

# SHAYNA VAN HOFTEN

## PARTNER

Shayna assists local government agencies with a variety of legal issues, and non-governmental entities with government-related challenges and opportunities. Shayna works with public, private and individual clients in their efforts to support or oppose state and local initiatives, and in efforts to influence other agencies' rule-making proceedings, primarily by penning written and oral public comment.

### CHILDHOOD:

Shayna grew up in San Mateo. Three out of 4 of her grandparents were raised in the Bay Area and much of her family lives here to this day. She attended Pomona College for her undergrad and then moved to Washington, D.C. for 3 years post-college. Shayna moved back to the Bay Area to attend law school and policy school at U.C. Berkeley and has been here ever since.

### FIRST JOB:

Babysitting. Her second job was working on Ted Lempert's political campaigns, organizing volunteers and doing the graphic design for campaign mailers.

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING AN ATTORNEY:

Shayna likes that every day is different.

### WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

When lights are left on in empty rooms.

### FAVORITE WAY TO SPEND FREE TIME:

Going on adventures around the Bay Area. She recently went to the Harley Farms Goat Dairy in Pescadero with her husband Derek and their sons Jonah and Eli, and loved it. She hadn't been to Pescadero since she was a kid and had a wonderful time rediscovering it with her family.

### FAVORITE BAY AREA DESTINATION:

The Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay. She and her husband went there for their 5th anniversary and found it to be so beautiful and relaxing.



### IF YOU WEREN'T A LAWYER YOU WOULD BE...

Working in children's health or education policy, most likely for a non-profit.

### FAVORITE BOOK:

*The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, by Michael Chabon. She also really likes Jonathan Safran Foer and David Sedaris, & Jennifer Weiner books are a guilty pleasure for a good beach read.

### WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?:

Shayna would most like to re-meet her great grandmother. Born in Europe, she fled to Massachusetts to avoid persecution and died when Shayna was in pre-school. Given the opportunity to meet again, Shayna would ask very different questions about her family's history and her ancestors' lives.

### FAVORITE CAUSE:

Shayna has always been drawn to the Special Olympics as an organization to support.

### FAVORITE MOVIE:

*The Princess Bride, 50 First Dates and Old School.*

### FAVORITE RESTAURANT:

Shayna and her family go to dinner almost every Friday at a local Mexican restaurant called El Charro. While it is not her favorite restaurant based on the caliber of food, it's a great place to go to unwind at the end of the week and a fun tradition her family has started (and they mix a great pomegranate margarita!).

### WHAT BOOK ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW?

*Teach Your Children Well*, by Madeline Levine.

### DO YOU TWEET?

No.

### WHAT IS SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Shayna played competitive soccer growing up until she blew out her ankle. Needing something to do as she could no longer play soccer, she got involved in local government and politics.

### LAST PLACE YOU VACATIONED:

She went to Kauai with her family this winter on vacation. Last fall she and her husband Derek celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary in Victoria, British Columbia.

### WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

Everything. Her family has a shared iPod with music that ranges from jazz, punk, and classic and alternative rock to kids' music, Hebrew music and classical.