

Maricela MARROQUÍN

Shareholder

LOS ANGELES

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Maricela Marroquin is a shareholder in the Public Law Department at Richards, Watson & Gershon and serves on the Firm's Management Committee. Maricela has nearly 20 years of experience representing local governments. She is City Attorney for the City of Highland and is Assistant City Attorney for the Cities of Temecula and Jurupa Valley. Maricela also regularly staffs the Temecula and Jurupa Valley Planning Commission meetings.

WORK FOR CLIENTS

Maricela has expertise in land use, planning and zoning law, the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, and housing-related laws. In the land use area, Maricela has worked on a variety of projects ranging from the adoption of Specific Plans, General Plan amendments, residential subdivisions, and mixed use projects. Maricela has also authored ordinances on subjects such as prohibiting smoking in multi-unit residential housing, prohibiting smoking in public places, purchasing procedures, and regulating massage establishments, accessory dwelling units, and collection containers. Maricela also routinely drafts and negotiates municipal contracts, such as professional services agreements, development agreements, and settlement agreements.

Maricela has significant expertise in the complex and constantly evolving State and Federal laws regarding cannabis including Senate Bill 94, the Medicinal Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act and the Controlled Substances Act. Maricela assists city clients with understanding their options for regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses in their jurisdiction, and has drafted over twenty ordinances regulating or prohibiting commercial cannabis activities. Maricela has also drafted local ballot measures to regulate and tax commercial cannabis businesses including retailers, cultivation, manufacturing, and testing laboratory facilities.

PRACTICE AREAS

Municipal & Public Agency Law

FOCUS AREAS

Brown Act & Open Government

Cannabis

Condemnation Actions

Eminent Domain (Litigation)

Land Use Planning & Zoning (Litigation)

Land Use Planning & Zoning (Municipal)

Municipal Code Enforcement

Public Records & E-Documents

Real Estate Acquisition & Right-of-Way

EDUCATION

J.D., University of California at Los Angeles School of Law

B. A., *cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, San Diego

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Maricela began her legal career with Richards, Watson & Gershon in 2003 when she worked as a Summer Associate with the firm. Maricela spent ten years representing cities in various litigation matters including administrative mandamus proceedings, municipal and tort defense, code enforcement, contract disputes, and condemnation actions. As a former eminent domain attorney, Maricela assisted clients in all stages of the pre-acquisition process for grade separation, road widening, and detention basin projects. Maricela has now switched her focus to providing advisory assistance to clients on a wide variety of municipal law matters including the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, conflicts of interest, contracts, and housing related matters. Maricela has represented the cities of Agoura Hills, Banning, Beverly Hills, Calimesa, Covina, Monrovia, Norwalk, San Marino, and Yucaipa.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association

EXPERIENCE

Maricela has significant expertise in State laws pertaining to cannabis for both medicinal and adult-use. Maricela provides advisory assistance to city clients to help them understand their ability to regulate or prohibit commercial cannabis businesses, the regulation of cannabis for personal use, and cannabis taxation issues. Maricela has provided advisory assistance to over twenty cities regarding cannabis regulation including Agoura Hills, Covina, Beverly Hills, Compton, Monrovia, Norwalk, Temecula and Yucaipa, and has drafted ordinance for these cities.

Maricela assisted the City of Temecula in drafting the necessary documents for the adoption of the Uptown Temecula Specific Plan, including a General Plan Amendment, approval of the Specific Plan, certification of the EIR, and amendment to an adult business overlay zone.

Maricela also assisted Beverly Hills in drafting tobacco smoking regulations.

NEWS

Governor Signs New Housing and Parking Legislation
09.29.2022

The Housing Accountability Act Does Not Apply to an Application for a Single-Family Home
07.01.2022

Cannabis Deliveries Are Now Legal Throughout the State

01.22.2019

California Agencies Release Proposed Changes to Cannabis Regulations

10.24.2018

Cities May Impose Immediate Administrative Fines or Penalties for Illegal Cannabis Cultivation Under New Law

09.20.2018

Cannabis Tax Measure Accompanied by an "Advisory Measure" Is a Valid General Tax

08.31.2018

Proposed State Regulation Would Allow Cannabis Deliveries in All Jurisdictions

07.18.2018

Federal Government Changes Policy on Marijuana Prosecutions

01.08.2018

Bureau of Cannabis Control is Now Accepting Applications for Certain Commercial Cannabis Activities

12.12.2017

California Releases Emergency Regulations for Cannabis Businesses; Comments Due Next Week

11.17.2017

New Regulatory Structure for Medical and Non-Medical Cannabis Laws

07.03.2017

New Developments and Complications in Marijuana Laws

09.06.2016

PRESENTATIONS

Housing Element Updates & The Future of Housing Approvals

Association of California Cities – Orange County, 12.09.2020

City of Temecula Planning Commission Training

Temecula, CA, 06.2017

Regulating Marijuana in Calimesa

Calimesa, CA, 06.2017

Regulating Marijuana Post Proposition 64
Beverly Hills, CA, 02.2017

Proposition 64: The Adult Use of Marijuana Act – Holy Smokes it Passed! Now What?
Camarillo, CA, 11.2016

Regulating Marijuana in California
Simi Valley, CA, 11.2016

Public Nuisance Hearing Board Training
Highland, CA, 10.08.2016

A New Green Future for California Cities, Proposition 64: The Adult Use of Marijuana Act
Tustin, CA, 08.2016