

# Charters & Internal Organizations

## Overview

Most cities are comprised of numerous agencies, commissions, boards and authorities. Managing their many functions and coordinating efforts can be challenging, especially as cities face budget cuts and growing demands for services.

Best Best & Krieger LLP understands the complex inner workings of cities and their departments, as well as the special powers the law gives to charter cities. We fully grasp the need for complex groups of internal agencies and departments to work together toward a common goal: Good local government. We have the experience to help our city clients meet these goals despite budget challenges.

BB&K attorneys frequently provide legal advice to our clients' planning commissions, personnel boards, housing authorities, utility boards and other departments. Many of our attorneys serve as dedicated legal counsel to these internal boards and commissions. We pride ourselves in getting to know not only the council and city manager, but also the city's department heads and other internal decision makers. Working closely with our clients at all levels, we advise on organization issues and regularly provide training to city council and city internal board and commission members on matters such as the Brown Act, the [California Environmental Quality Act](#), [planning and zoning law](#), and [government ethics](#). This ensures that our clients' policy decisions are protected from legal challenges.

BB&K's Municipal Law practice attorneys are intimately familiar with the special powers that charter cities possess to regulate their own "municipal affairs." Our expansive experience gives us a keen sense of what charter cities can and cannot do under applicable law — when federal or state law may preempt local control and when a charter city is free to tailor its own solutions to its unique circumstances. We have assisted a number of general law cities in becoming charter cities, helping them amend an existing charter, and guiding them through the often-required election process.

## People

## Key Contacts



**John E. Brown**

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**Sonia Rubio Carvalho**

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## Connected Industries

Municipal

## Related Practices

[Business Licensing & Franchising](#)

[Comprehensive Code Enforcement](#)

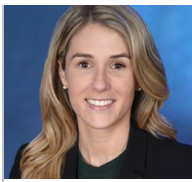
[Economic Development, Real Estate & Affordable Housing](#)

[Elections](#)

[Fees, Taxes & Assessments](#)

[Government Policy & Public Integrity](#)

[Local Agency Formation Commission \(LAFCO\)](#)



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**Areas of Focus:** Charters & Internal Organizations | Comprehensive Code Enforcement | General & Special Counsel | Government Policy & Public Integrity | Municipal Law | Public Agency Litigation

Public Agency Labor & Employment

Public Agency Litigation

Public Contracts & Construction

Public Safety

Public-Private Partnerships

Telecommunications

Transportation

Water



### Sonia Rubio Carvalho

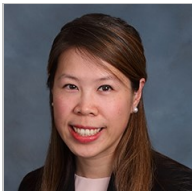
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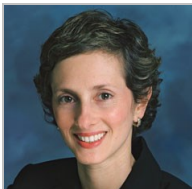
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## News & Events

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LEGAL ALERTS | JAN 10, 2019

### **New Year, New Laws Impacting Public Agencies in California – Part II**

Housing and Land Use and Environmental Laws Saw Changes in 2019

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PRESS RELEASES | DEC 19, 2018

### **Cities' Struggles to Meet Obligations Are Real — BB&K Municipal Law Team Grows to Help**

New and Expanded Services and More Attorneys and Staff Added in 2018

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VIDEOS | MAY 09, 2017

### **Haviva Shane Video Bio**

Of Counsel

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VIDEOS | NOV 18, 2016

### **John Brown Video Bio**

Partner

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