

Trisha ORTIZ

Shareholder

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Trisha counsels local governments on all aspects of municipal governance, including public meetings, transactional and land use matters, the interpretation, application of, and compliance with the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Political Reform Act, and other conflict of interest and ethics laws. In addition to her general municipal law practice, Trisha specializes in advising clients with regard to elections, imposing and increasing taxes and fees, special tax and assessment financing, and clean energy financing.

WORK FOR CLIENTS

Trisha currently serves as City Attorney for the City of San Bruno, General Counsel for the San Mateo County Harbor District, Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority, Marin Emergency Radio Authority, California Statewide Communities Development Authority, and Ross Valley Fire Department, and Special Counsel to the County of Sonoma for its energy independence program.

Trisha advises local governments in achieving state law solutions to their local issues. Namely, she assisted the City of Palm Desert in writing AB 811, which authorizes public agencies to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements on private property, also known as Property Assessed Clean Energy or "PACE." Trisha also assisted the City of Fairfield in writing AB 806, which authorizes certain community development powers for cities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Prior to attending law school, Trisha spent over seven years working in state legislative government where she served as legislative staff in the Arizona House of Representatives, focusing on tax policy and the state budget, and she also worked as a lobbyist in the Michigan State Legislature.

PRACTICE AREAS

Municipal & Public Agency Law

Public Finance

FOCUS AREAS

Brown Act & Open Government

Elections, Voting & Campaign Finance

Financing Districts

Joint Powers Authorities

PACE Financing (Property Assessment Clean Energy) (Environmental)

Redevelopment Dissolution

Solid Waste

Taxes, Assessments & Fees

EDUCATION

J.D., Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

M.B.A., Arizona State University

B.S., University of Arizona

HONORS & AWARDS

Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review, Senior Research Editor

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Member, American Bar Association

Member, California State Bar

Member, San Francisco Bar Association

Member, National Association of Bond Lawyers

Women in Public Finance

League of California Cities, Committee on Municipal Finance

NEWS

Measures Adopting Municipal Water Rates Cannot Be Challenged by the Referendum Process

08.13.2020

City's Transfer of Revenue from Municipal Electric Utility to General Fund to Recover Costs of City Services Upheld

09.10.2018

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

08.31.2018

States May Require Sales Tax Collection by Out-of-State Internet Sellers

06.26.2018

PRESENTATIONS

Core Policies and Procedures You Should Have at Your District

California Special Districts Association Board Secretary/Clerk Conference, November 7-9, 2022

The Basics of Municipal Revenues

08.05.2022

Public Service Ethics

League of California Cities Annual Conference, 09.12.2018

EIFDs: Tax Increments of a Different ilk

The Bond Buyer's 25th Annual California Public Finance Conference, 10.22.2015

Economic Development and Local Infrastructure Financing in the Post-RDA Era

The Bond Buyer's 22nd Annual California Public Finance Conference, 10.18.2012

Legislative Fixes for Congressional Action

PACE Solutions: Bringing AB 811 Home Conference, 03.03.2011

Public Financing of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements on Private Property

County Counsel's Association of California, Taxation Fall 2009 Study Section Conference, 11.19.2009

Jumping the Legislative Hurdles

City and County Energy Conference, 11.16.2009

AB 811 Contractual Assessments

California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission: Public Financing for Solar Energy, 10.09.2009

Government Financing for Private Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements

The Bond Buyer's 19th Annual California Public Finance Conference, 09.15.2009

Preparing for Bond Takeout!

The Palm Desert AB 811 Conference, 06.12.2009

Formation of Community Facilities Districts

Southern California City Clerk's Association General Meeting, 09.20.2007

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author, California Municipal Law Handbook, Chapter 5: Finance and Economic Development

Continuing Education of the Bar - California, 2021

Co-Author, Propositions 26 and 218 Implementation Guide

League of California Cities, 08.2021

Governor Brown Signs SB 231 Regarding Stormwater Fee Authority

CSMFO Magazine, 11.2017

AB 811: The Promise and Challenge of Public Agency Financing for Private Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements

Public Law Journal, an Official Publication of the State Bar of California Public Law Section, Vol. 33, No. 1, Winter 2010