

MISSION STATEMENT

Michel & Associates, P.C. is a mid-sized boutique law firm located in Long Beach, California specializing in handling adversarial proceedings and civil and criminal litigation.

Michel & Associates, P.C. has earned the highest available rating for legal service providers, an AV rating from renowned legal services evaluator, Martindale-Hubbell.

Our practice areas include environmental law, land use law, firearm regulatory matters, labor and employment, trade secret, contract law, civil rights advocacy, criminal defense, and related matters.

While Michel & Associates, P.C. is located in Long Beach, California, it serves a diverse clientele throughout California and the nation. Our mission is to provide compassionate, knowledgeable and economical legal services and guidance to satisfy our clients' demands for sophisticated legal representation in as efficient and cost-effective a manner as possible. We offer this unique brand of legal support to our clients – both large and small, who need and deserve our services.

Michel & Associates, P.C. recognizes that every client is unique. We take special care to tailor the representation of each of our clients to fit each client's specific needs and objectives, in both the long and short term.

Our lawyers are accessible and approachable. We are committed to offering clear, practical advice to each client, and promptly attending to each client's calls, inquiries, and needs. We pride ourselves on being effective communicators, as well as good listeners.

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s commitment to our clients is based upon our sincere interest in our clients' welfare. This interest continually motivates us to find practical and timely solutions to their problems and concerns.

The lawyer-client relationship is a special one. It is based upon trust, respect, discretion and absolute confidentiality. By honoring the attorney-client relationship, by practicing our philosophy of client service, and by achieving exemplary results, verdicts and settlements, we meet the high standards we have set for ourselves in representing our individual and business clientele.

We've followed this business philosophy since we began the law firm. As a result, Michel & Associates, P.C. has established a reputation for excellence and success. Our dedication to practicing law in a manner both personal and professional has brought us many return clients and referrals.

We offer a free consultation and welcome your inquiries.



FIRM OVERVIEW

Michel & Associates, P.C. is a premier boutique law firm specializing in handling adversarial proceedings, civil litigation and criminal defense. Our practice areas include environmental law, land use law, firearms regulation, employment and labor law, contract law, civil rights advocacy, criminal defense and other interrelated practice areas. The firm serves a diverse nationwide clientele.

Michel & Associates, P.C. has earned a A/V performance rating, the highest rating available from renowned legal services evaluator Martindale-Hubbell.

Michel & Associates, P.C. was formed by C.D. “Chuck” Michel in 1994 when he left “big firm” practice in downtown Los Angeles to start his own law firm. Michel & Associates quickly grew from its modest beginnings and, in 1998, morphed into Trutanich • Michel, LLP when Mr. Michel partnered with Mr. Carmen “Nuch” Trutanich. As Managing Partner of Trutanich • Michel, LLP, Mr. Michel assembled a talented team of legal advocates that emphasize performance, quality, and efficiency. When Mr. Trutanich was elected to be Los Angeles’ City Attorney in 2009, all of the talented staff and attorneys stayed on and Michel & Associates, P.C. was revived.

Michel & Associates, P.C. attorneys have extensive experience in all phases of civil and criminal litigation. We formulate complex case strategies and tactics, manage voluminous discovery, draft all manner of trial and appellate court documents, and handle all pretrial and trial proceedings, writs and appeals.

Helping large and small clients to anticipate and solve problems that arise during civil litigation or criminal prosecutions demands a high degree of skill and sensitivity. Increased governmental regulation and constantly changing laws, coupled with heightened political, economic and societal pressures, make the properly handling of adversarial legal proceedings more complex and challenging than ever before. We recognize that facing legal difficulties can be enormously demanding on our clients, both emotionally and financially.

Winning cases doesn’t come easy. Our team members, having worked for some of the most respected governmental entities and private law firms, have the talent, skill, experience, and sensitivity to get the job done right. Our strong practical orientation and devotion to our clients assure them exceptional results in the most cost-effective manner possible.

We exemplify commitment to our clients by equipping ourselves with the technology, training, and resources to respond quickly, accurately, and effectively. Technical advisors and nationally renowned experts also work closely with our attorneys when appropriate. Many of these experts were formerly employed by, or headed, the same regulatory or law enforcement agencies involved in litigation handled by the firm. The experts we use add an invaluable dimension and depth to the services we offer.

