

FIRE WATCH

News and developments in employment law and labor relations for
California Fire Safety Management

MARCH 2021

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Fire Watch is published monthly for the benefit of the clients of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore. The information in *Fire Watch* should not be acted on without professional advice.

FIRM VICTORY

Retired Fire Captain Dismissed His Lawsuit For Retroactive Pay Increase After LCW Convinced The Court That His Case Had No Legal Merit.

LCW Partner **Morin Jacob** and Associate Attorney **Anthony Risucci** prevailed on behalf of a city in a lawsuit brought by a retired fire captain. The lawsuit was dismissed at the outset of the case because of LCW’s successful demurrer.

The captain was on an approved disability leave prior to his retirement. While he was on leave, the city and the firefighters’ union were negotiating a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The captain retired in June 2018. Approximately six months later, the city council approved the MOU. The MOU gave a retroactive pay increase of 2.5% for all firefighters employed on or after December 17, 2017.

The retired captain claimed in his lawsuit that he was entitled to the retroactive pay increase for the time he was on disability prior to retiring in 2018. He also claimed that the retroactive compensation would have increased his final compensation for purposes of determining his CalPERS pension benefits, as his pension was based upon a percentage of his three highest years of compensation.

The captain’s lawsuit had a single claim for declaratory relief. The captain sought an order from the court that would require the city to report his final compensation to CalPERS in a manner that reflected the retroactive 2.5% pay increase. The city demurred on three grounds: (1) failure to exhaust administrative remedies available through the CalPERS Board of Administration; (2) failure to follow pre-litigation procedures under the Government Claims Act; and (3) the claim was unsuitable for declaratory relief, as it sought to correct past conduct and was more properly asserted as a breach of contract cause of action.

The court sustained the demurrer based on the first and third arguments. The Court did not address the Government Claims Act because the other two arguments were dispositive.

In its ruling, the court reasoned that the CalPERS Board of Administration has the power to both correct errors and omissions of contracting agencies, and the ultimate authority to calculate a beneficiary’s “final compensation.” As a result, the retired captain was first required to exhaust his CalPERS administrative remedies by appealing the city’s decision to deny him the MOU retroactive pay increase to the CalPERS Board of Administration. The court also declined to exercise its power to provide equitable relief because the purpose of declaratory relief is to prevent future wrongs. The city’s decision to exclude the captain from a pay increase in 2018 was a past wrong, albeit with future implications, and was a fully accrued cause of action for a breach of contract claim.

After the court’s decision, the retired captain elected to dismiss the complaint with prejudice. This result allowed the city to avoid the time and expense of pre-trial discovery.

NOTE:

By convincing the court at the outset of this case that the claim had no legal merit, LCW was able to quickly end this litigation. Agencies can count on LCW attorneys to apply their deep knowledge of employment law and litigation procedure to minimize the costs of litigation.

DISCIPLINE

Correctional Officer's Termination Upheld Due To Domestic Violence Conviction.

In October 2015, Anthony Hernandez, a Correctional Sergeant with the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (Department), choked his girlfriend of five months. Hernandez and his girlfriend told police that Hernandez lived with her approximately four or five days per week. Thereafter, Hernandez pled nolo contendere to a misdemeanor violation of Penal Code Section 273.5, which criminalizes the infliction of bodily injury on a spouse or cohabitant, or on another intimate partner in an "engagement or dating relationship."

The Department then terminated Hernandez. The Department stated that the conviction rendered him unable to possess a firearm. A federal law generally bans a person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing any gun or ammunition. The Department noted that as a correctional officer, Hernandez must be able to carry a firearm at work.

Hernandez appealed to the State Personnel Board (Board). While the appeal was pending, the California Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms both notified Hernandez that federal law prohibited him from possessing a firearm. An administrative law judge also concluded that Hernandez was prohibited from possessing a firearm and held that his termination was proper. The Board adopted the judge's proposed decision, and Hernandez filed a petition for writ of administrative mandate with the trial court. The trial court denied the writ petition and Hernandez appealed.

The California Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's decision. The Court of Appeal noted that a court should not disturb the penalty imposed on Hernandez in a mandamus proceeding unless the Department prejudicially abused its discretion.

