HansonBridgett



Catherine J. Groves

Partner

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Areas of Focus

- Government
- Municipal and Public Agency
- Government Ethics
- Privacy, Data Security and Governance
- Public Transit and Transportation
- Technology
- Infrastructure
- Water Law

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Catherine's practice focuses on government and public agency law. Catherine assists the firm's public agency clients with various legal issues such as public contracts and procurements, legislation, fees and rates, governance laws, ADA compliance, implementation of public grant programs, and ethics issues, including conflict of interest analyses. Catherine regularly attends client Board meetings and advises on the preparation of Board agendas, staff reports, resolutions, ordinances, and meeting minutes.

Catherine is passionate about helping her clients create tangible improvements to local communities. She helps clients navigate unique project delivery challenges in the public contracting arena and regularly assists clients with complex procurements and infrastructure projects, including complex technology procurements, power purchase agreements (PPAs), long term operations and maintenance agreements, and design-build and alternative project delivery agreements.

In addition, she assists clients in developing procurement policies, manuals and template solicitation documents and contracts to streamline and standardize agencies contracting processes. She also advises on compliance with local, state and federal funding requirements, including Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations.

Catherine has particular enthusiasm for, and expertise in, the evolving legal landscape of AI, data security and privacy laws and counsels clients regarding AI policies,

privacy policies, end-user license agreements, website terms and conditions, data breach response, and privacy and AI issues in technology agreements.

Catherine frequently advises and trains clients on compliance with the Brown Act, Public Records Act, and conflict of interest laws and regulations.

Representative Work

Developed all formation documents for new special district, including bylaws, procurement manual, conflict of interest code (including interfacing with the Fair Political Practices Commission), investment policy, and template agenda materials.

Counseled a county water district in developing and implementing a 5 MW multi-site solar PV project, including collaborating with staff and outside consultants to develop a procurement strategy, draft/review all procurement documents, and lead negotiations for six 25 year power purchase agreements.

Drafted and advised transit agency in preparing all legal documents and policies required to become a FTA grantee.

Counseled a municipal utility district and transit agencies on assessing and implementing agency-wide data security and privacy programs.

Advised public transit agency clients through all stages of the procurement and launch of mobile ticketing and mobility applications.

Publications

"2024 New Laws Series, Part 3: Infrastructure Package Expands Progressive Design-Build and Design-Build, Streamlines CEQA for Select Projects," co-author, California Special Districts Association (November 2023)

"In a Win for Public Agencies, California Legislature Clarifies Use of Independent Contractors for Multi-Phase Projects," co-author, Government Legal Alert (October 2023)

"Amendment to the Brown Act Provides for New Website and Agenda Requirements," *Government Law Alert* (July 2017)

"New Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Requirement For Local Agency Officials: FAQ & Compliance Tips," co-author, *Labor & Employment Law Alert* (March 2017)

"California Supreme Court Case Alert: Public Records on Private Accounts," co-author, *Government Law Alert* (March 2017)

"Why Take 8 Steps When You Can Get There In 4? The FPPC's New Conflict of Interest Regulations for Public Officials in California," co-author, *Public Law Journal* (March 2016)

"Ask the Experts: The Brown Act," co-author, *California Special Districts Association Magazine* (April 2015)

"New Public Works Requirements for Contractors and Public Agencies Pursuant to SB 854," co-author, *Public Agency Law Alert* (December 2014)

"New Brown Act Reporting Requirements," co-author, *Public Agency Law Alert* (March 2014)

Presentations

"Strategic Artificial Intelligence Policies: Managing Risk While Driving Government Efficiency And Innovation," panelist, CALACT Spring Conference (April 2026)

"New and Emerging Technologies: Public Records, Discovery, and Records Retention," panelist, APTA Legal Affairs Seminar (March 2026)

"Navigating the Technology Landscape: Privacy, Compliance, Cloud Services, and AI," APTA 2024 Legal Affairs Seminar (February 2024)

"Let's Get Ethical: The New 1090 Gives Water Agencies more Flexibility," ACWA Fall Conference and Expo (November 2023)

"Local Agency Contracting with Independent Contractors," Institute for Local Government Webinar (November 2023)

"An Overview of Laws and Compliance," co-presenter, MCLE Marathon (January 2020)

"First Amendment Issues and Transit: A Discussion of Speech Rights and Recent Developments in Advertising and Filming on Transit Systems," co-presenter, American Public Transit Association Legal Affairs Seminar (February 2020)

"Cyber Sense: Legal and Strategic Insights on How to Protect Sensitive and Confidential Information Amid Increased Security Threats," co-speaker, California Special Districts Associations (June 2019)

"Data Sharing Opportunities and Managing Data Risks in a "Smarter" World," co-speaker, Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting (January 2019)

"Information Privacy Law: Government Data Collection & Disclosure Laws," lecturer, University of San Francisco School of Law (November 2018)

“Who Owns the Data-Mitigating Data Breach Risks in a ‘Smarter’ World,” co-speaker, Transportation Research Board 57th Annual Workshop (July 2018)

“Laws Governing Sensitive Information & Tips for Advising on Common Cyber Security Issues,” co-speaker, American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legal Affairs Seminar (February 2018)

“Contract Tips for Protecting Sensitive Data and Reducing the Risk of a Breach and Top 5 Things to Do in the Week After a Data Breach,” co-speaker, Northern California County Counsel Meeting (June 2017)

“Government Ethics Academy,” co-speaker, Santa Clara University’s Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (May 2016)

“Welcome to the Fishbowl: An Interactive Government Ethics Workshop,” co-speaker, 2015 CSDA Annual Conference (September 2015)

“Ask the Legal Experts,” co-speaker, 2015 CSDA General managers Leadership Summit (July 2015)

Press

“Hanson Bridgett Announces 2025 Partner Promotions,” Hanson Bridgett Press Release (January 2025)

Professional Affiliations

CalCities, Fair Political Practices Commission Committee (2020-2024)

Academic Distinctions

Berkeley Ecology Law Quarterly, Articles Editor

Berkeley Law Board of Advocates Team

Certificate of Specialization in Environmental Law

Education

J.D., University of California, Berkeley School of Law ()

B.A., highest departmental honors University of California, Berkeley ()

Admissions and Courts

California