



Alexandra V. Atencio

Partner

Alex represents a variety of public sector clients including cities, counties, transit agencies, special districts and regional planning entities in a wide range of civil matters in state and federal court. Alex also chairs the Public Sector Litigation Group at Hanson Bridgett.

Alex litigates in areas including code enforcement, civil rights, public contracting, employment, land use, and disability access. She is experienced in civil rights and tort defense cases involving Section 1983 claims, Title II of the ADA, as well as dangerous condition of public property, design immunity, and other personal injury matters. Alex also provides risk management advice to public sector clients, including government claims procedures and defenses, as well as Brown Act and Public Records Act issues.

Representative Work

Won summary judgment in favor of a local public agency in a wrongful termination action alleging whistleblower retaliation. The court found the agency had a legitimate, non-retaliatory basis for the termination.

Won summary judgment in favor of a local public agency in a challenge to the agency's design immunity for lack of a median barrier. The court found that technological advances do not strip the agency of design immunity where no dangerous condition exists.

Won summary judgment in favor of a local public agency in a case involving a bicycle accident on the agency's property. The court found the agency entitled to trail immunity.

Won summary judgment in favor of a non-profit healthcare facility in a qui tam action alleging violations of the False Claims Act.

Publications

"County's Exclusion Of Anti-Israel Bus Advertisement Did Not Violate 1st Amendment," *Litigation & Dispute Resolution Alert* (April 2015)

"Public Entities Risk Losing Design Immunity Where They Fail to Present Evidence Of Discretionary Approval Of A Design," *Public Agency Law Alert* (April 2014)

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Firm Leadership

Public Sector Litigation Group, Chair
Pro Bono Committee

Practices/Industries

Government

Municipal and Public Agency
Litigation & Dispute Resolution
Public Transit & Transportation
Public Sector Litigation
Class Actions

"New Ruling Affects Prelitigation Settlements of Wrongful Death Claims," *Litigation Alert* (January 2012) (April 2012 – opinion ordered depublished)

"Risks of Using Social Media to Solicit Clients," *Litigation Alert* (March 2012)

Presentations

"A New Look at Design Immunity - Expanding Protection for Public Entities," co-speaker, California Special Districts Association Conference (September 2017)

"Design Immunity - A Valuable Tool for Avoiding Dangerous Condition Claims," Hanson Bridgett Public Agency Roundtable Series (August 2013)

Professional Affiliations

California Special District Association

State Bar of California

Bar Association of San Francisco

Women in Transportation International

Education

J.D., *cum laude*, University of San Francisco School of Law (2003)

B.A., *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, San Diego State University (1997)

Admissions and Courts

California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California