

Candice LEE

Shareholder

LOS ANGELES

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Candice Lee is a shareholder in the Public Law Department at Richards, Watson & Gershon. With over 20 years of experience in municipal law, Candice advises public agencies on sophisticated land use and planning issues and all aspects of municipal law such as the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), constitutional law, conflicts of interest, stormwater regulation, and joint powers authorities.

Candice is proud of her longstanding relationships with her city clients, many spanning from the beginning of her legal career. She focuses on developing practical advice and solutions for her city clients and delivering clearly written advice.

WORK FOR CLIENTS

Candice serves as City Attorney for the City of Agoura Hills. She previously served as City Attorney for the City of Covina and Assistant City Attorney and Planning Commission Counsel for the Cities of Agoura Hills, Artesia, and Temecula. She also previously served as counsel to the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center Joint Powers Authority and the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Joint Powers Authority (otherwise known as the Gateway Water Management Authority).

Candice's legal practice includes:

- ▶ Advising cities on general plans and specific plans, complex commercial developments, mixed-use developments, and downtown revitalization plans.
- ▶ Advising over two dozen cities on environmental compliance matters relating to the Clean Water Act, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and NPDES stormwater permit issues. This includes preparing and negotiating multi-agency cooperative agreements relating to stormwater permit

PRACTICE AREAS

Municipal & Public Agency Law

FOCUS AREAS

Brown Act & Open Government

Development Agreements
Franchises

Joint Powers Authorities

Land Use Planning & Zoning (Municipal)

Public Records & E-Documents

Public Works & Public Contracting

Stormwater Discharge (NPDES Permits)

EDUCATION

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

B.A., *summa cum laude*, University of California, Los Angeles

compliance issues and preparing petitions for review before the State Water Resources Control Board relating to stormwater permits.

- ▶ Working closely with city planners and environmental consultants to ensure that an Environmental Impact Report, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Negative Declaration and related approvals for a project are consistent with CEQA.
- ▶ Preparing and negotiating municipal contracts, such as professional services agreements, development agreements, settlement agreements, public works contracts, joint powers agreements, MOUs, and franchise agreements for natural gas, oil and water.
- ▶ Preparing ordinances and resolutions on many subjects, including zoning, stormwater quality, water and gas franchises, public works projects, purchasing procedures, development impact fees (including compliance with AB 1600) and various other user and recovery fees.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Candice was a summer associate at RWG in 2002, and joined the firm as an associate in 2003. Candice also served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Harry Pregerson of the United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit in 2001.

HONORS & AWARDS

Honoree, First 100 Asian Pacific American Women Law Firm Partners in Los Angeles

Senior Notes and Comments Editor, U.C. Davis Law Review

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Member, League of California Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee (2024)

Member, League of California Cities City Attorneys Department Nominating Committee (2022)

Member, City Attorneys Association of Los Angeles County

Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association

EXPERIENCE

Candice advises cities on complex land use transactions and capital improvement projects. Major notable projects include:

- ▶ Negotiating a development agreement and advising on land use and CEQA issues for a multi-party, public-private partnership based mixed use project with residential, commercial and public transit components.
- ▶ Advising on legal issues relating to the development, construction, operation and management of a new, state-of-the-art city recreation and event center.
- ▶ Advising on land use and environmental issues for a large luxury automobile dealership project.
- ▶ Advising on land use and environmental issues for a new regional hospital.
- ▶ Advising on the development of a new form-based Downtown Specific Plan.

NEWS

JPA Member Agencies May Be Liable for JPA Pension Obligations Under New Law

10.19.2018