Michel & Associates, P.C. also has the contacts and relationships needed to get things done. Our attorneys keep a high profile in state and local politics, and before both state and local administrative and legislative bodies. We appear on behalf of clients at state legislative hearings, before local government councils and officials, and at agency rule-making proceedings. As advocates, we also help our clients to contest agency rulings and pursue administrative appeals where necessary. In fact, our attorneys continue to draft and influence legislation at the local, state and federal levels on behalf of various clients.

ATTORNEY PROFILES

SENIOR COUNSEL

C. D. Michel

Mr. Michel has long been recognized as one of the leading authorities on firearms law at both the state and federal level, and has played a significant role in defending and helping to shape 2nd Amendment Rights and legislation for over 2 decades. He has been instrumental in crafting some of the most important legal challenges to legislative efforts that impede gun rights guaranteed in the Constitution and represents many of the most prominent firearms organizations, including the National Rifle Association and the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

He has been profiled in recognition of his work in multiple periodicals, TV and radio interviews and has published extensively regarding firearms law. He is a regular commentator on the NRA's video & radio reports and is a frequent contributor to national media discussions concerning 2nd Amendment Rights. He is an Adjunct Professor at Chapman University School of Law in Orange, California, where he teaches firearms law. He is the author of the book *California Gun Laws – A Guide to State and Federal Firearm Regulations* and is the CEO and Senior Partner at Michel & Associates, the largest firearms law firm in the U.S.

Mr. Michel began his career with a coveted judicial clerkship with U.S. District Court Judge William J. Rea in Los Angeles. He worked as a criminal prosecutor for the L.A. County District Attorney's Office and as an advocate with the L.A. Federal Public Defender's office. Mr. Michel also practiced environmental & general civil litigation as an attorney at the renowned international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, LLP. While at O'Melveny, Mr. Michel represented multinational corporations and such notable clients as Exxon Corporation in connection with the Exxon Valdez oil spill. He also served as Staff Counsel to the "Christopher Commission," which investigated the L.A. Police Department (LAPD) in the wake of the Rodney King incident under the leadership of former Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

OF COUNSEL

Joseph Di Monda

Mr. Di Monda is an architect and attorney who has been recognized as one of the leading catastrophic personal injury lawyers in California. As a former chair of the City of Hermosa Beach Planning Commission and past President of the American Institute of Architects (Long Beach/South Bay Chapter) he has also been recognized as an expert in construction matters. As a member of the American Institute of Architects governmental legislation committee he has been instrumental in crafting and refining legislation related to the construction and real estate industry.

Mr. Di Monda began his legal career with a judicial externship with U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter in Los Angeles. He moved on to form his own practice in catastrophic personal injury, insurance bad faith and construction/real estate law. He has obtained multiple seven and eight figure settlements for his injured clients as a result of motorcycle, car and industrial accidents, and recently obtained a \$24 million dollar personal injury judgment for an injured client in the San Diego Superior Court. Mr. Di Monda has a number of appellate opinions to his name, and has argued before the California Court of Appeals on numerous occasions.

Mr. Di Monda holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Bachelor of Architecture from the City College of New York and a Juris Doctor from Southwestern University School of Law. He holds licenses to practice Architecture in New York and California and is a Member of the State Bar of California.

Ruth P. Haring

Ms. Haring has over 23 years experience as a general corporate, finance, and securities law attorney. Ms. Haring specializes in corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, and public and private offerings of debt and equity. Her practice also includes the drafting and negotiation of asset and stock purchase agreements, shareholders' agreements, employment and non-compete agreements, loan and security agreements, distribution and sales representative agreements, and trade secrets and license agreements.

Prior to attending law school Ms. Haring was a Management Associate at Bankers Trust Company in New York and later achieved the position of Assistant Vice President of Marine Midland Bank, NA, also in New York City, where she managed portfolio commitments in excess of \$150 million. After law school, Ms. Haring was a corporate finance associate at the law firm of Wilkie, Farr & Gallagher in New York City where she advised clients on general corporate, banking, and securities transactions, including acquisitions, corporate recapitalizations, financing, and public offerings. Ms. Haring then served as Vice President of Rosenberg & Liebenritt, P.C., a captive law firm in Chicago, for Samuel Zell and affiliates where she managed a corporate and securities group and was the primary attorney for the public offerings of both debt and equity of several real estate investment trusts, including Equity Office Properties Trust, Equity Residential Properties Trust and Manufactured Home Communities. More recently, Ms. Haring has served as part-time general counsel and consultant to various privately owned companies.

