

CALIFORNIA CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

A
PLACE OF
DREAMS,
A GOVERNMENT OF
VISION

CCBSA 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 18 – 22

L.A. COUNTY



PASADENA CONVENTION AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Dear CCBSA Members and Guests,

Welcome to the 2024 CCBSA Annual Conference here in Los Angeles County!



Hosting you in this iconic location is both a pleasure and a privilege, where dreams are pursued with vision, and innovation is woven into every aspect of our community. This year's theme embodies the dynamic spirit of CCBSA as we gather to explore new insights, elevate our practices, and celebrate the critical role we play in California's governance.

Our conference agenda offers an inspiring lineup designed to equip you with tools for today's evolving workplace. From enhancing telework productivity and adapting to generational shifts in work-life balance, to preparing for the future needs of our communities, these sessions provide knowledge and insights to carry back to your offices.

We are thrilled to host our annual Welcome Dinner at the beloved El Cholo Café in Pasadena, complete with entertainment from Magic Castle magicians, engaging games, and ample networking opportunities. Beyond the conference, Southern California offers boundless experiences, from scenic beaches and renowned dining to lively arts and cultural destinations.

Throughout this week, we invite you to explore, exchange ideas, and build lasting connections with colleagues from across the state. LA County is proud to be your host, and we are committed to making this a memorable experience for everyone. Thank you for joining us here in this remarkable setting. We look forward to connecting with each of you and advancing the essential work we do together.

Welcome to Los Angeles and enjoy the 2024 CCBSA Annual Conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Yen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Edward Yen
Host County Clerk, Los Angeles County

2024 California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association
Annual Conference

2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Alicia Draves (Solano),
President, Bay Area Region

Lynna Monell (San Bernardino),
Vice President, Southern Region

Mia Martinez (Ventura),
Treasurer, Coastal Region

NORTHERN REGION

Stefany Blankenship (Shasta), *Chair*

Atlas Pearson (Mendocino), *Co-Chair*

BAY AREA REGION

Curtis Boone (Santa Clara), *Chair*

Neha Hoskins (Napa), *Co-Chair*

SIERRA REGION

Flo Evans (Sacramento), *Chair*

Nicole Lee (Sacramento), *Co-Chair*

COASTAL REGION

Mia Martinez (Ventura), *Chair*

Jacquelyne Alexander
(Santa Barbara), *Co-Chair*

CENTRAL REGION

Tamra Williams (Merced), *Chair*

Bernice Seidel (Fresno), *Co-Chair*

SOUTHERN REGION

Robin Stieler (Orange), *Chair*

Ryan Sharp (San Diego), *Co-Chair*

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Donna Johnston (Sutter)



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 Pasadena Convention Center



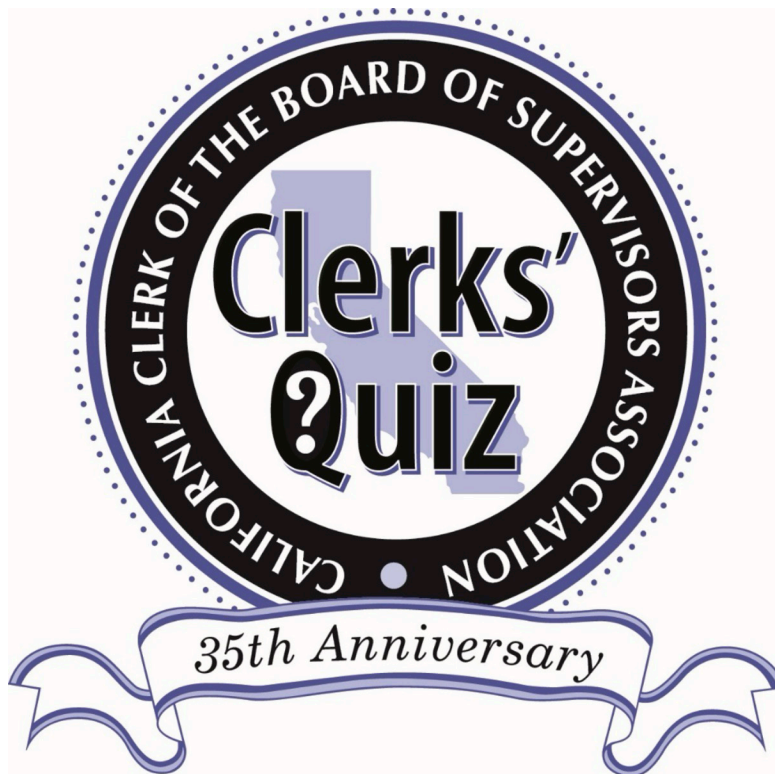
Just ten miles from downtown Los Angeles, the Pasadena Convention Center offers easy access to all Southern California airports and to 2,500 local hotel rooms—1,200 within walking distance. Steps away from local shopping, theaters, golf, museums and gardens paired with flexible packages and offerings allow Pasadena Convention Center to be one of the most sought after meeting locations on the West Coast.

