

David LIM

Shareholder

SAN FRANCISCO

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David serves clients in litigation matters and in areas of public law.

WORK FOR CLIENTS

David serves as City Attorney to the Cities of Dunsmuir and Fairfield, General Counsel to the Ross Valley Fire Department, and Assistant City Attorney to the City of Mill Valley. David also serves as special counsel to agencies in the area of human resource investigations, code enforcement, police practices, and general litigation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining Richards, Watson & Gershon, David served as a Deputy District Attorney in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties from 1999 to 2019, with over 50 solo jury trials to verdict and countless other litigation matters. From 2016 to 2019, David was the lead prosecutor for the Ghost Ship Warehouse fire, one of the largest mass casualty events in California. For 14 years David served on the Real Estate Fraud Committee of the California District Attorneys Association, acting as Chair from 2010 to 2018. From 2009 to 2017 David served on the San Mateo City Council, including two years as the appointed Mayor.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Member, San Mateo County Bar Association

Member, Alameda County Bar Association

Member, California Association of Code Enforcement Officers

PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation

Municipal & Public Agency Law

FOCUS AREAS

Police Practices (Litigation)

EDUCATION

J.D., University of California College of the Law, San Francisco

M.Ed, UCLA

B.A., UCLA

INTERESTS

David is an avid (but slow) runner, having completed 18 marathons at a pace faster than a sloth but slower than a cheetah. He and his wife have three kids and reside in the San Francisco Bay Area.

EXPERIENCE

HIGHLIGHTED REPRESENTATIONS

- ▶ **People v. Max Harris & Derick Almena.** Alameda County Superior Court, 2017-2019. Lead prosecutor in the Ghost Ship Warehouse fire on December 2, 2016, which killed 36 individuals.
- ▶ **People v. Yusuf Bey IV, et. al.** Alameda County Superior Court, 2007. Led a series of prosecutions against the organized criminal syndicate "Your Black Muslim Bakery" in Oakland in multiple cases of real estate fraud and identity theft to help break up the syndicate. Companion prosecution to the murder case of Oakland Post reporter Chauncey Bailey.

NEWS

Join RWG at the 2024 LCC Annual Conference and Expo

10.15.2024

Online AB1234 Ethics Training

02.15.2024

RWG Announces Newest Shareholders David Lim and Steven Guy

04.24.2023

"Good Cause" Requirement for Concealed Firearm License Invalidated

06.29.2022

Safety Risk Justifies Short-Notice Clearing of Homeless Encampments Along a Freeway

05.16.2022

Hearing Required Before Return of Confiscated Weapons

10.04.2021

California Court of Appeal Protects Peace Officer Confidential Personnel Files From Fishing Expeditions by Defense Attorneys
12.30.2020

PRESENTATIONS

Don't Confuse Kindness With Weakness: How to Handle Disruptive Public Meetings - A Guide for City Councilmembers and City Staff
2025 Special District Leadership Academy, 11.18.2025

Who Does What and Why: Establishing Good Governance
CSDA Special District Leadership Academy, San Rafael, 11.05.2024

Don't Confuse Kindness With Weakness: How to Handle Disruptive Public Meetings - A Guide for City Councilmembers and City Staff
League of California Cities Annual Conference, 10.17.2024

Core Policies and Procedures You Should Have at Your District
California Special Districts Association Board Secretary/Clerk Conference, November 7-9, 2022

Ghost Ship Warehouse Fire - A Case Study
California Association of Code Enforcement Officers, 05.26.2021

Chelsea Straus and David Lim - A Roadmap to Navigating Prosecutions Under DA Gascón's New Policies
Independent Cities Association Winter Seminar, 02.20.2021