

# HongDao Nguyen

Associate

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## At a Glance

Working as a news reporter gave HongDao a unique opportunity to observe how cities work and interact with the communities they serve.

HongDao was named to the *Lawyers of Color* Western Region Hot List in 2014.

She serves as assistant city attorney for the cities of Stanton, Aliso Viejo, and Lake Forest, and as deputy city attorney for the City of San Clemente.

## Profile

HongDao Nguyen assists public clients in transactional and litigation matters concerning municipal government, with a focus on land use and public records law. An attorney in the Municipal Law practice group of Best Best & Krieger LLP, she serves as assistant city attorney for the cities of Stanton, Aliso Viejo, and Lake Forest, and as deputy city attorney for the City of San Clemente. She also serves in BB&K's [ARC: Advanced Records Center](#), which provides comprehensive and cost-effective support for records-related matters, including California Public Records Act request processing.

Recognizing that every city has its own political and cultural landscape — whether it be an affluent city looking to develop hundreds of residences or one that must work around a number of properties with historical designations — HongDao works with her clients from the first stages of the permitting process to completion. In addition, she has extensive experience in planning and zoning law, the Subdivision Map Act and many other applicable laws.

## Areas of Focus

### Practices

[ARC: Advanced Records Center](#)

[California Public Records Act](#)

[General & Special Counsel](#)

[Government Policy & Public Integrity](#)

[Municipal Law](#)

[Public Agency Litigation](#)

[Special Districts](#)

### Industries

[Municipal](#)

[Special Districts](#)

With a reputation for being responsive and available to the city staff she works closely with, HongDao adeptly helps municipalities navigate through a variety of legal issues that typically arise in the course of running a public agency, such as the Brown Act and the California Public Records Act. With laws constantly changing to keep up with the issues like medical marijuana dispensaries, the sharing economy, development and blight, HongDao remains up to date on the latest local and state requirements to ensure her clients are in compliance.

As a *San Jose Mercury News* reporter before attending law school, HongDao earned valuable experience covering Bay Area city councils, elections and police issues. This role gave her a unique opportunity to observe how cities work and interact with the communities they serve. The research and writing skills she honed as a reporter are put to good use as an attorney, as fact-finding and communicating are key aspects of successfully advising her clients.

HongDao received her law degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, where she was a note and comment editor for the *International & Comparative Law Review* and a member of the Byrne Trial Advocacy Team. She received her bachelor's degree in communications from Biola University. She provides pro bono legal services to such organizations as the League of California Cities and the Public Law Center. HongDao is married with two sons.

## Education

- Loyola Law School, J.D.
- Biola University, B.A.

## Awards

- Lawyers of Color Western Region Hot List 2014

## Authorships

AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | JUL 31, 2019

### President's Twitter Use a Cautionary Tale for Public Officials

BB&K's Christine Wood and HongDao Nguyen Discuss Social Media and 1st Amendment in *PublicCEO*

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LEGAL ALERTS | JUL 16, 2019

### President Trump Can't Block Twitter Users, U.S. Appellate Court Rules

The court concluded its opinion with an observation that at this time in history, "wide-open, robust debate" is the best assurance of good government

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LEGAL ALERTS | FEB 20, 2019

## **Drones: A Legal and Regulatory Update**

Operations Over People and at Night Among Issues Addressed in Latest FAA Proposed Rules

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AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | AUG 23, 2018

## **The Public Square has Gone Online**

BB&K Attorneys Christine Wood and HongDao Nguyen Write About Public Officials' Social Media Use in PublicCEO

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LEGAL ALERTS | JUL 30, 2018

## **Public Agency Spared Attorneys' Fees Award in Reverse PRA Action**

California Appellate Court Decision National Conference of Black Mayors, et al. v. Chico Community Publishing Company

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LEGAL ALERTS | JUN 12, 2018

## **How a Court's Decision that the President Can't Block Twitter Users Impacts Public Officials**

First Amendment Issues and Social Media Accounts as Public Forums

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LEGAL ALERTS | APR 20, 2018

## **Private Attorney General Statute to Award Fees Used in a Reverse-PRA Dispute**

Part III: Pasadena Police Officers Association v. City of Pasadena

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LEGAL ALERTS | APR 19, 2018

## **An Appellate Court's Observation May Have Effect on Reverse-PRA Actions**

Part II: Pasadena Police Officers Association v. City of Pasadena

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LEGAL ALERTS | APR 17, 2018

## **PRA Fee Award Narrowed to Cover the Issue of Scope of Redactions**

Part I: Pasadena Police Officers Association v. City of Pasadena

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AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | MAR 27, 2017

## **San Jose PRA Decision: Q&A**

- "Questions Emerge After High Court Public Records Decision," *Daily Journal*, Sept. 12, 2018
- "Appellate Court Public Records Act Decision Leaves Questions Unanswered," *BBKnowledge*, May 19, 2014