The Pasadena Convention Center is LEED® Gold Certified and GBAC Star Accredited.



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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!



**The CCBSA Clerks' 35th Annual Quiz
will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
at the Pasadena Convention Center Lobby**

Stop by and test your knowledge of California facts
and encourage your county colleagues to take the quiz!

THE QUIZ CLOSSES AT 11:30 A.M. ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024



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Conference Schedule

Monday, November 18, 2024

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Convention Center
Ballroom F

**New Clerks Welcome/Overview of Mandated Responsibilities
Q&A Panel Discussion with Expert Clerks of the Board**

Alicia Draves (*Solano County*), 2024 CCBSA President

An informal opportunity for new Clerks of the Board to learn more about the resources available to them through the Association. Take advantage of the Q&A Panel Session that will provide an opportunity to ask those burning questions from expert Clerks of the Board!

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

Welcome to the 2024 CCBSA Conference

Alicia Draves, *CCBSA President, Solano County*
Edward Yen, *Executive Officer, Clerk of the Board of Los Angeles County*
Sachi Hamai, *Former Los Angeles County Clerk of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer*

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

**Los Angeles County at a Glance:
From Innovation to Global Celebration**

Kristin Sakoda, *Director of Arts and Culture, Los Angeles County*
Los Angeles County Arts: A Global Spotlight

Jackie Guevarra, *Executive Director, Quality and Productivity Commission,
Los Angeles County*

Los Angeles County: Navigating the Present, and Shaping the Future

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

Assessment Appeals Board

Tom Parker, *County Counsel, Los Angeles County*
Brenden Vlahakis, *Ventura County*

Discussion on current laws and litigations pertaining to AAB and a look into an Assessment Appeals Board System being utilized by Ventura County.

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch Break – On your own

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

CCBSA Roundtable



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Tuesday, November 19, 2024 (continued)

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

Power of Self – Discipline

Damien Scott, *Department of Human Resources,*
Los Angeles County

Part 1: Understanding vision, self-discipline, self-awareness/goal setting, building habits/routines and overcoming procrastination.

Part 2: Motivation, Accountability and Key takeaways

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM

Conference Center
Steps

CCBSA Annual Photo

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

Overview of the Brown Act

Brigit Greeson Alvarez (*Deputy County Counsel*) and
Norayr Zurabyan (*Senior Deputy Counsel*), *Los Angeles County Counsel*

An overview of the Brown Act and recent changes pertaining to the Clerk of the Board.

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

Ethics and Compliance

Kellie Johnson, *Assistant Executive Officer, Los Angeles County*

A discussion on the ethics of government records management, focusing on its role in preserving record integrity and fostering public trust.

