

**Ara Karamian**
Associate

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Practice Groups
Land Use & Environmental Law

Bar Number
315385

Education
University of California, Davis,
School of Law, JD, 2016

University of California, Santa Barbara,
BA, 2012

Practicing Since: 2017

Ara Karamian represents private developers and government entities, helping them secure approvals for major projects and defending those approvals in trial and appellate courts.

As an Associate in Meyers Nave's Land Use and Environmental Practice Group, he advises clients on California's complex land use, environmental review, and entitlement laws. His practice spans the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), zoning, entitlements, mixed-use and affordable housing projects, and litigation.

Ara guides clients from project conception through permitting, administrative proceedings, and courtroom defense. He has successfully litigated CEQA challenges, writs of mandate, and land use disputes, including defending a 70-unit residential development in Los Angeles against environmental claims at trial. His representative matters include advising on the entitlement of a 633-unit mixed-use project in Hollywood, assisting in the development of major studio campuses in Los Angeles and Glendale, and advocating to secure favorable zoning outcomes for industrial developers. He also collaborated in conceptualizing and drafting legislation signed by Governor Gavin Newsom that limits agency-imposed land dedication requirements in transit priority areas.

Earlier in his career, Ara gained extensive courtroom experience representing Fortune 500 companies in high-exposure products liability and general liability matters.

While attending UC Davis School of Law, Ara earned the UC Davis Environmental Law Certificate, served as Managing Editor of the *Environs Journal of Environmental Law & Policy*, externed with the California Energy Commission on statewide energy infrastructure projects, and clerked at a Sacramento land use firm representing developers in major infill projects.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- The State Bar of California, Member (2017–Present)
- Homenetmen Glendale Ararat, Volunteer

Honors and Awards

- Southern California Rising Stars list: Environmental Law, Super Lawyers Magazine, 2026

Representative Experience

- Represented developer of 3-acre project in Hollywood including 633 units and more than 67,000 square feet of office, retail, and restaurant uses.
- Represented developer of multiple movie studio campuses in Los Angeles and Glendale, including 675,000 square foot studio campus on approximately 14 acres, in the Los Angeles Arts District.
- Successfully tried and defended CEQA challenge against a developer to a 70-unit residential development in Los Angeles.
- Represented Fortune 500 companies in high exposure product liability matters.
- Lobbied on behalf of a developer to advocate for changes to the City's draft zoning ordinance, which would have prohibited warehouse and distribution-oriented uses citywide and imposed significant development restrictions on industrial properties, obtaining favorable changes to subsequent drafts of the municipalities zoning ordinance, which were ultimately adopted.
- Collaborated with Streets for All to conceptualize and draft AB 3177, which was signed into law by Governor Newsom, limiting the ability of agencies to impose land dedication requirements in transit priority areas.