

March 31 – Disabilities – D1

Creating an Accessible City

SPEAKER BIOS

Alison D. Alpert is a partner and practice group leader of the Labor & Employment group at Best Best & Krieger LLP. Ms. Alpert represents private and public employers in a broad range of employment litigation including harassment, wrongful termination, retaliation and discrimination based upon gender, race, national origin, age and disability. Ms. Alpert also frequently advises clients concerning employee handbooks and employment policies related to harassment, wage and hour issues, workplace violence, drug and alcohol testing, privacy, discipline and termination.

Ms. Alpert additionally has significant experience in representing and advising clients on issues related to public access and accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ms. Alpert also regularly participates as a speaker in labor and employment seminars, speaking on issues of family and medical leave, drug and alcohol policies and disability issues.

Ms. Alpert graduated from Pomona College with a degree in Government in 1995. She received her law degree from the University of California at Davis, King Hall in 1998. While attending UC Davis, she was an intern for the United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of California and participated in a civil rights clinic.

Michael Maurer advises public agencies on their responsibilities under the Brown Act, the Public Records Act and laws relating to ethics. Mike has served as lead attorney at numerous city council meetings and other public board meetings. He is a member of the Municipal Law, Special District and Litigation practice groups in Best Best & Krieger's Los Angeles office.

Mike's practice focuses on public works and community development. He has assisted public agencies in planning and carrying out major grant-funded capital facilities projects, guiding clients through the bidding, contracting and construction phases, as well as litigating claims that arise during construction.

Mike has assisted public agencies on land use and real estate matters, such as zoning, property acquisition and disposition, leases, and subdivisions. He has significant experience advising agencies on the Americans with Disabilities Act, including defending lawsuits involving access to public facilities, developing policies for providing accessible services and facilities, training staff to provide reasonable accommodations to public services and facilities, and working with public works departments to bring facilities into compliance with the ADA.

Prior to joining Best Best & Krieger, Mike worked for McCormick, Kabot, Jenner & Lew in Visalia, California, where he advised cities and special districts. As general counsel to various community services districts and public utility districts in the Central Valley, he regularly assisted water and wastewater providers in the improvement of their public services. He worked with agency boards to

develop effective administrative policies, successfully complete upgrades to capital facilities, and implement increases to fees and assessments.

Mike obtained his J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where he worked as a staff editor of the *Constitutional Law Quarterly* and a law clerk in the Community Economic Development Clinic. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Chapman University, where he was a member of the varsity soccer team.