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

2023-24 New Laws

Alina Kasparian, *Project Director, Los Angeles County*
Annette Medina, *Head Board Specialist, Los Angeles County*
Matt Silverling, *CCBSA Lobbyist*

A look at the 2024 Chaptered Laws that will take effect in 2025. Discussion on potential impacts of the bills, and what we are looking for during the next Legislative Session.

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Convention Center
Exhibit Hall A

Lunch Break – CSAC Exhibit Hall and Luncheon



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Wednesday, November 20, 2024 (continued)

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

Healthy Thinking

Dr. Matthew Jorgensen, *Department of Human Resources,*
Los Angeles County

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Break

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

CSAC Survey

Paul Danczyk, *Chief Operating Officer, California Counties Foundation, Inc.*

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

Business Meeting

Alicia Draves, *CCBSA President, Solano County*

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

By invitation only
El Cholo Café
Pasadena

CCBSA Welcome Dinner

CCBSA members, Emeriti and invited guests are welcome to this year's CCBSA Welcome Dinner at El Cholo Café Pasadena. Come and enjoy a casual evening of food, fun, laughter, and maybe a little Magic. Invited guests will receive an invitation by Host County Clerk Eddie Yen (Los Angeles) prior to the event.

Thursday, November 21, 2024

8:30 AM – 9:15 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

Translation, Interpretation and Potential Technology

Amin Almuhajab (*Chief Information Officer*),
LA County Information Resource Management

Robert Schwieger, *Pegasus*

Discussion on advances in interpretation/translation technology during Supervisor Board Meetings.

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

AI Innovations: Empowering the Future of Public Service

Arpiar Nazarian, *Chief Application Development*

Explore practical AI tools and strategies that can streamline processes, enhance decision-making, and drive efficiency in government operations.



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Thursday, November 21, 2024 (continued)

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

Break

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

Conference Center
Room 211

Public Records Act and the Public

Kit Elliott, County Counsel, Nevada County

Current landscape and case studies of challenging PRA requests,
First Amendment audits, and constituent dynamics.

11:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Convention Center
Exhibit Hall A

**Lunch Break – CSAC Luncheon & Election of Officers
Lunch Presentation of Clerks Quiz Award Winners**

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

The Future is Now – Embracing Generational Diversity and Succession

Jennifer Rosner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Conference Center
Room 211

Effective Communication Techniques

Melina Sardar, M.A. CPLC

*This training aids in the development of skills to communicate effectively.
The goal is to improve relationships in the workplace and one's personal life.*

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Convention Center,
Ballroom C

CCBSA Installation of Officers Reception

7:15 PM – 11:00 PM

Convention Center,
Ballrooms D & E

CSAC Annual Banquet

Friday, November 22, 2024

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Convention Center
Ballroom F

CCBSA Executive Committee Meeting

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

LA County
Hall of Administration

Tour of LA County Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors



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Amin Almuhabab
Chief Information Officer,
Executive Office of the Board, Los Angeles County

Amin is the Chief Information Officer at the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County. He provides leadership for technology teams driving the development of innovative solutions, business process automation, and digital transformation throughout the organization.

Amin has over 21 years of experience in diverse levels of technology engineering, industry sectors; healthcare, financial technology, nonprofit, and government. The services range from advisory roles, cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity programs, risk management programs, renovation roadmaps, operation oversight, and evaluation and recommendations to executive management for business solutions.



Brigit Greeson Alvarez
Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

Brigit Greeson Alvarez is a Deputy County Counsel with the Board Liaison Division at the Office of the County Counsel (Los Angeles), and advises the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, and County Commissions on ethics, conflicts of interest, the Brown Act, the Levine Act, immigration matters, and legislation affecting County operations. Prior to joining County Counsel, she was a seasoned immigration litigator and secured the adoption of a uniform analysis of criminal convictions for use by immigration judges Circuit-wide in *Rendon v. Holder*,

764 F.3d 1077 (9th Cir. 2014); 782 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2015)(petition for en banc rehearing denied). As an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Pepperdine University School of Law, she taught the Asylum & Refugee Law Clinic alongside the Hon. Bruce J. Einhorn (Ret.). Currently, she serves as the Treasurer & Second Vice President of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and Treasurer of the Hispanic National Bar Association LGBT Division. She graduated with a B.A. from Columbia University and obtained her J.D. from UCLA School of Law (Critical Race Studies Program, Epstein Program for Public Interest Law and Policy). Her proudest achievement is her 9-year old son, Auggie.