Since the Department terminated Hernandez based on his inability to possess a firearm under federal law, the Court of Appeal examined federal law addressing domestic violence. Specifically, the Court of Appeal examined Title 18, Section 921(a), of the U.S. Code, which

defines a crime of domestic violence as one involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon by (i) a current or former spouse, (ii) a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, or (iii) a person "similarly situated to a spouse" of the victim. After analyzing multiple cases confirming that a "live-in" boyfriend or girlfriend qualifies as someone "similarly situated" to a spouse under Section 921(a), the Court of Appeal held that Hernandez was a person "similarly situated to a spouse." Further, although Hernandez and his girlfriend only lived together for four or five days per week, the Court held this was sufficient.

Based on these facts, the Court of Appeal held that there was no abuse of discretion because the Department's decision to terminate Hernandez was correct as a matter of law.

Hernandez v. State Personnel Board, et al, 2021 WL 487886

NOTE:

Violence involving employees in and out of the workplace often requires quick and decisive employer action. LCW attorneys can assist agencies in evaluating the proper steps to take when these circumstances arise.

DISCRIMINATION

Terminated Employee Could Not Establish Claims Under The CFRA Or FEHA.

In March 2012, Barracuda Networks, Inc. (Barracuda) hired George Choochagi as a Technical Support Manager. In May 2013, Choochagi reported to HR that his former supervisor had made inappropriate sexual comments to him and suggested that he was not "man enough" for his position. Choochagi's former supervisor also told him he was not part of the "boys club."

In January 2014, Choochagi sought medical treatment for severe migraine headaches and eye irritation. Choochagi notified the Director of Sales Engineering and one of his supervisors that he needed to take time off from work. Barracuda gave Choochagi the time off he initially requested. But when Choochagi approached his supervisors about taking additional time off, they seemed "irritated" and attempted to force Choochagi to quit. One month later, a supervisor told Choochagi he "must decide whether he wants to be fired or gracefully quit." Choochagi refused to resign and maintained that he had performed well. Barracuda terminated his employment.

Choochagi initiated a lawsuit against Barracuda alleging, among other things: 1) disability and gender discrimination, retaliation, and failure to prevent

discrimination and retaliation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA); and 2) interference and retaliation under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA).

Barracuda moved to dismiss the case on the grounds that Choochagi was a poorly performing employee. Barracuda argued that while Choochagi would follow explicit instructions, he could not proactively solve problems or come up with creative solutions. Barracuda also presented evidence that Choochagi's supervisors and team had immediately felt misgivings about his leadership. For example, Choochagi's performance evaluation indicated he "demonstrated poor leadership skills" and had not improved in key areas of concern.

As to medical leave, Barracuda argued that Choochagi never specifically requested it. Barracuda said that Choochagi did inform his supervisors he was experiencing headaches and needed to follow up with his doctors. According to Barracuda, Choochagi only mentioned taking time off in one email and ultimately took the leave as requested.

Finally, Barracuda argued that it properly investigated Choochagi's complaint about his supervisor. Even though the supervisor denied saying anything inappropriate, Barracuda reminded the supervisor of its policies and instructed him not to have any type of sexually explicit communication in the workplace.

The trial court entered judgment for Barracuda on all but two of Choochagi's claims. The case proceeded to trial on the remaining claims, including Choochagi's disability discrimination claim. The jury found Barracuda had no liability. After the trial court denied Choochagi's request for a new trial, Choochagi appealed.

As relevant here, the California Court of Appeal considered the merits of Choochagi's claims regarding CFRA interference, CFRA retaliation, FEHA retaliation, and FEHA failure to prevent discrimination and retaliation. With respect to Choochagi's CFRA claims, the Court of Appeal determined that the trial court properly found for Barracuda. To establish CFRA interference, an employee must prove: 1) he is entitled to CFRA leave rights; and 2) the employer interfered with those rights. Similarly, to establish a cause of action for CFRA retaliation, the employee must prove: 1) the employer was a covered employer; 2) he was eligible for CFRA leave; 3) he exercised his right to take qualifying leave; and 4) he suffered an adverse employment action because he exercised the right to take CFRA leave.

