



Ellen K. Demson

Associate

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Areas of Focus

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Business Litigation
- Public Sector Litigation
- Land Use
- Construction



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Ellen represents and advises owners, developers, public agencies, general contractors, and subcontractors in all manner of construction and land use-related disputes. She maintains a busy litigation practice representing both plaintiffs and defendants in state courts, federal courts, and arbitration tribunals pertaining to issues including delay claims, construction defect, design build agreements, design defects, defending and challenging land use entitlements, code enforcement, government tort claims act, and section 1983 claims.

On the transactional side, Ellen frequently advises landowners, developers and public agency clients in land use and environmental regulatory matters and has experience conducting land use due diligence, preparing and processing entitlement applications, ensuring compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Subdivision Map Act, the Housing Accountability Act, and other land use and environmental legislation, and representing clients in administrative proceedings in front of federal, regional and state agencies.

Representative Work

Successful defense of a development company against construction-related claims for additional compensation by design-builder in excess of \$10MM related to the design and construction of two assisted living facilities in Northern California (with a collective project value in excess of \$50MM)

Publications

“AB 1287 Makes Technical Changes to State Density Bonus Law to Maximize Housing Production,” co-author, Land Use + Government Legal Alert (December 2023)

“California’s Top Three Housing Bills to Track for 2024,” co-author, Real Estate Legal Alert (November 2023)

“The Builder’s Remedy: What Every Developer Should Know,” co-author, Land Use Law Legal Alert (March 2023)

Honors & Awards

California Lawyers Association, Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Legal Services Award (2020-2022)

Judicial Clerkships

Judicial Extern to the Honorable James T. Chou and the Honorable Roy O. Chernus, Marin County Superior Court

Academic Distinctions

UC Davis Law Review, Senior Articles Editor

Legal Research & Writing Teaching Assistant

Trial Practice Honors Board, TYLA Competition Chair

Marin and Santa Clara County Public Defender Offices, Intern

Education

J.D., University of California, Davis School of Law (2018)

B.S., Santa Clara University (2014)

Admissions and Courts

California