



Sara Hernandez

Managing Attorney

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Sara Hernandez brings years of experience as a public policy advocate through her work as an educator, non-profit leader and public servant in city government. Before entering private practice, Sara's career focused on advocating for local policies that encourage healthier communities by improving public education, increasing neighborhood livability, promoting economic development and providing access and opportunities to undeserved communities.

As Special Counsel for a Los Angeles City Councilmember, Sara was charged with leading revitalization efforts, economic development initiatives, policy changes, improved constituency services, transportation alternatives and a multitude of public infrastructure and public/private partnerships.

At DLA Piper, Sara has worked on a number of Southern California's most significant multi-family, commercial and transit-oriented development projects. Her experience includes work to obtain land use entitlements in connection with complex real estate development and zoning law. Sara also works regularly with organized labor, community and business leaders in connection with many of these projects and issues.

• Real Estate

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- Land Use - Entitlement of Affordable Housing: With a focus on addressing Los Angeles' homelessness crisis, Sara has worked on a large number of affordable housing projects across Los Angeles County including Prop HHH-funded projects, Bridge Home Housing and emergency shelters.
- Land Use Entitlement - Multi-family and Commercial: Sara has worked on all facets of the entitlement process for some of Southern California's biggest multi-family and commercial projects.
- Land Use - Project Management: Coordination of teams of professionals including architects, engineers, environmental scientists, community relations and communication consultants on major multi-family housing and commercial projects throughout the greater Southern California Region.
- CEQA: Work to obtain environmental clearances for development projects pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Government Affairs: Advises and assists clients in interactions with local and state government on a broad range of land use, public

policy, legislative, legal and communications matters.

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- California

Recognitions

- Los Angeles Weekly Most Fascinating Angelenos (2015)
- New Leaders Council Unsung Hero Honoree (2015)
- Los Angeles County Democrat of the Year (2015)
- Community Partners Albert R. Rodriguez Civic Legacy Honor (2014)

Education

- J.D., Loyola Law School Los Angeles
- M.A., Loyola Marymount University
- B.A., Duke University

Memberships

- Pacific Council on International Policy (2015-2016)
- Latina Women Lawyers (2015-2016)
- Mexican American Bar Association (2015)

NEWS

MEDIA MENTIONS

- "Developer Crescent Heights files plans for 70-story skyscraper at 1045 Olive," *Curbed Los Angeles*, August 15, 2017

PRO BONO

Sara has done extensive pro-bono work representing indigent immigrants in asylum proceedings due to the devastating violence in the Northern Triangle and government oppression in Nicaragua. She has participated in the Southern Immigrant Freedom Initiative which represents detained immigrants at detention centers throughout the deep South and has assisted immigrant students with the renewal of their DACA status.

Sara had done pro bono real estate and land use work for La Plaza de Cultura y Arte, a museum of Mexican American history, art and culture in Los Angeles, where she is a current board member.