The court noted that Choochagi could not establish either of these claims because he failed to present evidence that he asked for and was denied leave. While Choochagi mentioned his headaches and sent a single email requesting time off, these facts would not have

alerted Barracuda to the CFRA criteria that an employee was requesting leave to take care of his own serious health condition that made him unable to perform his job functions. Further, because the court found Choochagi did not request leave, there could be no adverse employment action taken because of a request for leave. Accordingly, the court found the trial court properly entered judgment for Barracuda on these claims.

The Court of Appeal also concluded the trial court properly decided Choochagi's FEHA retaliation and failure to prevent claims. First, Choochagi could not establish FEHA retaliation because the individuals responsible for terminating his employment were not aware of the HR complaint Choochagi had made against his former supervisor. Thus, Choochagi could not establish the requisite causal link between his protected activity and termination. Second, Choochagi could not establish a claim for failure to prevent discrimination and retaliation since Barracuda submitted evidence it had anti-discrimination policies and procedures in place and that its HR department directed an immediate investigation into Choochagi's complaint.

The Court of Appeal concluded Choochagi's evidentiary objections were without merit.

Choochagi v. Barracuda Networks, Inc., 2020 WL 836992 (Cal. Ct. App. Dec. 30, 2020).

NOTE:

This case demonstrates the importance of: 1) having an up-to-date anti-discrimination policy; and 2) conducting immediate investigations into complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. The employer's quick response to the employee's complaint reduced its liability.

Teacher With Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity Can Pursue Only Her Reasonable Accommodation Claim.

Laurie Brown has been a teacher employed by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) since 1989. In 2015, LAUSD installed an updated Wi-Fi system at the school where Brown taught that would accommodate the iPads, Chromebooks, and tablets LAUSD intended to provide its students. During public comment before LAUSD installed the new system, an environmental scientist and expert on electromagnetic frequency stated she could not support the installer's conclusions about the safety of the new Wi-Fi system. LAUSD's medical personnel also indicated they were uncertain about any long-term effects the Wi-Fi system may have on students and staff, but LAUSD promised to continue actively monitoring any developments.

Soon after LAUSD installed the new system, Brown had chronic pain, headaches, nausea, itching, ear issues, and heart palpitations. Brown thought the new Wi-Fi

caused her symptoms. Brown reported her symptoms, and her school granted her leave from work “due to these symptoms, on an intermittent basis, for several days thereafter.” After Brown returned to work the following week, she immediately fell ill again. Brown’s doctor subsequently diagnosed her with electromagnetic hypersensitivity, which is also referred to as “microwave sickness.”

Brown then requested accommodations. LAUSD held its first interactive process meeting with Brown on July 15, 2015. Following the meeting, LAUSD agreed to disconnect the Wi-Fi access points in Brown’s assigned classroom and in an adjacent classroom. LAUSD also agreed to use a hardwired computer lab with Wi-Fi turned off. However, Brown alleged that LAUSD’s accommodations were not reasonable and did not work. For example, while LAUSD disconnected the routers in Brown’s classroom and one adjoining classroom, other classrooms nearby continued to have their routers active. Another one of Brown’s physicians subsequently placed her on a medical leave of absence for three months.

While on leave, Brown filed a second request for accommodation. Brown requested that LAUSD further reduce her exposure using paints and other forms of shielding materials to block Wi-Fi and radio frequencies in her classroom. After another interactive process meeting, LAUSD denied Brown’s second request for accommodation, relying on testing the installer performed that indicated the system was safe. Brown appealed the denial, and LAUSD agreed to provide a “neutral expert EMF inspection for further microwave measurements.” However, the parties could not reach an agreement about the expert to use. During this time, a third physician extended Brown’s medical leave through June 2016.

Brown expressed frustration that LAUSD was retracting an accommodation it had promised and claimed she could not return to work without being overcome with crippling pain. She also alleged she was forced to go out on a disability leave, which exhausted her approximately 800 hours of accrued paid leaves. Brown then sued LAUSD, alleging it discriminated against her based on her electromagnetic hypersensitivity, failed to accommodate her condition, and retaliated against her in violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). The trial court dismissed Brown’s lawsuit finding she failed to plead sufficient facts to support each of her claims, and Brown appealed.

