



IMLA 2025 Code Enforcement Program

Virtual

February 27-28, 2025

Thursday – February 27, 2025

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Welcome Lunch Spend time discussing Code Enforcement issues over an informal networking lunch (or breakfast) via Zoom.	
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Receiverships A comprehensive overall view of a receivership in the code enforcement process, pro and cons of using a receiver, and tips learned along the way.	Holly Rickett & Diana Gomez
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Administrative Hearings at the Local Level This course will focus on the general principles of establishing an administrative hearing process at the local level to handle such matters as building or zoning violations, towing contests, or public nuisance violations. Close consideration will be paid to formalization of an administrative hearing procedure, due process considerations, conducting an administrative hearing, and establishing a clear record in case of an appeal.	Beau Parkhurst & Emilio Camacho

Friday – February 28, 2025

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Legal and Legislative Updates in STR Regulation A review of recent trends from both the legislatures and the courts related to the ongoing struggle to regulate short-term rentals. Topics include required verification of listings by platforms, state preemption, New Orleans litigation updates, and more.	Ashley Becnel
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Ethical Obligations for Attorneys Involved in Code Enforcement This presentation focuses on the ethical obligations for lawyers who advise municipal employees who implement and enforce city code; and policy makers who adopt city code. At a minimum, the presentation will cover professional rules of conduct related to communications, confidentiality of information, attorney as advisor, conflict of interest, organization as a client, and dealing with unrepresented parties will be discussed. The presentation will also cover ethical issues applicable to government employees and elected officials generally.	Patricia "Trish" Link
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Balancing Nuisance Abatement with the Rights of Property Owners and Tenants Municipal attorneys often have to balance the community's interest in abating nuisance properties with the rights of the property owners and tenants of those same properties. Steve and Tiara will give an overview of applicable law, as well as general guidance on how to balance these sometimes competing interests.	Steve Dunbar & Tiara Ross

Last Updated: 01/29/25. Please note the agenda is tentative and subject to change.

Speaker Bios

Ashley Becnel is the Council Land Use Official for the City of New Orleans, advising the City Council on all legislative land use actions, including related regulatory questions. She was formerly the Chief Zoning Official for the City of New Orleans, overseeing zoning, short term rentals, alcoholic beverage licensing and enforcement, special events, rental registry, and code enforcement adjudications, and leading legislative efforts in these and other areas. Ashley previously served as an Assistant City Attorney in the City of New Orleans' Law Department, serving as in-house counsel on land use matters and advising the Mayor's Office and other City departments on contracts, procurement, and legislative matters. While in private practice, Ashley worked with several local municipalities, providing advice and counsel, and representing cities in litigation matters. Ashley holds a JD and a BA from Tulane University and is a Loyola Institute of Politics Fellow.

Emilio Camacho is a Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of Sacramento responsible for Advising the Sacramento Police Department. He also advises various departments on Homeless-related issues. He has extensive legal experience including advisory, administrative prosecution, civil prosecution, criminal prosecution, civil litigation, and appeals.

Prior to serving at the City of Sacramento, Mr. Camacho was a Deputy Legislative Counsel, advising the members of the Legislature and the Governor in matters of legislation impacting the State of California. Mr. Camacho is a graduate of University of California, Davis, and UC Davis School of Law.

Steve Dunbar is an Assistant City Attorney in Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein's office. Steve is the Section Chief of the City Attorney's Property Action Team, which works closely with the Division of Police, Code Enforcement, other city departments and community organizations to abate nuisance properties that blight Columbus's neighborhoods.

Steve has worked in the Columbus City Attorney's Police Legal Advisor Section and the Prosecution Section. Steve has also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney prosecuting federal gun cases in the Southern District of Ohio. Prior to joining the Columbus City Attorney's Office, Steve was an Assistant Law Director in Marysville, Ohio, where he was also in private practice.

Trish Link started with the City of Austin Law Department in 2005 as a municipal court prosecutor and since that time has worked in the Litigation, Land Use and Real Estate, General Counsel, and Municipal Operations divisions. Currently, she is the division chief for the Law Department's Land Use and Real Estate Division. Over the years, she has advised on numerous municipal law issues, including land use, housing, ordinance drafting, and enforcement. She is the Chair of IMLA Code Enforcement Section and State Co-Chair for Texas. Trish was designated an International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) Fellow in 2020.

Beau Parkhurst is a Senior Deputy City Attorney for the Sacramento City Attorney's Office and has over 10 years of municipal law experience with focus on public safety and civil litigation. Beau currently serves as lead general counsel to the Sacramento Police Department. He is a graduate of University of California, Davis and the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Holly E. Rickett is a Deputy County Counsel IV with the Sonoma County Office of the County Counsel in Santa Rosa, CA. Ms. Rickett has been a zealous representative of the County government in complex and dynamic public sector land use and litigated civil issues for over a decade. Her focus is representing client departments and advising on all things code enforcement, Indian Tribal law related issues, and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office.

In 2017 the State Bar of CA Board of Trustees appointed Ms Rickett to the Executive Committee of the Public Law Section to improve and contribute to the practice of public sector law for the approximately 1,800 lawyer members of the Section. Ms. Rickett currently still serves as a consultant to that (now California Legal Association) Section and serves on the CA Public Lawyer of the Year Committee which evaluates candidates and chooses the winner of this prestigious annual award.

Ms. Rickett has been a long time professor at Monterey College of Law at their campus in Santa Rosa, where she has taught substantive courses in Real Property, American Jurisprudence, and Torts, as well as leading the law school's Clinical Education program.

She received her law degree from UC Law San Francisco (formally UC Hastings) and her undergraduate degree from the University of Idaho.

Tiara N. Ross has served as an Assistant City Attorney at the Columbus City Attorney's Office since 2018. In this role, Tiara litigates environmental issues focusing on the elimination of public nuisances and certain criminal activity contributing to blight within city neighborhoods. She also provides legal advice to various government agencies, prosecutes local fair housing ordinances, and serves as a liaison between the City Attorney's Office and neighborhood associations to help combat quality of life concerns within the local community. Currently, Attorney Ross serves in senior leadership at the Columbus City Attorney's Office where she holds the titles of Deputy Chief of the Property Action Team (fka the "Zone Initiative") and General Counsel for the City of Columbus Inspector General of Police.