "A 2024 Legal Decision Will Impact Local Control Over Existing Wireless Facilities" Western City Magazine
- ▶ 2024: "The constitutional significance of charter cities' Senate Bill 9 win" Daily Journal

BENJAMIN R. JONES

PARTNER

Benjamin R. Jones is dedicated to public service and has spent nearly his entire legal career representing cities and other local public agencies. He is a partner in the firm's Irvine office and currently serves as Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Carson and Perris.

In his role as Assistant City Attorney, Ben serves as primary counsel to both cities' Planning Commissions and to the Carson Mobile Home Rent Review Board, and supports the City Attorney in advising both City Councils. For several years, he has served as the lead counsel for the Carson Community Services Department, a large department which is responsible for operating a community event center and 16 city parks as well as a public bus system.

Ben advises his city clients on complex development projects and legislative actions and maintains a broad public law practice encompassing open government compliance (Brown Act, Public Records Act, and Political Reform Act), land use and zoning, housing law, environmental law and CEQA, contracts and procurement, community services, elections, municipal fees and taxation, cannabis regulation, and telecommunications regulation. Ben also has substantial experience advising on municipal code enforcement, contract disputes, public works, labor and employment, and mobile home park closure and relocation laws.

Ben is Chair of A&W's Cannabis Law Practice Group and served as a member of the League of California Cities' Community Services Policy Committee from 2023 through 2025. Prior to joining A&W in 2017, Ben practiced municipal law at another firm for nearly three years.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- ▶ Advised on comprehensive general plan and zoning code updates;
- ▶ Advised on processing of development permit applications and agreements for large industrial developments, commercial shopping centers, and residential and mixed-use projects
- ▶ Crafted moratoria and other land use regulations to protect residents from harmful effects of industrial warehousing facilities and other heavy truck-related uses;
- ▶ Developed and implemented land use regulations and enforcement mechanisms protecting residents against industrial hazardous materials uses;
- ▶ Pursued code enforcement action resulting in cessation of unpermitted hazardous materials uses;
- ▶ Helped prepare AB 2782, state legislation that established greater protections for mobile home residents in California by broadening cities' local powers to impose critical conditions on mobile home park closures to avoid unmitigated displacement of vulnerable residents;

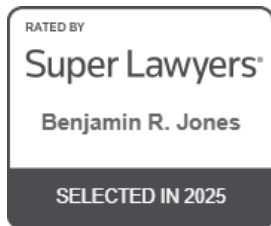
ATTORNEY PROFILE (CONTINUED)

AFFILIATIONS

- ▶ League of California Cities Policy Committee Member, 2023 - 2025

AWARDS

- ▶ Super Lawyers, Rising Star 2024-2025
- ▶ Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, 2024-2025



BENJAMIN R. JONES *PARTNER*

- ▶ Helped establish local programs for preservation of mobile home parks, negotiate maximum relocation benefits and establish a program of relocation assistance aid and resources to residents displaced by mobile home park closures;
- ▶ Developed a city ordinance banning flavored tobacco products and vaping devices in light of a rise in vaping sites close to the City's schools and parks;
- ▶ Helped establish and implement municipal COVID-19 relief measures, including a program of free grocery and meal deliveries to seniors, a mobile home space rent increase moratorium, and price-gouging restrictions;
- ▶ Helped procure and establish contracts and grants for new and improved public transportation system services and other community services programs and activities;
- ▶ Helped cities establish programs for regulation and taxation of commercial cannabis uses and activities;
- ▶ Negotiated wireless telecommunication facility license agreements and crafted regulations for wireless telecommunication facility sites.
- ▶ Helped obtain receiverships and abatement warrants to abate substandard properties.
- ▶ Prepared, reviewed and negotiated contracts and related bidding and procurement documents for award, approval and administration of hundreds of public works, professional services and other procurement-related contracts.
- ▶ Handled contract disputes with vendors for performance of unauthorized services, recovering large sums of money for his clients.