On appeal, the Court of Appeal concluded that Brown could not establish her claims for disability discrimination or retaliation. For both discrimination and retaliation claims under the FEHA, an employee must show that the employee took an adverse employment action because of the employee’s membership in a protected classification or protected activity. However, the court concluded

Brown could not make this showing. For Brown’s disability discrimination claim, the court noted she could not establish an “adverse employment action” because she merely alleged that LAUSD would not reasonably accommodate her disability. The court reasoned Brown was improperly conflating an “adverse employment action” with a failure to accommodate claim. Further, the court found that Brown did not show any facts from which to infer any discriminatory intent. This is because Brown did not have any facts to suggest that LAUSD: 1) clung to any belief that the campus was safe; or 2) refused to accommodate her because it was biased against her as a person with a disability.

However, the Court of Appeal concluded that Brown adequately alleged facts sufficient to support a claim for failure to provide reasonable accommodation. Brown alleged that LAUSD did agree on a reasonable accommodation (to hire an independent consultant to determine where on-campus exposure to the electromagnetic frequencies was most minimal) and then changed its mind, deciding the campus was “safe.” Since these allegations were sufficient to support a claim for failure to accommodate, the court reversed the trial court’s decision regarding this claim only.

Brown v. Los Angeles Unified Sch. Dist., 2021 WL 631030 (Cal. Ct. App. Feb. 18, 2021).

NOTE:

A critical part of the FEHA reasonable accommodation and interactive process is that the employer must keep the process moving. Every potential reasonable accommodation identified in the interactive process must be run to ground and determined to be reasonable and implementable, or not. The analysis supporting that determination must be documented.

HOME RULE

MOU Provision Authorized Charter County To Recover Overpayments From Employees.

The Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS) is the union representing sworn non-management peace officers employed by the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff’s Department (Department). The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between ALADS and the County includes provisions that address “Paycheck Errors,” including overpayments and underpayments.

The MOU provision on overpayments states that “employees will be notified prior to the recovery of overpayments.” Further, “recovery of more than 15% of net pay will be subject to a repayment schedule established by the appointing authority under guidelines

issued by the Auditor-Controller. Such recovery shall not exceed 15% per month of disposable earnings (as defined by State law), except, however, that a mutually agreed-upon acceleration provision may permit faster recovery.”

In April 2012, during a conversion to a new payroll system, the County failed to apply an agreed-upon cap to certain bonus payments. The error resulted in salary overpayments to 107 deputies.

In May 2017, the County sent letters to these deputies, informing them of the overpayment, and giving them two repayment options: remit the payment in full, or repay the amount through payroll deductions at a specified rate. In April 2018, the County sent the deputies letters stating it would deduct the overpayments as described in the prior letters.

In May 2018, the County began the paycheck deductions. Thereafter, ALADS filed grievances on behalf of the affected employees, challenging the deductions from their paychecks to recover the overpayment amounts.

While the parties addressed the grievances through the County’s administrative procedures, ALADS also went to court. ALADS sought a writ of mandate and declaration that an overpayment provision of the MOU between ALADS and the County was unenforceable because it violated wage garnishment law and the Labor Code. Specifically, ALADS alleged the deductions violated Labor Code Section 221, which makes it unlawful “for any employer to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages” paid to the employee. ALADS alleged that the wage garnishment law provided the exclusive procedure for withholding an employee’s earnings.

The County demurred to the writ of mandate on multiple grounds, including that ALADS failed to exhaust administrative remedies, and that neither Labor Code Section 221 nor wage garnishment law applied to the County. The trial court granted the demurrer solely on the ground that ALADS failed to exhaust administrative remedies. ALADS appealed, and the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court’s ruling, but on the grounds that Labor Code Section 221 and the wage garnishment laws do not prevent a charter county from agreeing to MOU provisions regarding the recovery of overpayments.

The union argued it was not required to exhaust administrative remedies because the available administrative remedy would be futile since it would require all 107 deputies to bring individual grievances addressing the same issue: namely, the County’s ability to recover overpayments under the MOU. The Court of Appeal agreed, holding that the administrative remedy was inadequate because it would not provide “classwide” relief for the 107 deputies.

