



Elena Q. Gerli

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Partner

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LOS ANGELES

(310) 527-6660

PRACTICE AREAS

- Contracts & Public Works
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Ethics & Open Government
- Housing
- Land Use & Zoning
- Property Acquisition & Takings
- Public Agency Organization
- Public Safety

PUBLIC OFFICES

- ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
- City of Bell
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes

EDUCATION

- UNIVERSITY OF CA, LOS ANGELES
- JD 2003
- BROWN UNIVERSITY
- BA 1990

Elena Gerli has 16 years of experience representing public entities. Her areas of expertise include zoning and land use, CEQA, ordinance drafting, general plan amendments, constitutional law, contract negotiation and drafting, marijuana regulation and control, fair housing and group home regulation, and guiding local governments through complex quality of life issues. Ms. Gerli regularly assists the firm's client cities on various day-to-day needs including legal research and drafting of legal opinions; preparation of staff reports; advising planning and public works departments; document review and preparation; and contract drafting and negotiations. Ms. Gerli also advises her municipal clients regarding the Political Reform Act (conflicts of interest), Brown Act (public meeting laws), Public Records Act, elections laws, revenue measures and Proposition 218.

Ms. Gerli has extensive litigation and enforcement experience. In enforcement, she has worked with code enforcement and police departments, and the judicial system, to ensure compliance with local municipal codes. Her experience includes criminal and civil remedies, including abatement warrants, injunctions, and receiverships. Her civil litigation experience includes public nuisance abatement, writs and appeals, and litigating constitutional rights and fair housing claims in both State and Federal courts.

Ms. Gerli is a First Amendment expert, having drafted a number of sign codes (before and after *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*), and addressed a variety of free speech and RLUIPA issues faced by city clients, such as rules relating to picketing, special events, and demonstrations, billboard regulations, commercial speech regulations, donations boxes, and informational kiosks in the public right-of-way, and many other issues.

Ms. Gerli also has expertise in the regulation of group homes, including the complex state and federal housing laws affecting such regulation, Natural Community Conservation Plans/Habitat Conservation Plans, and the use of Community Development Block Grant funds and other state and federal grant funds, and the property use restrictions that such grants may require.

Currently, Ms. Gerli is Assistant City Attorney for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the City of Bell, and provides First Amendment special counsel services for the City of Culver City.

Ms. Gerli obtained her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law in 2003. Ms. Gerli obtained her undergraduate degree from Brown University in 1990, for which she is an active alumni leader. Currently Ms. Gerli serves as Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Association of Class Leaders, for Brown University alumni.



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ADMISSIONS

State Bar of California
US Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
US District Court, Central, CA

LANGUAGES

French