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Paul Danczyk
Chief Operating Officer, California Counties Foundation, Inc.

Paul Danczyk, PhD, is the Chief Operating Officer for California Counties Foundation, Inc., the 501c3 subsidiary of the California State Association of Counties. In his current capacity, Paul leads professional development and major initiatives to support California counties, county leadership, and public service executives and administrators. This includes The William “Bill” Chiat Institute for Excellence in County Government (CSAC Institute), with over 50 classes annually; the CSAC Grants Initiative; and the California Emerging Technology

Fund partnership. In previous roles, he was the Director of Executive Education in Sacramento for the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy, where he expanded executive education programs across California counties and state legislatures at senior staff levels. He is a past, member-elected president of the American Society for Public Administration, the oldest and largest professional association that brings together public service practitioners and scholars throughout the United States and internationally. As a certified executive coach, Paul worked with over 600 public sector senior executives and administrators one-on-one and in teams, and cofounded and is the lead architect of www.LeadershipEnergizes.com. A returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Paul earned a PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on Public and International Affairs; Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California; Bachelor of Science in education from the Pennsylvania State University; is a Professional Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation, trained at the Hudson Institute for Coaching; and holds certifications from the Harvard University's Mediating Disputes Program and the Barrett's Values Centre. An ongoing student of the arts and natural sciences, Paul enjoys landscaping, creating sculptures, painting, and bee keeping. He can be reached at pdanczyk@counties.org.



Alicia Draves
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Solano County

Alicia has served as the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for Solano County since September 2020. Prior to working for Solano County, Ms. Draves served as an Elected City Clerk for the City of Williams, the Clerk of the Board for Colusa County LAFCO, and as the Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for Sutter County. As the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Ms. Draves is responsible for overseeing the Clerk of the Board division of the County Administrator's office including administration of the Board of Supervisors

and Assessment Appeals.



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Kit Elliott
County Counsel, Nevada County

Since 2019, Katharine Elliott is the Nevada County Counsel providing professional legal services and advice to the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive Office, and other County departments. There are 6 attorneys in the office.

Prior to that she served as Mendocino County Counsel (since 2015). Additionally, she has over 27 years of legal experience; serving as Deputy County Counsel in Tulare County for 10 years, Assistant Public Defender in Mendocino County for 4 years and a solo law practice for 13 years in which she handled both criminal and civil cases.



Jackie T. Guevarra
Executive Director, Quality and Productivity Commission, Los Angeles County

Jackie began her county career in 1997. She joined the Department of Auditor-Controller's Audit Division as an Accountant-Auditor. Jackie also served as part of the Special Projects Division and worked on various projects with the Chief Executive Office. After almost fourteen years with the Audit Division, she joined the Accounting Division and supervised the Financial Analysis/Property Tax, Special Funds/Warrants, and Budget/Publication Sections. She was also primarily responsible for coordinating the compilation of the Annual Comprehensive

Financial Report (ACFR) and coordinated the countywide Fiscal Forum training and lead the Accounting Division's Mentor/Mentee program.

In 2018, she joined the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors as the Executive Director of the Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC). The Commission was formed to promote innovation, quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of County services. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Commission, works with seventeen Commissioners on various programs/events and manages the Productivity Investment Fund. Since 2020, Jackie has served as the Chair of the LACMC Education Committee, which plans and coordinates the monthly training seminars. Jackie has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from California State University, Northridge. Go Matadors! Jackie is also a Certified Public Accountant.