However, the County argued that ALADS could not state a valid claim because of the home rule doctrine, which gives charter counties like the County the exclusive right to regulate matters relating to its employees’ compensation. The Court of Appeal agreed and held the recovery of overpayments pursuant to a MOU was within the authority of a charter county as part of its exclusive right to regulate compensation. For similar reasons, the Court of Appeal noted that wage garnishment law did not prohibit the County from recouping overpayments.

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs v. County of Los Angeles, 60 Cal.App.5th 327 (2021).

NOTE:

A growing body of case law holds that the California Labor Code is not applicable to public entities unless a particular Labor Code Section states it applies to public entities. This case applied the home rule doctrine to authorize a charter county to adopt a MOU provision to deduct overpayment amounts, notwithstanding the Labor Code or wage garnishment laws .

RETIREMENT

Retiree Forfeited Part Of Pension Because Of Criminal Conduct.

In December 2012, Jon Wilmot, an employee with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, submitted his application for retirement to the County’s retirement authority, the Contra Costa County Employees’ Retirement Association (CCERA), established in accordance with the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL). On January 1, 2013, the California Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) took effect, which included a provision mandating the forfeiture of pension benefits/payments if a public employee is convicted of “any felony under state or federal law for conduct arising out of or in the performance of his or her official duties.”

In February 2013, Wilmot was indicted for stealing County property. In April 2013, CCERA approved Wilmot’s retirement application, fixing his actual retirement on the day he submitted his application in December 2012. Also in April 2013, Wilmot began receiving monthly pension checks. In December 2015, Wilmot pled guilty to embezzling County property over a 13-year period ending in December 2012. Thereafter, the CCERA reduced Wilmot’s monthly check in accordance with PEPRA’s forfeiture provision.

Wilmot petitioned for a writ of traditional mandate and declaratory relief. He argued that the CCERA’s application of the PEPRA’s felony forfeiture provision was improper because the statute does not apply retroactively

to persons who retired prior to PEPRA's effective date. The trial court disagreed, holding that the CCERA properly applied the forfeiture provision to Wilmot's pension.

Wilmot appealed, and the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's decision.

First, Wilmot argued when PEPRA took effect in January 2013, he was no longer a "public employee" because he worked his final day and submitted his retirement paperwork in December 2012. The Court of Appeal disagreed, stating that an employee's retirement application is pending until approved by a retirement board under the CERL. When PEPRA took effect, Wilmot's application was submitted, but CCERA did not approve his application until April 2013. Thus, he was subject to PEPRA's forfeiture provision.

Second, Wilmot argued he was improperly being "divested" of his vested pension benefits. Again, the Court of Appeal disagreed. Relying on the Court of Appeal's previous decision in *Marin Association of Public Employees v. Marin County Employees' Retirement Association*, the Court of Appeal confirmed that anticipated pension benefits are subject to reasonable modifications and changes before the pension becomes payable and that an employee does not have a right to any fixed or definite benefits until that time.

Third, Wilmot argued that application of the forfeiture provision "impaired the obligation" of his employment contract with the Contra Costa County, which is prohibited by the California Constitution's contract clause. The Court of Appeal disagreed. The Court acknowledged that to be constitutional under the contract clause, modification of public pension plans must relate to the operation of the plan and intend to improve its function or adjust to changing conditions. Relying on

the Supreme Court's decision in *Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Association v. Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association* and the Court of Appeal's decision in *Hipsher v. Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association*, the Court of Appeal noted that one of the primary objectives in providing pensions to public employees is to induce competent persons to remain in public employment and render faithful service. Therefore, withholding that inducement if an employee's performance is not faithful (such as Wilmot who pled guilty to embezzling County property for 13 years) is a logical and proper response to improve the function of a public pension plan.

Fourth, Wilmot argued applying the PEPRA's forfeiture provision was an unconstitutional *ex post facto* law -- meaning a law that only makes an act illegal or that increases the penalties for an infraction after the act has been committed. The Court of Appeal disagreed, holding the forfeiture provision is a civil remedial measure, not a criminal penalty, and does not improperly increase the penalty for Wilmot's misconduct. Rather, the forfeiture provision merely takes back from Wilmot what he never rightfully earned in the first place due to his failure to faithfully perform in public service.

Accordingly, the Court of Appeal determined that the CCERA properly applied the PEPRA's forfeiture provision to Wilmot because of his admitted criminal conduct during his employment.