Ms. Haring received her bachelor's degree in political science from Brown University in 1980. She graduated from Boston University School of Law in 1987, where she was Executive Editor of the Probate Law Journal. She is licensed to practice law by the State Bars of California and New York.

Matthew M. Horeczko

Mr. Horeczko has been defending individuals charged with criminal offenses for over a decade. He represents clients in California state criminal cases as well as criminal matters in the federal courts. Mr. Horeczko's criminal defense practice encompasses the handling of all criminal charges, with an emphasis on representation of individuals charged with firearms offenses and serious felonies.

Prior to starting in criminal defense practice, Mr. Horeczko prosecuted criminal matters as a Deputy District Attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Mr. Horeczko began his legal career representing law enforcement entities, police officers, fire departments and firefighters. During his years as a prosecutor and defense attorney, Mr. Horeczko has

successfully tried dozens of cases to a jury, including a large number of criminal cases where the defendant faced life in prison.

Mr. Horeczko received his bachelor's degree from the University of San Diego where he also was a member of the University's football team. Following a year on the coaching staff of the University's football team, Mr. Horeczko attended and graduated from Southwestern University School of Law. While attending Southwestern University School of Law, Mr. Horeczko was a member of the Interscholastic Trial Advocacy Program and eventually was elected Chairman of the Program.

Mr. Horeczko has been recognized as a Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Star for the years 2005 through 2010. According to publication Law & Politics, Rising Stars are among the best in their profession and are limited to 2.5% of the outstanding emerging lawyers in Southern California who are under the age of 40 or have been practicing 10 years or less.

Glenn S. McRoberts

Mr. McRoberts is a former partner and currently "of counsel" with the firm. His current practice focuses on Second Amendment litigation, both at trial and on appeal, in state and federal court.

Mr. McRoberts began his legal career as a judicial law clerk in the U.S Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, first clerking for Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr. and then Judge John D, Butzner, Jr. He began in private practice at one of the nation's top law firms, Latham & Watkins, working on complex environmental and business litigation matters. He has extensive and varied experience in handling all aspects of complex litigation including prosecuting a federal trade libel action which resulted in a multi-million dollar judgment; defending a manufacturer in a class-action products liability case; defending major oil companies such as Texaco and Unocal in environmental actions, construction delays and underground storage tank litigation; trying a six-week jury trial against a vocational school and its parent company, ITT, resulting in a \$7 million verdict; and working on anti trust, insurance, and construction defect cases.

Mr. McRoberts graduated cum laude from Rutgers University 1976, earning top honors as a Henry Rutgers Scholar. In 1989, he graduated cum laude from Loyola Law School, where he was awarded "Order of the Coif", and served as Articles Editor of the Loyola International & Comparative Law Journal. While at Loyola, he worked as a prosecutor with the District Attorney's Office in Compton, California.

Mr. McRoberts also served as an Adjunct Professor at California Western School of Law in San Diego.

SPECIAL COUNSEL

Joshua R. Dale

Joshua Dale practices civil litigation with an emphasis on employment matters. Mr. Dale's approach to litigation utilizes cost-effective alternative approaches for resolving client matters prior to and during litigation. He has extensive alternative dispute resolution training to assist in these approaches, including experience as a panel neutral for the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution panel.

Mr. Dale's employment law experience includes counseling employers on business practices, defending wage-and-hour and employment discrimination claims, and providing biennial sexual harassment training to managers. He has extensive experience in all aspects of Fair Employment and Housing Act and Title VII litigation against employers.

Mr. Dale has also handled matters involving disability discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act, commercial disputes, real estate investment trust litigation, non-profit corporation governance matters, municipal liability litigation, and civil rights actions. Mr. Dale has tried matters at the trial court level, and argued matters in front of the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Dale's community participation and legal work have earned him plaudits and awards from local business leaders, Congressmen and community organizations. He has been ranked by his peers on multiple occasions as being in the top 2.5 percent of all California lawyers with ten years or less of practice.

Mr. Dale began his practice defending commercial businesses from claims related to hazardous chemical and mold exposures. He then opened his own practice representing businesses in commercial disputes and employment matters, giving him the broad base of knowledge he utilizes to represent clients today. For the past seven years he has represented businesses and government entities in a wide array of commercial, employment and governance matters.

While in law school, Mr. Dale clerked for the Los Angeles County Public Defender in its capital crimes division, and clerked for Trutanich-Michel, LLP handling environmental and criminal law matters.