ATTORNEY PROFILE



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PRACTICE AREAS

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Public Contracts
- ▶ Ethics & Open Government

PUBLIC OFFICES

- ▶ Assistant General Counsel, Santa Clara County Housing Authority
- ▶ Deputy City Attorney, City of Cerritos

EDUCATION

- ▶ University of Illinois Chicago, School of Law, JD, 2022
- ▶ University of Maryland, College Park, BA, 2018

ADMISSIONS

- ▶ State Bar of California

MINHVY VU

ASSOCIATE

Minhvy Vu is an Associate at the Irvine office. Before returning to her home state of California, she attended law school and gained legal experience in Chicago. Her previous experience has been in Government Contracts and Compliance, where she focused on assisting disadvantaged, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses (D/M/W/VBEs) achieve their government certification with federal and state agencies throughout the country. She drafted formal proposals on behalf of clients responding to government requests for proposals and those seeking procurement opportunities.

Now at A&W, she brings her government and public sector experience and actively applies her skills to the work she accomplishes. Her passion to create positive change in the community drives her work ethic. As a dedicated professional, she approaches every endeavor with a client-focused lens and strong sense of social responsibility.

Minhvy relays her transactional experience into drafting and reviewing contracts, assisting on strategic transactions to minimize legal and regulatory risk, and providing other detail-oriented support. Beyond her public office roles, she handles a variety of public law matters for other clients, including federal and state regulation compliance and ordinance and resolution drafting. She strives to deliver value and quality work to clients while contributing to the growth of her community to make a broader impact beyond the practice of law.

ATTORNEY PROFILE



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jkrikorian@awattorneys.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- ▶ Labor and Employment
- ▶ Personnel
- ▶ Public Safety

EDUCATION

- ▶ Capella University, PhD, expected 2026
- ▶ University of Houston Law Center, JD, 2016
- ▶ University of California, Irvine, BA, 2009

ADMISSIONS

- ▶ State Bar of California

JENNIFER KRİKORIAN

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

Jennifer Krikorian is a senior associate at Aleshire & Wynder, primarily focused on labor and employment. Jennifer has extensive trial and litigation experience, including jury trials, pre-trial hearings, arbitrations hearings, and settlement negotiations. Jennifer began her career as a criminal prosecutor in San Bernardino County handling misdemeanor trials and felony special assignments, specifically focused on crimes against peace officers' unit.

Jennifer's endeavor as an advocate for the public sector continued as she represented first responders in labor relations and administrative investigations. She participated extensively in negotiating with various public entities throughout California, analyzing Memoranda of Understanding and Collective Bargaining Agreements for application to administrative investigations and hearings.

Jennifer's extensive experience with disciplinary actions, administrative investigations, grievances, and arbitrations for public sector employees stems from both defense and prosecution of the administrative claims. She has conducted numerous disciplinary matters such as suspensions, terminations, and professional license revocations, extending through arbitration and beyond to petitions for writ of mandate in superior court. She also served as general counsel for the Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters Associations (IAFF Local 2274) from 2022-2025 and is deeply familiar with the advocacy and procedures of IAFF and CPF.

Jennifer received her Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center, and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, Law, and Society at the University of California, Irvine. She is now a candidate for a Doctor of Philosophy in Social and Behavioral Sciences, specializing in advanced studies in human behavior, and intends to use her continued education to further understand and help people throughout her advocacy.

ATTORNEY PROFILE



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PRACTICE AREAS

- ▶ Public Contracts

EDUCATION

- ▶ Southwestern Law School, JD, 2015
- ▶ University of California, Los Angeles, BA
Philosophy, 2012

ADMISSIONS

- ▶ State Bar of California
- ▶ US District Court, Central District of
California

LISA TOROSSIAN

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

Lisa Torossian is a senior associate at Aleshire & Wynder. She advises and assists cities, local agencies, and other public entities in matters involving municipal law. In this role, she provides a wide range of support, such as drafting and interpreting public contracts, assisting in public works projects, preparing ordinances and resolutions, and ensuring compliance with the Public Records Act and Brown Act.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Torossian's practice also included assisting local school districts in all education law-related matters, with a focus on special education litigation. Further, she has a varied legal skill set, having also practiced in the areas of immigration, civil litigation, and dependency law since joining the California State Bar in 2015.

While earning her Juris Doctor, Ms. Torossian received a public interest law award recognizing her for the hours of legal service she dedicated to representing children in need of legal services through the Children's Rights Clinic and local regional center.