Sachi A. Hamai

Sachi A. Hamai served as the Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles County from December 2014 to August 2020, overseeing the strategic direction and day-to-day operations of the nation's largest municipal government with a \$45 billion budget. Her focus on fiscal responsibility led Los Angeles County to achieve its highest credit rating in history, including an upgrade to AAA by S&P Global Ratings. Under her leadership, the County secured a total of four credit upgrades.

As CEO, she played a pivotal role in advancing the Board of Supervisors' key priorities, including addressing the homeless crisis, streamlining health services, advancing justice reform, child and immigrant rights protections, and environmental oversight. A champion of change, Sachi inspired L.A. County's 112,000 employees to implement solutions to the region's most challenging issues.

In 2019, Sachi was named one of L.A.'s Top 500 most influential leaders for the fourth consecutive year by the Los Angeles Business Journal. That same year, Innovate@UCLA honored her with the Public Sector Executive Leadership Award. Sachi also received the 2018 Clarence A. Dykstra Award for Excellence in Government, the 2017 Asian American Architects and Engineers Association's Asian American Leadership Award, honors from the Asian American Employee Association and the Indian American Professional Association, and the 2018 Enterprise Community Partners' Cross-Sector Collaborator of the Year Award for her leadership in combating homelessness.

Today, Sachi is the founder of The Hamai Group, LLC, a strategic consulting firm. The Hamai Group leverages decades of knowledge in local government processes and stakeholders to provide strategic planning and project management. The firm helps clients navigate the complexities of government operations, foster strong relationships with local government officials, facilitate open dialogue, make connections and provide tailored, actionable advice to achieve strategic objectives.

In addition, Sachi currently holds other several key positions:

- Board Chair, US-Japan Council, which fosters stronger U.S.-Japan relations by connecting leaders and facilitating new relationships and meaningful collaboration.
- Board Member, Smart Easy Pay, a property tax payment system that simplifies payments for taxpayers and has expanded from three to over 30 counties in California.
- Board Chair, NACo EDGE (Excellence in Data, Governance, and Efficiency), which helps U.S. counties save money and improve services through better procurement, public insurance and retirement savings programs, and employee training.
- Board Member, Japan House Foundation, a nonprofit that strengthens U.S.-Japan ties and fosters appreciation for Japan through educational programs in art, culture, science, technology, and gastronomy.
- Advisory Board Member, Japanese Business Association of Southern California, which improves the business environment for Japanese companies and supports educational and cultural activities.

An avid Los Angeles Dodgers fan and outdoor enthusiast, Sachi enjoys spending her free time at baseball games and hiking with her dog, Oreo.



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Kellie Johnson
Assistant Executive Officer, Ethics and Compliance
Executive Office, Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

Kellie F. Johnson, Esq. is a distinguished executive leader currently serving as Assistant Executive Officer in Ethics and Compliance with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Executive Office. Kellie plays a major role in planning, organizing, and directing the compliance activities of the EO across legislative review, investigations, audits, and administrative enforcement.

Until May 2024, Kellie was Deputy Chief Ethics Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, managing compliance with laws and regulations. She previously served as Enforcement Chief and Executive Director of the City of Oakland Ethics Commission, where she conducted and participated over 75 investigations and developed the Public Ethics Commission Diversion Program. Earlier in her career, Kellie was Assistant Disciplinary Counsel for the Oregon State Bar and served as a State Prosecutor for over 13 years. Her litigation expertise has significantly shaped her approach to policy development and enforcement of public ethics.

As a strong agent for change, Kellie powerfully displays a true talent for public policy, community relations, advocacy, education, cultural awareness, equity, inclusion, outreach, and engagement. She is a national, state, and local lecturer on criminal law, trial practice and lawyer ethics to numerous bar associations, law enforcement agencies and community groups. She is a former instructor for the National District Attorneys Association National Advocacy Center in South Carolina and a presenter for the American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility and the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws.