Wilmot v. Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association, 60 Cal.App.5th 631 (2021).

NOTE:

*This decision relies upon a case that LCW attorneys won involving a complex retirement issue. LCW Partner Steven Berliner and Associate Attorney Young Yim successfully represented a defendant agency in *Hipsher v. Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association*.*



FIRM PUBLICATIONS

To view these articles and the most recent attorney-authored articles, please visit: www.lcwlegal.com/news.

Partner [Peter Brown](#) was quoted in the February 8, 2021 *Daily Journal* article "Third Attempt To Let Legislative Staff Unionize Has More Support," which highlighted the stakes of AB 314 and its potential effects on unionized workforces.



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Upcoming Dates:

Via Zoom over a two day period

March 31, 2021 and April 1, 2021

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

INTERESTED?

To learn more about our program, please visit our website below or contact Anna Sanzone-Ortiz 310.981.2051 or asanzone-ortiz@lcwlegal.com.

www.lcwlegal.com/train-the-trainer



LABOR RELATIONS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



The LCW Labor Relations Certification Program is designed for labor relations and human resources professionals who work in public sector agencies. It is designed for both those new to the field as well as experienced practitioners seeking to hone their skills.

Participants may take one or all of the classes, in any order. Take all of the classes to earn your certificate and receive 6 hours of HRCI credit per course!

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1. March 24 & 31, 2021 - Trends & Topics at the Table
2. April 22 & 29, 2021 – Bargaining Over Benefits
3. May 12 & 19, 2021 - Communication Counts!



The use of this official seal confirms that this Activity has met HR Certification Institute's® (HRCI®) criteria for recertification credit pre-approval.

Learn more about this program by visiting <https://www.lcwlegal.com/lrcp>.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Firm Activities

Consortium Training

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Mar. 10 | "Human Resources Academy I"
Coachella Valley ERC Webinar Kristi Recchia |
| Mar. 10 | "Human Resources Academy I"
San Gabriel Valley ERC Webinar Kristi Recchia |
| Mar. 10 | "Difficult Conversations"
Ventura/Santa Barbara ERC Webinar Stacey H. Sullivan |

Mar. 11	“Maximizing Supervisory Skills for the First Line Supervisor - Part 2” LA County HR Consortium Webinar Kristi Recchia
Mar. 11	“Technology and Employee Privacy” San Diego ERC Webinar Heather R. Coffman
Mar. 11	“Technology and Employee Privacy” San Mateo County ERC Webinar Heather R. Coffman
Mar. 17	“Administering Overlapping Laws Covering Discrimination, Leaves and Retirement Part 2” Gold Country ERC Webinar Richard Bolanos & Richard Goldman
Mar. 18	“Prevention and Control of Absenteeism and Abuse of Leave” Central Coast ERC Webinar T. Oliver Yee
Mar. 18	“Prevention and Control of Absenteeism and Abuse of Leave” East Inland Empire ERC Webinar T. Oliver Yee
Mar. 18	“A Guide to Implementing Public Employee Discipline” Napa/Solano/Yolo ERC Webinar Stephanie J. Lowe
Mar. 18	“A Guide to Implementing Public Employee Discipline” West Inland Empire ERC Webinar Stephanie J. Lowe
Mar. 23	“Difficult Conversations” Humboldt County ERC Webinar Heather R. Coffman
Mar. 24	“Navigating the Crossroads of Discipline and Disability Accommodation” North State ERC Webinar Jennifer Rosner
Mar. 24	“Maximizing Performance Through Evaluation, Documentation and Corrective Action” Orange County ERC Webinar Christopher S. Frederick
Mar. 24	“Navigating the Crossroads of Discipline and Disability Accommodation” Ventura/Santa Barbara ERC Webinar Jennifer Rosner
Mar. 25	“Managing COVID-19 Issues: Now and What’s Next” Mendocino County ERC Webinar Peter J. Brown & Alexander Volberding
Mar. 25	“Managing COVID-19 Issues: Now and What’s Next” Monterey Bay ERC Webinar Peter J. Brown & Alexander Volberding
Mar. 25	“Managing COVID-19 Issues: Now and What’s Next” Nor Cal ERC Webinar Peter J. Brown & Alexander Volberding
Mar. 25	“Terminating the Employment Relationship” North San Diego County ERC Webinar Kevin J. Chicas
Mar. 25	“Managing COVID-19 Issues: Now and What’s Next” Sonoma/Marin ERC Webinar Alexander Volberding
Apr. 1	“Privacy Issues in the Workplace” Gateway Public ERC Webinar Mark Meyerhoff
Apr. 1	“Privacy Issues in the Workplace” South Bay ERC Webinar Mark Meyerhoff