ATTORNEY PROFILE



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mreyes@awattorneys.com

PRACTICE AREAS

- ▶ Code Enforcement
- ▶ Litigation
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Labor & Employment

ADMISSIONS

- ▶ State Bar of California

EDUCATION

- ▶ UCLA School of Law, JD, 2021
- ▶ University of CA, Irvine, BA, 2017

MONSERRAT REYES

ASSOCIATE

Monserrat Reyes is an associate in the Irvine office. Monserrat graduated from UCLA School of Law, where she served as Chief Managing Editor of the Chicana Latinx Law Review. She also participated in the Immigrant Family Legal Clinic, mentored prospective law students through the UCLA Law Fellows Program, and served as a board member of the Latinx Law Students Association.

Before law school, Monserrat graduated cum laude from University of California, Irvine, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She also studied abroad in Berlin, Germany.

ATTORNEY PROFILE



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PRACTICE AREAS

- ▶ Elections Law
- ▶ Ethics & Open Government
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Real Estate / Title
- ▶ Land Use & Zoning
- ▶ Public Contracts
- ▶ Solid Waste / Franchises
- ▶ Public Construction / Prevailing Wages

PUBLIC OFFICES

Assistant City Attorney:

- ▶ City

EDUCATION

- ▶ Case Western Reserve University School of Law, JD, 1996
- ▶ University of CA, Los Angeles, BA, International Economics, 1992

ADMISSIONS

- ▶ State Bar of California
- ▶ US District Court, Central District of California
- ▶ State Bar of Illinois
- ▶ US District Court, Northern District of Illinois

ROBERT LEE

PARTNER

Robert Lee is a partner in the Los Angeles office and currently serves as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Carson and Deputy City Attorney for the City of Perris. Robert advises city clients and other public agencies in a wide variety of practice areas including contracts and complex public works projects, software licensing, franchises, land use and zoning, and real estate. Robert serves as Chair of the Firm's real estate practice group and public contracting practice group. He provides legal counsel on the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, the Subdivision Map Act, affordable housing matters, and former redevelopment agency issues, and also has extensive experience with purchasing procedures and policies, contract formation and negotiation, as well as drafting and amending ordinances and resolutions. His real estate experience includes preparation and negotiation of agreements for easements, licenses, acquisitions, dispositions, leases, finance, and development, for both improved and unimproved real property.

Prior to joining the Firm, Robert worked for 11 years, first at Green, de Bortnowsky & Quintanilla, LLP, serving as Deputy City Attorney for the cities of Rancho Mirage, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City and Victorville, then later at the Law Offices of Quintanilla & Associates, serving as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Rancho Mirage, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Desert Hot Springs, Interim Deputy City Attorney for the City of Moreno Valley, and Deputy General Counsel for numerous other public agencies. Robert also served as the Rancho Mirage Planning Commission General Counsel for 6 years.

Robert is barred in both California and Illinois. Prior to his practice in municipal law, Robert worked as both a corporate lawyer and as a litigator in both California and Illinois. Robert also spent several years in Chicago representing Fortune 500 companies in real estate, land use and eminent domain matters.

Robert earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Economics from the University of California at Los Angeles, and received his Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio.

APPENDIX B – CURRENT PUBLIC AGENCY

<i>Clients</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Start Date</i>
CITY ATTORNEY CLIENTS		
Bell	City Attorney	2011
Calabasas	City Attorney	2024
Carson	City Attorney	2003
Cerritos	City Attorney	2024
Chino	City Attorney	2017
Cupertino	City Attorney	2025
Cypress	City Attorney	1997
Dos Palos	City Attorney	2026
Fillmore	City Attorney	2012
Glendora	City Attorney	2018
Grand Terrace	City Attorney	2018
Hesperia	City Attorney	2007
Irwindale	City Attorney	1996
King City	City Attorney	2016
La Cañada Flintridge	City Attorney	1965
Livingston	City Attorney	2023
Lompoc	City Attorney	1996
Madera	City Attorney	2023
Murrieta	City Attorney	2022
Ojai	City Attorney	2025
Parlier	City Attorney	2025
Perris	City Attorney	2000
Rancho Palos Verdes	City Attorney	2015
Richmond	City Attorney	2021
Ridgecrest	City Attorney	1989
San Dimas	City Attorney	1977
San Gabriel	City Attorney	2017
Sanger	City Attorney	
Yuba City	City Attorney	2018
SPECIAL COUNSEL CLIENTS		
Arcadia	Special Counsel (Police Personnel)	2016
Bakersfield	Special Counsel	2013
Brisbane	Special Counsel	2016
Compton	Special Counsel	2025
Corona	Special Counsel (Sex Offenders)	2016
Culver City	Special Counsel	1980
Cupertino	Special Counsel	2021
El Segundo	Special Counsel	2025
Fresno	Special Counsel	2013
Huntington Beach	Special Counsel	2025
Irvine	Special Counsel	2014
Kerman	Special Counsel	2019
Madera	Special Counsel	2019
County of Madera	Special Counsel	2021
Merced City School District	Special Counsel	2020
Newark	Special Counsel	2021
Newport Beach	Special Counsel	2007
Norwalk	Special Counsel	2025
Ojai	Special Counsel	2021
Oxnard	Special Counsel	2007
Pasadena	Special Counsel	2007
San Joaquin	Special Counsel	2017
Santa Maria	Special Counsel	2025
South Gate	Special Counsel (Labor & Employment)	2017
South Pasadena	Special Counsel	2016
Tracy	Special Counsel (Communications Project)	2017
Tustin	Special Counsel	2025
Ventura	Special Counsel	2016

