



Adam U. Lindgren
Principal

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Practice Groups

Municipal and Special District Law
Environmental Law
Climate Change and Green Initiatives
Land Use

California Bar Number
177476

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, JD,
Public Interest Law Scholar, 1993

Columbia University, BA, *cum laude*, 1990

Practicing Since: 1995

Adam Lindgren is the Principal in Charge of Meyers Nave's Sacramento office. He has over 25 years of experience representing public agencies and private clients on complex government and regulatory issues and land use development.

He serves as special counsel to cities and special districts statewide and representing private parties on complex land use matters. He has served as City Attorney for Rancho Cordova since 2006. Adam also served for six years as the City Attorney for Modesto (population 215,000) where he managed a hybrid office of five in-house staff and outside counsel, and a total annual legal services budget in excess of \$2 million. He is an experienced, creative, solution-focused land use attorney and general counsel with expertise in California's legal landscape.

Through a client-forward approach, Adam adapts to the style, needs, objectives and culture of the public agencies or private clients he represents. He communicates with his clients whenever and however it best meets their needs—often through regular video calls with project teams, and in-person meetings for sensitive, strategic issues. Adam is loyal to his clients and fully committed to their success, helping them build their relationships with boards and subordinates. He understands how to give legal advice in a way that achieves the client's immediate objectives and advance the organization.

Adam's land use practice includes representing clients to secure land use entitlements. He has also recently been focused on climate change crisis land use projects related to flood control, wildfires, and sea-level rise. His experience involves comprehensive general plan updates and annexations, processing of entitlements for mixed-use developments, complex subdivision map approvals, negotiating development agreements for large-scale planned unit projects, advising on development impact fees, and managing property related issues and leasing for large-scale agricultural properties.

His private sector projects include advising a large Northern California ranch on a variety of land use issues, including land use permitting, environmental compliance, and wildfire recovery and prevention strategies. He also assisted a leading national real estate investor in conducting comprehensive land use due diligence, for a proposed data center and IT facility in Silicon Valley.

As a longtime and regular contributor to advancing California's legal community, Adam is the managing co-editor and an update coauthor for numerous chapters of *California Land Use Practice*. This leading comprehensive publication on land use law has been published and updated annually since 2006 by Continuing Education of the Bar. Adam has written and lectured extensively on a wide array of land use and municipal law topics, including the Subdivision Map Act, development arrangements, the Brown Act, conflicts of interests, due process, Proposition 218, takings and exactions, zoning, district formation, the Coastal Act, geologic hazard abatement districts, and ethics. He speaks statewide for the legal community, including groups such as the League of California Cities, State Bar of California, American Bar Association, California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions, and California Special Districts Association, among others.

After earning his B.A. at Columbia University and his J.D. at Georgetown University Law Center, Adam began his legal career in Washington, D.C. as a legislative assistant to a member of the United States House of Representatives. On Capitol Hill, he focused on land use, environmental and local government issues. In his personal time, he is an avid hiker and car buff. Adam and his wife Dede are active in their local food bank and community farm. They have been married for over 25 years and are proud parents of two children. In his legal practice, Adam's clients know he is genuinely focused on their success.

Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Municipal Law (2016-2027)
- "Top Lawyers," State, Local & Municipal Law, *Sacramento Magazine*, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022
- *Proclamation* honoring expertise and service, City of Rancho Cordova, 2015
- *Resolution* honoring expertise and service, 8th District Assemblyman Ken Cooley, 2015
- "Northern California Super Lawyer," *Super Lawyers Magazine*, State, Local & Municipal Law, 2005

Professional Affiliations

- The State Bar of California, Member (1995–Present)
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Member
- Central Valley City Attorneys' Association, Member
- League of California Cities City Attorneys' Department, Legal Advocacy Committee, Past Member

- League of California Cities' City Attorneys Department, Municipal Law Handbook Committee, Past Chair and Editorial Board Member
- League of California Cities' City Attorneys Department, Ad Hoc Committee on Practice Management and Ethical Standards, Past Member
- American Bar Association Section on State and Local Government, Subcommittee on Vested Rights, Former Co-Chair
- Toast Masters International, Past Member
- Rotary International, Past Member

Publications and Presentations

- Managing Co-editor, *California Land Use Practice*, CEB, 2006-2020
- Update Coauthor, *California Land Use Practice*, Chapters 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 15 and 16, CEB, 2020
- Presenter, "California Land Use and Zoning: Overview and Recent Developments," Lorman Education Services, 2016
- Presenter, "Subdivision Map Act 101: Recent Case Law and Current Topics Impacting Development," San Diego County Bar Association, 2015
- Presenter, "Administrative Hearing Procedures and Practice," Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB), 2014
- Presenter, "Overview of Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development Law in California," 2014
- Presenter, "Proposition 218," Northern California City Clerks Association, 2014
- Presenter, "Common Issues for Quasi-Judicial Hearings," LOCC Annual Conference, 2013
- Presenter, "Mastering the Map Act," CEB, 2013
- Presenter, "Untangling the Web of Fair Political Practices (FPPC) Regulations," Northern California City Clerks Association (NCCCA), 2012
- Presenter, "Rezoning and Refinancing: Municipal Opportunities for Non-residential Development," Sacramento County Bar Association – Real Estate Section, 2010
- Presenter, "All You Ever Wanted to Know About Land Use Planning ... But Were Afraid To Ask," Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC), 2009
- Presenter, "Rising to the 'Promise' of Transit Oriented Development," World Jurist Association (WJA), Kiev, Ukraine, 2009
- Presenter, "Development Approval Process," Lorman Education Services, 2007 and 2008
- Presenter, "Nuts and Bolts of the Entitlement Process," State Bar Annual Meeting, 2008
- Presenter, "Land Use: Major and Minor Subdivisions; Rules & Laws," Sonoma County Bar Association Real Property Practice Series, 2008

- Presenter, “Show Me the Water! How the Regulatory Drought and California’s Water & Planning Laws Demand New Partnerships among Landowners/Property Developers, Water Agencies and Land-Use Agencies ... A City Attorney’s Perspective,” State Bar – Real Property Retreat, 2008
- “Presenter, Zoning, Subdivision & Land Use Law,” Lorman Education Services, 2007 and 2008
- Presenter, “Advanced Zoning & Land Use,” Lorman Education Services, 2007
- Presenter, “Hidden Land Use Fees,” The State Bar of California Annual Meeting, 2007
- Presenter, “CEQA,” CALAFCO Annual Seminar, 2007
- Presenter, “Subdivision Map Act,” CEB, 2007
- Author, “Land Use Update,” League of California Cities Annual Conference, City Attorneys’ Department, September 2006
- Presenter, “Land Use Entitlement Process in a Nutshell,” The State Bar of California Annual Meeting – Real Property Law Section, 2006
- Author, “California Zoning Practice,” CEB Update, 2002, 2003 and 2004
- Author, “Practicing Ethics: A Handbook for Municipal Lawyers,” League of California Cities, 2004
- Author, “What Do You Mean I Can’t Build? A Comparative Analysis of When Property Rights Vest,” Recent Developments in Land Use, Planning and Zoning Law, American Bar Association, *Urban Lawyer*, Vol. 31, No. 4, Fall 1999

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