

Blithe S. Bock

Partner

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Blithe Bock joined the Burke Los Angeles office as a partner after an outstanding 25-year career with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. At Burke, she has expanded her practice to represent public entities throughout the state before the Ninth Circuit, United States Supreme Court, California Court of Appeal, and California Supreme Court.

Blithe has been a Certified Appellate Specialist since May 2011, and she was elected to the California Academy of Appellate Attorneys in May 2023. Blithe taught legal writing at USC Gould Law School, and she has taught legal writing at local law schools since 2016. She also teaches an MCLE in Legal Writing which offers both general and Appellate Specialization credit.

Blithe began her legal career in 1992 at a small firm, where the City of Los Angeles was her main client. In 1999, she joined the City Attorney's Office as a trial court litigator, representing the City and its employees in employment litigation matters. Even as a trial lawyer Blithe regularly handled appeals, and she scored her first published opinion on behalf of the LAPD in 2000, in *Rosales v. City of Los Angeles*.

In 2002, she moved to the Civil Appeals Division, which handles the City's civil appeals on a broad range of issues, where she practiced before the California Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2016, Blithe was appointed Supervisor of Civil Appeals. Under her leadership, the Division regularly conducted MCLE courses. It also obtained numerous published Opinions in areas significant to public entities including public employment retaliation (*Francis v. City of Los Angeles*), homelessness (*LA Alliance for Human Rights v. County of Los Angeles*), and dangerous condition of public property and communicable disease (*Wong v. City of Los Angeles*). Blithe's personal victories include published opinions in a similar array of cases of great importance to public entities including public employment discrimination (*Diego v City of Los Angeles, Atkins v. City*

PRACTICES

Employment Law and Litigation

EDUCATION

J.D., University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, 1992

B.A., with Special and Departmental Honors, The University of Chicago, 1987

ADMISSION

State Bar of California

Supreme Court of the United States

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

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

United States District Court for the Southern District of California

AFFILIATIONS

Los Angeles County Bar Association

Appellate Courts Committee for
the Los Angeles County Bar
International Municipal Lawyers
Association

of Los Angeles); dangerous condition of public property (*Prokop v. City of Los Angeles*); civil rights (*Sanchez v. Canales*, *Mulligan v. Nichols*, 835 F.3d 983 (9th Cir. 2016)); and unlawful arrest (*Szajer v. City of Los Angeles*, *Hart v. Parks*).

She has also penned numerous Amicus Curiae briefs on behalf of the City of Los Angeles and Cal Cities (formerly the League of Cities) in significant areas for public entities such as inverse condemnation (*City of Oroville v. Superior Court*), public employee personnel files (*Poole v. Orange County Fire Authority*), and sexual orientation discrimination and same sex marriage (*Obergefell v. Hodges*).

Blithe graduated with Special and Department Honors from the University of Chicago in 1987, then UCLA School of Law in 1992.

INSIGHTS

Join Us at the CalCities Annual Conference and Expo this October!

RECOGNITIONS

Certified Appellate Law Specialist, State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization

California Academy of Appellate Attorneys

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Published Opinions As Supervising Attorney

- *Francis v. City of Los Angeles*, 81 Cal.App.5th 532 (2022) [Public Employment Retaliation]
- *LA Alliance for Human Rights v. County of Los Angeles*, et al., 14 F.4th 947 (9th Cir. 2021) [Homelessness]
- *City of Los Angeles v. Wong*, 62 Cal.App.5th 129 (2021) [Dangerous Condition of Public Property and Communicable Disease]

Published Opinions as Lead Attorney

- *Diego v City of Los Angeles*, 15 Cal.App.5th 338 (2017), *Atkins v. City of Los Angeles*, 8 Cal.App.5th 696 (2017) [Public Employment Discrimination]
- *Prokop v. City of Los Angeles*, 150 Cal.App.4th 1332 (2007) [Dangerous Condition of Public Property]
- *Sanchez v. Canales*, 574 F.3d 1169 (9th Cir. 2009), *Mulligan v. Nichols*, 835 F.3d 983 (9th Cir. 2016) [Civil Rights]
- *Szajer v. City of Los Angeles*, 632 F.3d 607 (9th Cir. 2011), *Hart v. Parks*, 450 F.3d 1059 (9th Cir. 2006) [Unlawful Arrest]

- *Rosales v. City of Los Angeles*, 82 Cal.App.4th 419 (2000) [Public Employee Personnel Files]

Amicus Curiae

- *Duncan v. Becerra*, 970 F.3d 1133 (2020) [Gun Control]
- *City of Oroville v. Superior Court*, 7 Cal.5th 1091 (2019) [Inverse Condemnation]
- *Poole v. Orange County Fire Authority*, 61 Cal.4th 1378 (2015) [Public Employee Personnel Files]
- *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015) [Sexual Orientation Discrimination and Same Sex Marriage]