GENERAL/SPECIAL COUNSEL

Amador Water Agency	Special Counsel	1998
Bay Area Rapid Transit District	Special Counsel	1996
Bedford Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Agency	General Counsel	2018
Big Bear Municipal Water District	General Counsel	1989
Carson Reclamation Authority	Authority Counsel	2003
California Water Environment Association	Special Counsel	2005
Camrosa Water District	General Counsel	2024
Central Coast Blue Regional Recycled Water Authority	General Counsel JPA	2023
Central Marin Sanitation Agency	Special Counsel	2020
Coalinga-Huron Recreation & Park District	General Counsel	2018
Contra Costa Water District	Special Counsel	1996
Del Rey Community Services District	General Counsel	2014
Delta Conveyance Finance Authority	General Counsel	2019
Desert Lakes Community Services District	Special Counsel	2001
East Kern Health Care District	General Counsel	1989
East Merced School District	Special Counsel	2020
Fillmore Piru Groundwater Sustainability Agency	General Counsel	2011
Five Cities Fire Authority	JPA General Counsel	2023
Foothill Municipal Water District	General Counsel	1997
Herlong Public Utility District	General Counsel	2024
Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District	Special Counsel	2016
Home Gardens County Water District	General Counsel	2000
Housing Authority of County of L.A.	Special Counsel	2013
Housing Authority of County of San Bernardino	General Counsel	2019
Housing Authority of the City of Alameda	Special Counsel	2020
Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles	Special Counsel	2020
Housing Authority of the City of Madera	Special Counsel	2021
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz	Special Counsel (Labor & Employment)	2026
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority	General Counsel	2016
Isla Vista Community Services District	General Counsel	2017
La Cañada Unified School District	Special Counsel	2015
LA County Development Authority	Special Counsel	2013
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	General Counsel	1989
Littlerock Creek Irrigation District	General Counsel	1990
Los Olivos Community Services District	General Counsel	2015
Madera County Transportation Commission	General Counsel	2015
Madera Irrigation District	Special Counsel	2015
Marina Coast Water District	Special Counsel	2014
Municipal Water District of Orange County	Special Counsel	2011
Orange County Council of Governments	General Counsel	2001
Palm Ranch Irrigation District	General Counsel	1997
Palmdale Water District	General Counsel	2014
Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District	Special Counsel	2015
Placer Mosquito & Vector Control District	Special Counsel	2010
Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park Dist.	General Counsel	2017
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority	General Counsel	2019
Quartz Hill Water District	Special Counsel	2016
Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District	Special Counsel	2010
Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority	General Counsel	2019
San Diego Housing Commission	Special Counsel	2024
San Diego County Water Authority	Special Counsel	2022
San Gabriel County Water District	General Counsel	1989
San Luis Rey Municipal Water District	General Counsel	2015
Santa Monica - Malibu Unified School District	Special Counsel	2019
Santa Ynez Basin	General Counsel	2024
Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District	Special Counsel	2011
South Dos Palos County Water District	General Counsel	
South Montebello Irrigation District	General Counsel	2016
Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency	Special Counsel	2001
Truckee Donner Public Utility District	Special Counsel	2015
Truckee Sanitary District	Special Counsel	1996
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	General Counsel	2011
Upper Ventura River Groundwater Authority	General Counsel	2018

Valley County Water District	General Counsel	1989
West Basin Municipal Water District	General Counsel	1989
Yuba County Water Agency	Special Counsel	1996