

February 8 – Land Use – L2
Signs (Warning: This IS a Content-Based Program)

SPEAKER BIOS

John Bakker chairs the firm’s flagship practice group, Municipal and Special District Law, overseeing the work of more than 30 attorneys who collectively serve as city attorneys to more than 25 municipalities. John is an experienced and knowledgeable advisor on the full range of public law issues. His areas of focus include government finance (Propositions 13, 62, and 218), Political Reform Act compliance (lobbying, conflicts, campaign finance), elections (initiative and referendum), the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act (annexations, incorporations, and reorganizations), land use, and telecommunications, energy and public utilities. Since joining the firm in January of 2001, John has advised municipal clients on these and other public law issues and advised private clients on the procedures for incorporating new cities. Currently, John serves as City Attorney for the City of Dublin, Chief Assistant City Attorney of Walnut Creek, and General Counsel for the Bayshore Sanitary District, the Moraga Orinda Fire District, the Kensington Fire Protection District, the Napa Sanitation District and the Tamalpa is Community Services District.

Brian Connolly represents public- and private-sector clients in matters relating to zoning, planning, development entitlements and other complex regulatory issues. Brian’s practice encompasses a broad range of land use matters including zoning compliance, rezonings and other regulatory amendments, planned-unit developments, development agreements, private covenants and restrictions, land use and zoning litigation, initiatives and referenda associated with land use approvals, and real estate transactions. Brian additionally specializes in the First Amendment and land use issues associated with outdoor sign and advertising regulation, and fair housing matters in local planning and zoning.

Prior to practicing law, Brian was an urban planner in the planning department of a highly-populated suburban county in New York State. There, Brian reviewed numerous large-scale development proposals for consistency with municipal codes and countywide planning policies. Additionally, Brian managed the county’s economic and population research functions, analyzing government data and authoring a variety of reports for use by government officials, and the non-profit and private sectors. Brian has also worked in planning capacities at the federal and municipal government levels.

Brian has served as lead co-author of two books, including *Group Homes: Strategies for Effective and Defensible Planning and Regulation* (ABA Publishing 2014), addressing the planning and local zoning issues associated with group homes for people with disabilities; and *The Michigan Sign Guidebook: The Local Planning and Regulation of Signs* (Scenic Michigan 2011), which discusses the legal aspects—particularly the First Amendment issues—relating to outdoor sign and advertising regulation. Brian serves on the advisory board of the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, and he is one of 26 experts in land use law serving as reporters for the national land use law publication *Planning & Environmental Law*. He frequently writes on

planning and land use law topics, including fair housing, sign regulation, aesthetics, and other matters, and Brian is a regular speaker at conferences on these topics, including at national and state conferences of the American Planning Association, American Bar Association, and Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute.

Daniel R. Mandelker, Stamper Professor of Law, Washington University in Saint Louis, is a leading scholar and teacher in land use law, environmental law, and state and local government law. He was the principal consultant and contributor to the American Planning Association's model planning and zoning legislation project. He was also the principal consultant to a joint American Bar Association committee that prepared a model law for land use procedures that was adopted by the ABA House of Delegates. He recently published a handbook on free speech law for on premise signs, a coauthored fourth edition of his APA report on Street Graphics and the Law, and a coauthored new edition of his law school casebook in State and Local Government. Additionally, he received the ABA's State and Local Government Section Daniel J. Curtin Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dwight H. Merriam founded Robinson & Cole's Land Use Group in 1978. He represents land owners, developers, governments and individuals in land use matters. Dwight is a Fellow and Past President and of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a former Director of the American Planning Association, a former chair of APA's Planning and Law Division, and a former chair of the American Bar Association's national Section of State and Local Government Law. He teaches land use law at the University of Connecticut School of Law and at the Quinnipiac University Law School and has published over 200 articles and nine books and including *Inclusionary Zoning Moves Downtown*, *The Takings Issue*, *The Complete Guide to Zoning*, and *Eminent Domain Use and Abuse: Kelo in Context*. He is the co-editor of Rathkopf's *The Law of Zoning and Planning* and a co-author of the leading casebook in the field, *Planning and Control of Land Development*.

Susan Trevarthen, handles land use, planning and zoning matters for governments and is a municipal attorney. Her work includes negotiating development agreements and approvals, drafting municipal codes and plans, advising municipal staffs, managers and attorneys, defending challenges to municipal regulations and decisions, handling public hearings and counseling elected officials, as well as advocating for municipalities on legislative issues in her field. She serves as Town Attorney. She also serves as the Chair of our Public Land Use and Zoning Group, which handles all of the land use matters for the Cities of Cooper City, Weston, Miramar, Aventura, North Bay Village, Medley, Doral, Marco Island, Indialantic and Homestead; the Towns of Cutler Bay and Lauderdale-By-The-Sea; and the Villages of Bal Harbour, Key Biscayne, Pinecrest and Islamorada. The Group also provides outside counsel services on planning, zoning and land use matters to additional South Florida cities on an as needed basis. In recent years, these cities have included Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Deerfield Beach, Wellington, Lauderhill, Juno Beach, Pompano Beach, Sunrise, Hallandale Beach, Parkland, Hollywood, Coconut Creek, Vero Beach, Miami Beach, Dania Beach, Cape Coral, Coral Gables

and Miami Springs. Susan's practice includes extensive constitutional law in her field, including regulatory taking cases and land use and zoning decisions raising First Amendment issues, including sign codes, adult use regulations, and regulation of religious uses, Harris Act claims, comprehensive plan challenges and petitions for certiorari. Susan also has extensive experience with school planning and facilities issues and mandatory school concurrency, and she has represented local governments and school boards across the state on these issues. Susan has held leadership positions in The Florida Bar's Section for Environmental and Land Use Law and Section for City, County and Local Government Law. She has been recognized as one of the top land use attorneys in the state in publications such as Florida Trend Magazine and SuperLawyers, and she has an AV rating (highest attainable) from Martindale Hubbell. A member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners and Board Certified in City, County and Local Government Law by The Florida Bar, Susan speaks and publishes frequently on planning, zoning and land use issues. Susan grew up in Boca Raton, Florida. - See more at: <http://www.wsh-law.com/attorneys/susan-l-trevarthen/#sthash.aBgOuo9o.dpuf>