

WE HELP CLIENTS ANTICIPATE AND RESPOND TO THE UNEXPECTED, GUIDE THEM IN MAKING A DIFFICULT CALL, AND REPRESENT THEM THROUGHOUT ANY CRISIS.

Crisis Management Services

- Open meetings laws
- Public Records Act
- Conflicts of interest laws, including Political Reform Act
- AB 1234
- White collar crime
- Bribery
- Insurance fraud
- Computer crime
- Embezzlement
- False Claims Act (Qui Tam)
- Harassment
- Retaliation, including in response to whistleblowing activities
- Hostile work environment

Our attorneys manage high-stakes legal crises and sensitive ethical and investigatory matters. We provide confidential evaluations of alleged public malfeasance (official misconduct), conflicts of interest, and improper payments and expenditures of taxpayer funds. Our clients benefit from our ethics training, forensic policy review and audits, as well as our sound guidance on the wide range of ethics-related policy issues.

Our mission is to help clients preserve, or regain, public trust and avoid lasting damage by promptly and strategically responding to these issues. Given our extensive public law experience, we have a thorough grasp of the rules governing the behavior of public officials as well as the internal relationships within public agencies.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

When a crisis hits, a public agency can be scrutinized on all fronts and has to answer to the public and its employees. We help public agencies quickly and efficiently respond to the crisis by assessing the situation, controlling the crisis by prioritizing what should be done, addressing accountability concerns, and creating legal and public relations action plans.

ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS

Foremost to any public agency is reducing its risk. We are committed to proactively strengthening clients' ethics and compliance programs.

Drawing on our long history representing a diverse range of public entities in California, we evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis. We have helped implement new and revised personnel practices and employee trainings so our clients have a solid foundation in place to deter future workplace wrongdoings, such as complaints of harassment and retaliation. We also advise on employee misconduct and provide tools to deal with the resulting fallout.

TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

On behalf of our clients, we evaluate and audit compliance with the Brown Act, the California Public Records Act and conflicts

of interest laws, including the Political Reform Act, Government Code section 1090 relating to financial interests in contracts as well as common law conflicts.

We also examine electronic protocols and communications, such as email, text message and instant message, for both internal and external uses.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

When a situation raises questions of an ethical infraction, quick and effective resolution is key. We develop creative solutions with our clients' best interests in mind, including conducting internal investigations.

We also recognize that work environments are often unsettled when an investigation takes place. To address this, we encourage measures that foster a strong sense of consideration and respect for everyone whether they are directly or indirectly involved.

LITIGATION

Courtroom litigation is at times unavoidable. Our attorneys possess a diverse and experienced civil litigation practice in state and federal courts, as well as before administrative agencies and boards.

EXPERT RESOURCES

We have ongoing relationships with investigative, electronic database, forensic accounting, auditing and malpractice experts. Working together, we help clients manage transparency concerns and complex criminal and civil proceedings that arise out of alleged ethical infractions.

We also have in-house public relations experts to help our clients effectively face media scrutiny

and respond to any potential fallout from a crisis, including the development of external and internal crisis communication plans.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

City of San Bruno. Meyers Nave serves as Special Counsel for the City of San Bruno, handling legal, regulatory and crisis management issues relating to the tragic natural gas pipeline explosion that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes on September 9, 2010.

City of Bell. We were retained as interim City Attorney in the aftermath of a scandal that attracted national attention and public outrage because top level employees received grossly inflated salaries and benefits. Seeking reform quickly, the City asked Meyers Nave to help craft new policies and procedures to ensure accountability and transparency among public officials going forward.

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). The transportation agency retained Meyers Nave to conduct a confidential internal affairs investigation of the officer-involved shooting death of Oscar Grant. This New Year's Day incident gained public attention throughout the Bay Area and the nation, and sparked protests that extended for a number of weeks following the shooting. The investigation reviewed the actions of the police officers who were involved in the incident to determine any potential misconduct. Meyers Nave issued a public report of its findings and recommendations that resulted in certain changes in BART policies.

San Jose/Evergreen Community College District. Meyers Nave was retained to conduct a confidential investigation into alleged financial and administrative improprieties by the Chancellor. At the request of the District, Meyers Nave issued a comprehensive public report of findings and recommendations that the District adopted.

City of Stockton. Meyers Nave was retained to help the City Council through a declaration of emergency based on fiscal circumstances, and the adoption of a resolution for future fiscal sustainability. The resolution will serve as a blueprint for future labor negotiations, and calls for transparency and accurate costing for all labor contracts. It also calls for an end to long term contracts with embedded increases that were imposed automatically and without regard for the economic climate.