Matthew Jorgensen, Ph.D.
Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources

Dr. Mathew Jorgensen received his master's and doctorate degrees in clinical psychology from the University of Missouri – St. Louis and has been a licensed psychologist since 2005.

He began his work with LA County in the Department of Mental Health in 2012. While he was with DMH he worked at Central Juvenile Hall where he supervised two intensive mental health treatment programs and served as the Acting Program Manager. In 2017 he joined the Department of Human Resources where he perform psychological pre-employment evaluations and fitness for duty evaluations, provide employee assistance counseling, and develop and provide training on various mental health and wellbeing-related topics. Dr. Jorgensen has also maintained a private practice since 2006.



Alina Kasparian
Project Director, Ethics and Compliance
Los Angeles County

Alina Kasparian is a Project Director with over a decade of experience in strategic leadership, regulatory compliance, and organizational management. Currently leading campaign compliance efforts under the Levine Act at the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors. Alina ensures transparency and ethical governance through expert analysis and oversight of recusal procedures. Her background spans directing critical operations, managing assessment appeal processes, and collaborating with diverse county departments to implement effective compliance systems. Alina's expertise includes policy development, risk management, and strategic problem-solving, consistently delivering impactful solutions that align with organizational objectives.



Annette Medina
Head Board Specialist, Ethics and Compliance
Los Angeles County

Annette Medina is a Head Board Specialist with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Executive Office. She has worked for the County for over 25 years, in which 10 of those years has been with the Executive Office. She currently works in the Ethics and Compliance Division where she assists in the Levine Act Unit, ensuring full compliance with the laws related to campaign contributions and disclosure information pertaining to titles of proceedings by the Board.

Annette also assists with reviewing and analyzing bills that are introduced during each biannual year to determine the impact it can have on the duties of the Executive Officer, Clerk of the Board, as well as the Board of Supervisors throughout the State. In addition to working in the Levine Act Unit, she also assists the Board Operations Division facilitating weekly Board Meetings which includes coordination with stakeholders, review of mandated documents, assistance with hosting board meetings, and ensuring compliance with the Brown Act, as well as assisted with overseeing the Ordinance Desk.



Arpiar Nazarian
Chief, Application Development
Los Angeles County

Arpiar is a seasoned executive with over 25 years of IT experience. Currently serving as Chief of Application Development for the LA County Board of Supervisors, he oversees the Web and Application Development, Enterprise Applications, Data, Data Integration, and Data Analytics needs of the Board, Executive Office, and the BOS Commissions. Arpiar leads diverse teams in implementing cutting edge digital solutions to support key government functions and enhance public engagement. He excels in driving innovation and automation across enterprise systems, identifying and implementing solutions for complex problems, and implementing process improvements. He's also a serial entrepreneur and holds an international patent for Decipher Chat, a unique mobile chat app designed to secretly share text and audio hidden within emojis. He's past experiences also include redesigning the Portos Bakery website and a Smurf's 2 mobile app. He is a passionate advocate for AI, dedicating extensive time to exploring AI use cases that can enhance government efficiency, accessibility, and the constituent experience. In addition to his passion for technology, Arpiar is an avid soccer and chess enthusiast, having reached the esteemed rank of chess master.



Thomas Parker
Senior Deputy County Counsel, Los Angeles County

Thomas R. Parker is a seasoned attorney with over 30 years of experience in public law and property tax matters. Born in Akron, Ohio, he earned a B.A. in History from Kenyon College and a J.D. from Capital University School of Law before completing an LL.M. in International Business and Tax Law from McGeorge School of Law in 1985.

Thomas served as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Air Force (1986-1990) and held key roles as Deputy County Counsel for El Dorado and Sacramento Counties, where he advised on land use and tax law. Appointed County Counsel for Colusa and Mendocino Counties, he now serves as Senior Deputy County Counsel for Los Angeles County, specializing in land use development and property tax law.

