



KENDRA CARNEY MEHR

Of Counsel

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ADMISSIONS

- » All courts of the State of California
- » U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- » U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- » U.S. Tax Court

Ms. Carney Mehr specializes in representing businesses and public entities in transactional and litigation matters. She has worked as both a contract city attorney and in-house counsel to cities, special districts, joint powers agencies, and small businesses.

Public Law: Ms. Carney Mehr advises a variety of public entities in all aspects of governmental affairs, with a focus on land use, municipal governance, law enforcement, election law, and environmental matters. Ms. Carney Mehr provides full service and special counsel services regarding local open meeting and government laws, including the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Political Reform Act and other conflict of interest issues, the California Public Records Act, and employment issues. She is well versed in planning and zoning matters, the California Environmental Quality Act, and municipal contracting, procurement and public bidding laws. During her practice, she has prepared ordinances, resolutions, entitlements, permits, and various agreements for public law matters including real property, planning and building administrative processes, finance and taxation, public works matters, utility services, airport issues, housing, police, fire, and emergency medical services, elections, risk management, and fair political practices.

Business Law: With a significant background in tax law, Ms. Carney Mehr assists businesses with matters ranging from incorporation to regulatory compliance and strategic tax planning. Ms. Carney Mehr advises all sizes of business, both domestic and international, to negotiate and draft agreements including: distribution agreements, licensing, warehousing and fulfillment, intellectual property, corporate governance and compliance, and waivers, risk management, and employment. Given her in-depth experience with public agencies, Ms. Carney Mehr also assists developers and businesses with obtaining entitlements and required permits and licenses.

Tax Law: Ms. Carney Mehr provides tax planning and litigation services to individuals and businesses. She has prepared responses to Civil Grand Jury investigations relating to government pension plans, handled administrative hearings and appeals before various retirement boards, as well as utility and sales tax issues. In addition, Ms. Carney Mehr assists businesses and individuals with advantageous tax and estate planning and defends individuals before the IRS and Tax Court.

Prior Experience: Prior to working with Garcia Rainey Blank & Bowerbank LLP, Ms. Carney Mehr served as a Deputy City Attorney to the City of Long Beach, where she advised the Police and Fire Departments, Development Services Department, Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department, Innovation and Technology Department, Fleet Services, and Special Events and Filming Department. She advised her departmental clients regarding unique issues pertaining to unmanned aircraft, medical marijuana, and privacy and freedom of speech issues, and drafted appellate briefs and writ applications, including briefing a medical marijuana case before the California Supreme Court. She also provided contract general counsel and city attorney services as an associate with Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart, APC.

EDUCATION

- » University of California Los Angeles (B.A., 2004)
- » University of San Diego School of Law (J.D., 2007)
- » University of San Diego School of Law (LL.M. Taxation, 2008)

PUBLICATIONS

- » “Serially? Seriously. Avoiding the Perils and Pitfalls of Serial Meetings in the Digital Age,” (League of California Cities, 2016).
- » Editor for the California Municipal Law Handbook (“Agenda Requirements and Related Procedural Materials”; 2016).

PRESENTATIONS

- » “The Brown Act in the Digital Age,” sponsored by California League of Cities (League of Cities Annual Conference, October 2016).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- » California League of Cities:
 - » City Attorney Department Brown Act Committee: Edit and update the League’s Open and Public publication, serve as a resource to city attorneys to interpret or apply the Brown Act, and assist the Municipal Law Handbook Committee with its annual update of the discussion of the Brown Act.
 - » California League of Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee: Review issues related to air and water quality, CEQA, integrated waste management, hazardous materials, coastal issues, and utilities; determine the League’s position on related bills and suggest amendments.
- » Adjunct Professor at Pacific Coast University School of Law teaching Civil Practicum
- » Member of the William P. Grey Legion Lex Inn of Court
- » Member of the Orange County Bruin Professionals and UCLA Alumni Association