Apr. 8	“Supervisor’s Guide to Understanding and Managing Employees’ Rights: Labor, Leaves and Accommodations” Bay Area ERC Webinar Erin Kunze
Apr. 8	“Supervisor’s Guide to Understanding and Managing Employees’ Rights: Labor, Leaves and Accommodations” East Inland Empire ERC Webinar Erin Kunze
Apr. 8	“Human Resources Academy II” Napa/Solano/Yolo Webinar Kristi Recchia
Apr. 8	“Difficult Conversations” San Diego ERC Webinar Stacey H. Sullivan
Apr. 8	“Human Resources Academy II” San Mateo County ERC Webinar Kristi Recchia
Apr. 14	“Human Resources Academy II” Coachella Valley ERC Webinar Kristi Recchia
Apr. 14	“Human Resources Academy II” San Gabriel Valley ERC Webinar Kristi Recchia
Apr. 15	“Terminating the Employment Relationship” Central Coast ERC Webinar Che I. Johnson
Apr. 15	“Terminating the Employment Relationship” Humboldt County ERC Webinar Che I. Johnson
Apr. 15	“Terminating the Employment Relationship” Imperial Valley ERC Webinar Che I. Johnson
Apr. 15	“Maximizing Performance Through Evaluation, Documentation and Corrective Action” Monterey Bay ERC Webinar Monica M. Espejo
Apr. 15	“Maximizing Performance Through Evaluation, Documentation and Corrective Action” Nor Cal ERC Webinar Monica M. Espejo
Apr. 21	“Legal Issues Regarding Hiring” Central Valley ERC Webinar Monica M. Espejo
Apr. 21	“Difficult Conversations” Gold Country ERC Webinar Heather R. Coffman
Apr. 21	“Legal Issues Regarding Hiring” North State ERC Webinar Monica M. Espejo
Apr. 21	“Legal Issues Regarding Hiring” San Joaquin Valley ERC Webinar Monica M. Espejo
Apr. 21	“Human Resources Academy I” Sonoma/Marin ERC Webinar Kristi Recchia
Apr. 22	“Maximizing Performance Through Evaluation, Documentation and Corrective Action” LA County HR Consortium Webinar Ronnie Arenas
Apr. 22	“Finding the Facts: Employee Misconduct & Disciplinary Investigations” North San Diego County ERC Webinar Melanie L. Chaney

- Apr. 22** **“Finding the Facts: Employee Misconduct & Disciplinary Investigations”**
West Inland Empire ERC | Webinar | Melanie L. Chaney
- Apr. 28** **“Nuts and Bolts: Navigating Common Legal Risks for the First Line Supervisor”**
Orange County ERC | Webinar | Danny Y. Yoo
- Apr. 28** **“Nuts and Bolts: Navigating Common Legal Risks for the First Line Supervisor”**
Ventura/Santa Barbara ERC | Webinar | Danny Y. Yoo

Customized Training

Our customized training programs can help improve workplace performance and reduce exposure to liability and costly litigation. For more information, please visit www.lcwlegal.com/events-and-training.