A member of the California Bar since 1989, Thomas is also admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court and various federal courts. With a wealth of experience advising boards and county departments, he continues to influence land use and tax policies.



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Jennifer Rosner
Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Jennifer is an accomplished litigator with expertise in discrimination, harassment, retaliation, disciplinary issues, and due process. She has extensive experience with law enforcement cases, including defending agencies under the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act, handling Section 1983 claims, and Pitchess Motions, and achieving favorable outcomes in both state and federal courts. Notably, she secured a non-suit after a nine-day trial for a police officer facing multiple tort claims and frequently achieves summary judgments for her clients.

Recognized as a “Leader of Influence” in Labor & Employment Attorneys by the Los Angeles Business Journal in 2023 and a Southern California Super Lawyers’ Rising Star in 2013, Jennifer also represents clients in administrative appeals, consistently upholding disciplinary decisions. She advises on employment matters, including FMLA, FLSA, disability accommodations, and investigations, and is an experienced trainer on employment law topics such as disability, ethics, and harassment.



Kristin Sakoda, Director
Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture

Kristin Sakoda is Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, a local arts agency which fulfills a mission to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout the largest county in the U.S. The Department of Arts and Culture provides grants and technical assistance to hundreds of nonprofit organizations; runs the largest arts internship program in the nation; coordinates countywide public-private arts education initiatives; increases access to creative career pathways; commissions civic artwork; supports free community programs; leads

the LA County Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative; and advances cross-sector cultural strategies to address civic issues. Appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Ms. Sakoda previously served as Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Under her leadership, she led the organization during its historic transition into the County’s first Department of Arts and Culture.

Ms. Sakoda is an arts executive, attorney, and performing artist with more than 25 years in the field. She has appeared on national and international stages including with dance and social justice company Urban Bush Women and in musicals *Rent* and *Mamma Mia!* on Broadway. Prior to her work at the Department of Arts and Culture, she served in key leadership roles at the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs overseeing a portfolio of strategic, programmatic, policy, legislative, and funding programs with a \$200 million annual budget, and was instrumental in advancing diversity and inclusion; public art; creative aging; cultural facilities; and affordable workspace for artists. She holds a J.D. from NYU School of Law with honors in Entertainment Law, and B.A. from Stanford University with a specialization in Race and Ethnicity and a secondary major in Feminist Studies. As of 2021, she is a Board member of Grantmakers in the Arts, the national association of public and private arts funders in the U.S.



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Melina Sardar, M.A, CPLC
Sardar Coaching and Consulting

Melina Sardar has been a private coach and life strategist since 2003, helping individuals and groups with career development, emotional awareness, stress management, and relationship building. She uses evidence-based techniques to support clients in overcoming trauma, managing burnout, and achieving work-life balance. She has 16 years of experience in workforce development as a former Case Manager, Job Developer, business services specialist and an assistant manager of a workforce center in Glendale, Ca.

In 2016, Melina launched a Corporate Training and Consulting business, specializing in Leadership Emotional Intelligence. She customizes training for entrepreneurs, managers, and employees across various sectors, integrating emotional intelligence for personal and professional growth. With a Master's in Psychology focused on Marriage and Family Therapy and a Bachelor's in Sociology, Melina holds certifications in Accelerated Human Change, Professional Coaching, Performance Consulting, NLP, and Hypnotherapy. She is an accomplished author, speaker, and frequent leader of seminars and retreats.

Recognized for her community service, Melina received the Business Life Magazine Women's Achievers Award in 2012 for her volunteer work with Ark Family Center, Inc., where she has been active since 1999. Recently elected President of the Glendale Sunrise Rotary, she continues her commitment to philanthropic efforts locally and globally.



Robert Schwieger
President, Pegasus Studios

Robert Schwieger is President of Pegasus Studios, specializing in broadcast and video production for public, education, and government clients. With a Bachelor's in Video/Digital Media from CSUN and an Associate's in Art from Moorpark College, Robert brings a passion for film, photography, and high-quality production.

