



Linda M. Ross
Partner

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Practice Areas

- Administrative Hearing and Arbitration
- Appeals and Writs
- Employment Law and Litigation
- Labor Relations and Labor Law
- Public Agency Law
- Training
- Transportation
- Workplace Investigations

Bar Admission

- California
- New York

Education

- University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, JD
- Articles Editor, California Law Review
- University of California, Berkeley, BA

Experience

The Daily Journal named Linda Ross as one of California's top 75 Labor and Employment Lawyers and top 100 Women Lawyers.

Ms. Ross brings a wealth of experience to Renne Public Law Group after working for 20 years with the City and County of San Francisco and more recently, in private practice. Ms. Ross represents public entities, including cities, counties, special districts, and transit agencies, in a wide variety of public law matters, including advice, litigation, and appellate work involving pension reform, labor and employment, internal investigations, wage and hour, the Public Records Act, open meetings laws, and governance.

Recently Ms. Ross represented public agencies in closely watched pension cases before the California Supreme Court, and achieved appellate victories in other cases involving the vested rights of public employees.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Ms. Ross gained vast knowledge in public law while serving San Francisco as General Counsel to the Mayor's Office, Chief Labor Attorney, and General Counsel for the Police Commission and the Police Department.

General Counsel, San Francisco Mayor's Office

As General Counsel to the Mayor's Office, Ms. Ross advised then Mayor Gavin Newsom and coordinated with City department heads on local governance and policy issues including ethics, public meetings laws, the Public Records Act, and public contracting. While General Counsel, Ms.

Ross authored a gun control measure upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in ***Jackson v. City and County of San Francisco*** (9th Cir. 2014) 246 F.3d. 953, against a Second Amendment challenge. In 2015, the United States Supreme Court denied review.

Chief Labor Attorney

As Chief Labor Attorney for San Francisco, Ms. Ross was in charge of a 20-person legal team, representing City departments, boards and commissions in employment and labor law issues. She successfully defended San Francisco before the California Supreme Court in ***San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 v. City and County of San Francisco*** (2006) 38 Cal.4th 653, in which the Court upheld the City's non-discriminatory testing procedures.

General Counsel, Police Department

As General Counsel to the San Francisco Police Department and Police Commission, Ms. Ross advised the Department and Commission on police personnel issues and public safety initiatives. Working with the District Attorney's Office, she drafted the Department's Brady policy which was upheld by the California Supreme Court in the case of ***People v. The Superior Court of San Francisco County*** (2015) 61 Cal.4th 696. In a rare occurrence, the Court appended the policy to its opinion.

PUBLISHED DECISIONS

- ***San Francisco Firefighters Local 798 v. City and County of San Francisco***, (2006) 38 Cal.4th 653.
- ***Local 21 of the International Federation, et al. v. City and County of San Francisco*** (1999) 76 Cal.App.4th 213.
- ***Fry v. City of Los Angeles*** (2016) 245 Cal.App.4th 539.
- ***Alameda Deputy Sheriffs' Assn., et al. v. Alameda County Employees' Retirement Assn, et al.*** (2018) 19 Cal.App.5th 61.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Presenter, "Arbitration Basics," Washington Public Employer Labor Relations Association (WAPELRA), Annual Training Conference, 2015
- Presenter, "How to Navigate Changes in Public Employee Retiree Health Benefits," Judicial Council of California, Labor Relations Academy II, 2015
- Presenter, "Navigating Changes to Public Employee Medical Benefits," Webinar, 2015
- Presenter, "Mock Arbitration Part One: Preparation, Opening Statement, and Direct Examination," National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA) Annual Training Conference, 2015
- Author, "***Searching for Vested Rights, Case By Case,***" Daily Journal, May, 2014
- Speaker, "Vested Rights: What We Can and Cannot Change," California Public Employers Labor Relations Association (CALPELRA) Annual Conference, 2012

- Speaker, "Social Media and the Workplace: Recruitment, Background Checks and Personal Use," International Public Management Association, 2012
- Presenter, Pension/Impairment of Vested Rights, State Bar of California, Annual Public Sector Conference, 2017
- Presenter, Whistleblowers, How To Manage, CALPELRA, 2017
- Presenter, Vested Rights, What Is Happening With The California Rule, CALPELRA, 2017
- Presenter, Immigration: The California Values Act, Municipal Law Institute, 2018
- Presenter, Rutter Group Vesting Panel, What's Next for the "California Rule" Public Employee Pensions as Vested Rights, The Rutter Group/MCLE Program, June, 2018