



Jim Ross

Partner and Head of Affirmative Litigation Practice

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Bar Admission

- California
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California

Education

- University of California, Davis, J.D.
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, B.S.

Experience

Jim Ross has been providing high-quality legal advice to public entities for over 30 years. Jim is a practical and effective lawyer with extensive experience in public agency law. He has served in county counsel offices for over 26 years. Most recently, he served as interim county counsel for Mendocino County while they recruited for and selected a new County Counsel. In 2023, Jim was recognized for his outstanding service by the County Counsel Association of California. During his career, Jim served as county counsel, assistant county counsel and deputy county counsel. Prior to years of working with counties, Jim served as a city attorney and a deputy city attorney as well as providing legal advice to special districts. During his career, Jim has advised governing bodies and departments on the full range of legal issues faced by local government agencies.

Jim's practice focuses on advising public agencies in multiple areas of public law including general government agency advice, affirmative litigation, land use, public works, elections and litigation oversight and management. He also has experience advising law enforcement agencies including correctional facilities.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining Renne Public Law Group, Jim served in multiple roles in the Shasta County Counsel's Office including serving as the county counsel. During his county counsel career, he advised several county departments in areas of municipal law including, but not limited to, the county clerk/registrar of voters, the planning director, the public works director, the sheriff, the public guardian/conservator and the health and human services director. Jim also advised the Shasta County Water Agency, Shasta County Housing Authority and the Air Pollution Control Board. Jim counts among the highlights of his career with Shasta County his participating as a member of a statewide working and negotiating group of public agency lawyers working to resolve issues relating

to the distribution of funds awarded to California from settlements in the Opioid litigation; navigating the resolution of an Americans with Disabilities lawsuit against an aging facility; and successfully litigating a complicated land use case involving the unlawful operation of a business.

Earlier in his career, Jim served in the Ventura County Counsel's Office and the Sonoma County Counsel's Office where he represented the Ventura County Fire Protection District and advised the Ventura County Human Services Agency. Jim has advised the Code Enforcement Division of the Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department and represented the Public Conservator/Guardian. In Sonoma County, he also advised on the formation of a Geological Hazard Abatement District which included a FEMA property acquisition program for landslide affected properties.

Jim began his career as an associate of McDonough, Holland & Allen where he served as the Marysville city attorney and served as a deputy city attorney for other cities including the City of Davis. During this time, he advised several special districts and other local entities. Jim was part of the trial team that successfully defended the City of Roseville against claims for damages including inverse condemnation claims arising out of historic flooding. Jim also co-authored the Amicus Curie brief in the case *Locklin v. City of Lafayette* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 327.

PRESENTATIONS

- Presentations to various sections of the County Counsel's Association on different topics including Lanterman-Petris-Short Act conservatorships, Propositions 218 and 26, land use and code enforcement, California Public Records Act, due process, conflicts, Govt. Code section 1090 and open meeting laws.
- Presentations to various local public agencies, boards, and commissions on open meeting requirement requirements of the Brown Act.
- *Preserving Local Control and Litigating Federal Grant Conditions*, League of California Cities, City Attorneys Spring Conference, May 14, 2026.
- *Brave New World - Addressing Immigration Related Challenges in 2026*, County Counsels' Association of California, Spring Civil Law and Litigation Conference, April 2026.
- *Suing the Federal Government to Preserve Services for California*, California Lawyers Association, Inaugural Public Law Conference, March 21, 2026.
- *First Amendment Audits and Other Citizen Engagement in County Offices and on Job Sites*, County Counsels' Association of California, Public Works Conference, September 18, 2025.
- *The Latest in Legal Ethics for Municipal Lawyers*, League of California Cities, City Attorneys Spring Conference, May 9, 2025.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLISHED DECISIONS

- *Estill v. County of Shasta* (2018) 25 Cal.App.5th 702
- *Conservatorship of Lee C.* (2017) 18 Cal.App.5th 1072
- *Locklin v. City of Lafayette* (1994) 7 Cal.4th 327 (amici curiae)

PRESS AND AWARDS

- Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the County Counsel's Association of California