Robert's expertise in broadcast production, editing, and camera operations makes him a trusted project director for municipalities. He manages teams and delivers results-focused services while fostering collaboration. In 2002, he founded Robert Michael Films, a top-rated video production company in the wedding and live event industry, serving high-profile clients like LA sports figures, Halle Berry, and Jimmy Buffet. Known for blending cinematography with live event coverage, Robert applies this approach to government projects, enhancing the quality of A/V and film techniques. Robert has produced impactful content for nonprofits, including the Jenesse Center, helping them secure significant federal funding. With a broad client base, including Louis Vuitton and Rosewood Resorts, he has built Pegasus Studios into a leading firm known for exceeding client expectations and delivering outstanding broadcast services.



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Damien Scott

Human Resources Analyst, Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources

Damien Scott has been a dedicated public servant in the County of Los Angeles since 1998, beginning his career with the District Attorney's Family Support Division. In 2008, he transitioned to the Fire Department, focusing on Employee Relations, and in 2015, he joined the Department of Human Resources as a Human Resources Analyst. In his current role, Damien develops workplace skill-building curriculums and provides training and consultation services to various Los Angeles County Departments.

He holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in History from UCLA. Damien is also a certified Master Instructional Designer and specializes in Writing for Instructional Design and Training, as well as Consulting Skills.



Matt Silverling

Matt Silverling has been registered as an independent contract lobbyist since 2004; representing numerous Statewide associations, organizations and labor unions. He is the managing partner of Yaryan, Silverling & Lovell; a legislative advocacy firm that is recognized as a leading voice for public safety at the California State Capitol.

Prior to his transition into independent contract lobbying, Mr. Silverling served as a policy advisor to a constitutional officer in the State Legislature, specializing in K-12, higher education and student issues. He served as the primary liaison to the University of California Board of Regents and the California State University Board of Trustees on statewide issues related to tuition, admissions and curriculum.

Mr. Silverling holds a BA in Political Science from the University of California, Davis and completed a program on leadership from the University of Prague, School of Economics. He enjoys golfing, reading, running and spending time with his wife and three children.



CALIFORNIA CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE ■ NOVEMBER 18–22, 2024
Workshop Presenters



Brenden Vlahakis
Senior Deputy Clerk of the Board
County of Ventura

Brenden Vlahakis, Senior Deputy Clerk, is the lead Assessment Appeals Clerk for the County of Ventura Clerk of the Board's office where he has worked for the past 11 years. Before joining the Clerk of the Board, Brenden spent several years working in the Assessor's Office.

His extensive experience with Assessment Appeals has been instrumental in his role as the project lead for improving and streamlining the Assessment Appeal Process for the County of Ventura. He has effectively utilized technology to improve processes and increase public accessibility. Brenden's wealth of experience and expertise make him a valuable asset, often assisting other County Clerk of the Board Offices in navigating complex Assessment Appeal related questions. He is delighted to serve as a resource for other Counties, providing confidence and reassurance in the complex world of Assessment Appeals.



Norayr Zurabyan
Senior Deputy Counsel, Los Angeles County

Noro Zurabyan has been an attorney with the Los Angeles County Counsel's Office since 2015. Since then, he has become the office-wide expert on the Ralph M. Brown Act, Robert's Rules, and California's Public Records Act (CPRA). Noro is the primary advisor to the Executive Office of the Board and is the assigned Brown Act and Robert's Rules attorney for the Board Meetings. He is often called upon at all hours of the day or night by the EO and Board offices directly to advise on urgent issues requiring less than 24-hour turn arounds. Noro trains Board Offices, County Counsel's Office, and numerous County departments and commissions on the Brown Act, Robert's Rules and the CPRA. Prior to joining the County Counsel's Office, Noro served as a judicial law clerk for two years to the Honorable Kimberly J. Mueller, U.S. District Judge in the Eastern District of California.



L.A. COUNTY