

A R A K A R A M I A N

ASSOCIATE

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OFFICE:
Los Angeles

LANGUAGES:
English



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

Ara advises clients on California's complex land use and environmental laws. His practice spans the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Subdivision Map Act, Density Bonus Law, Housing Accountability Act, the Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act (SB 79), and other planning and zoning regulations. Ara has advised clients on a wide range of projects, from housing developments to commercial and industrial projects, as well as advising public agencies on city planning documents, public transit, and navigating housing approvals. Ara guides clients from project conception through permitting, administrative proceedings, and courtroom defense. He has successfully litigated CEQA challenges 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 the UC Davis School of Law, Ara earned the UC Davis Environmental Law Certificate and served as Managing Editor of the *Environs Journal of Environmental Law & Policy*.

EDUCATION

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

University of California, Santa
Barbara, BA, 2012

ADMISSIONS

California, 2017 – Bar No. 315385

U.S. District Court, Central District
of California

PRACTICE AREAS

Land Use & Environmental

Air Quality

CEQA/NEPA

Climate Change & Sustainability

Hazards & Remediation

Land Entitlements

Wildlife & Natural Resources

Energy, Utilities & Renewables

HONORS & AWARDS

- Southern California Rising Stars list: Environmental Law – *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2026)

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

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

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.