- Mar. 10** **“Preventing Workplace Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation”**
City of Santa Fe Springs | Webinar | Alysha Stein-Manes
- Mar. 10** **“USDA Forest Service One-on-One Specialized Training Regarding Prevention of Sexual Harassment”**
USDA Forest Service | Webinar | Jack Hughes
- Mar. 11** **“Labor Relations”**
East Bay Regional Park District | Webinar | Richard Bolanos
- Mar. 12** **“Preventing Workplace Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation”**
Imperial Irrigation District | Webinar | Mark Meyerhoff
- Mar. 17, 18** **“The Art of Writing the Performance Evaluation”**
Mendocino County | Webinar | Jack Hughes
- Mar. 24** **“Liability Issues with Remote Workers”**
California Sanitation Risk Management Authority (CSRMA) | Webinar | Alexander Volberding
- Apr. 1** **“Performance Management”**
California Sanitation Risk Management Authority (CSRMA) | Webinar | Heather R. Coffman
- Apr. 13** **“Key Legal Principles for Public Safety Managers - POST Management Course”**
Peace Officer Standards and Training - POST | San Diego | Mark Meyerhoff
- Apr. 13** **“California Family Rights Act”**
San Antonio Water Company | Webinar | Erin Kunze
- Apr. 14, 15** **“Maximizing Performance Through Evaluation, Documentation, and Corrective Action”**
Mendocino County | Webinar | Jack Hughes
- Apr. 15** **“Remote Working: Moving Into the Future”**
California Sanitation Risk Management Authority (CSRMA) | Webinar | Alexander Volberding
- Apr. 20** **“Key Legal Principles for Public Safety Managers”**
POST Management Course Training | San Diego | Mark Meyerhoff
- Apr. 21** **“Ethics in Public Service”**
County of Placer | Webinar | T. Oliver Yee

Speaking Engagements

- Mar. 25** **“Legislative Update: Part 2”**
Southern California Public Labor Relations Council (SCPLRC) Webinar | Webinar | J. Scott Tiedemann

- Apr. 1** **“Recession Ready”**
California Special District Association (CSDA) | Webinar | Che I. Johnson
- Apr. 6** **“Lessons Learned from 2020 and How They Will Impact Litigation for Years to Come”**
CSDA | Webinar | Elizabeth Tom Arce
- Apr. 8** **“Legislative Update”**
Southern California Public Management Association for Human Resources (SCPMA-HR) Annual Conference | Webinar | J. Scott Tiedemann
- Apr. 21** **“Executive Briefing: What Police Chiefs Need to Know about Labor Relations and Personnel Issues”**
California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) Becoming a Police Chief: Developing a Mindset for Success and Service | Pismo Beach | Laura Drottz Kalty
- Apr. 21** **“Human Resources Boot Camp for Special Districts: Day 1”**
CSDA Human Resources Bootcamp | Webinar | Jack Hughes
- Apr. 22** **“Human Resources Boot Camp for Special Districts: Day 2”**
CSDA Human Resources Bootcamp | Webinar | Jack Hughes
- Apr. 23** **“PERB Panel”**
California Lawyers Association (CLA) Annual Public Sector Conference | Virtual | Kevin J. Chicas & James Coffey & Kathleen Mastagni Storm
- Apr. 29** **“Workplace Bullying - A Growing Concern”**
County General Services Association (CGSA) Annual Conference | Webinar | Shelline Bennett
- Apr. 30** **“Labor and Employment Litigation Update”**
League of California Cities 2021 City Attorneys’ Spring Conference | Webinar | Suzanne Solomon

Seminars/Webinars

For more information and to register, please visit www.lcwlegal.com/events-and-training/webinars-seminars.

- Mar. 10** **“FLSA Academy Day 1”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Peter J. Brown
- Mar. 11** **“FLSA Academy Day 2”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Peter J. Brown
- Mar. 17** **“FLSA Academy Day 3”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Peter J. Brown
- Mar. 18** **“FLSA Academy Day 4”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Peter J. Brown
- Mar. 24** **“Labor Relations Academy: Trends & Topics at the Table Day 1”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Kristi Recchia & Peter J. Brown
- Mar. 31** **“Train the Trainer: Harassment Prevention - Part 1”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Christopher S. Frederick
- Mar. 31** **“Labor Relations Academy: Trends & Topics at the Table Day 2”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Kristi Recchia & Peter J. Brown
- Apr. 1** **“Train the Trainer: Harassment Prevention - Part 2”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Christopher S. Frederick

- Apr. 22** **“Labor Relations Academy: Bargaining Over Benefits Day 1”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Kristi Recchia & Steven M. Berliner
- Apr. 29** **“Labor Relations Academy: Bargaining Over Benefits Day 2”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Kristi Recchia & Steven M. Berliner
- Apr. 30** **“Train the Trainer Refresher: Harassment Prevention”**
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore | Webinar | Christopher S. Frederick

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