Mr. Dale graduated from California State University at Fullerton with a B.A. in Communications in 1997. In 2000, Mr. Dale graduated with cum laude honors from the Pepperdine School of Law with a J.D. and a Certificate in Dispute Resolution. Mr. Dale and his family live in his native North Orange County.

W. Lee Smith

Mr. Smith specializes in environmental, land use and insurance law. His environmental law practice emphasizes cost-recovery litigation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Hazardous Substance Account Act (State Superfund), and related regulatory provisions and common law theories of recovery. Mr. Smith has extensive experience in dealing with defending PRP groups in Superfund sites, representative clients in matters involving federal, state, and local regulatory agencies including the EPA, DTSC, RWQCB, AQMD, as well as local health departments, hazardous materials divisions, public works departments, fire departments, and sanitation departments. In this capacity, Mr. Smith advises and represents clients on regulatory compliance issues, permits, and enforcement orders. In addition, Mr. Smith has experience in CEQA, NEPA, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, Polanco Redevelopment Act, land use regulations, water law, toxic torts, natural resources, contracts and transactions, business and corporate law matters. Mr. Smith has also served as Special Counsel to bankruptcy trustees representing bankruptcy estates in legal matters pertaining to environmental and insurance issues. Mr. Smith's insurance practice includes bad faith litigation and coverage issues.

With his environmental and business background, Mr. Smith is uniquely qualified to advise and represent clients in real estate transactions, including Brownfields properties and the purchase and sale of properties contaminated or potentially contaminated with hazardous substances or hazardous wastes.

Mr. Smith began his legal career at the Department of the Navy, Office of General Counsel, Western Area Counsel Office, Environmental and Water Law Divisions. He distinguished himself in complex litigation while at the San Diego law firm of Chapin, Fleming, McNitt, Shea & Carter in the environmental department where he worked extensively on *Aguilar v. Pacific Gas & Electric, et al.*, subsequently made famous by the movie "Erin Brockovich."

In 1995 Mr. Smith graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University San Marcos. He earned his law degree from California Western School of Law in 1997. While in law school, Mr. Smith worked as a Research Assistant for Law Review and clerked for the Department of the Navy where he worked extensively on environmental and water law matters.

Mr. Smith has been recognized by Southern California Super Lawyers Magazine as one of the top environmental attorneys in Southern California.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEYS

Anna M. Barvir

Anna Barvir practices civil litigation with an emphasis on constitutional law and civil rights matters. Her expertise includes legislative analysis, firearms litigation, civil rights advocacy, and general civil litigation. She also assists clients with firearms-related regulatory compliance, including federal firearms licensing and California dangerous weapons permitting.

Ms. Barvir has worked on a number of high-profile cases in constitutional law and self-defense civil rights. Most recently, she assisted in litigating *Peruta v. San Diego*, a challenge to San Diego's strict "good cause" policy for obtaining a permit to carry a concealed firearm. On appeal, the Ninth Circuit recognized the right to bear arms for self-defense extends beyond the home and the county's policy violates the Second Amendment.

She was also an integral part of the *Parker v. California* litigation team that successfully overturned three controversial state laws regulating the sale of ammunition in California as unduly vague in violation of due process. Thanks in large part to Ms. Barvir's appellate advocacy, the trial court's decision was upheld by the Fifth District of the California Court of Appeal. The case is currently before the California Supreme Court.

In 2009, Ms. Barvir graduated magna cum laude from Whittier Law School, earning her Juris Doctor and Certificate in Legal Writing. During law school, she served as Executive Editor of the Whittier Law Review and Treasurer of the Student Bar Association. Notably, her student-written article was selected for publication in the Whittier Law Review and, upon graduation, she was awarded the Whittier Law School Dean's Citation Award for outstanding leadership and service to the law school community.

Michelle Biglarian

Michelle Biglarian is an associate in the firm's civil litigation practice. Ms. Biglarian earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Physics and a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from University of California, San Diego. She graduated from University of San Diego School of Law in 2013.

While in law school, Ms. Biglarian received Honors in Lawyering Skills and an award for writing an Outstanding Brief. She was also recognized as a San Diego County Bar Diversity Fellow in 2011.

Sean A. Brady

Sean Brady's practice includes municipal law, legislative advisement, constitutional law, civil rights advocacy, self-defense civil rights litigation, firearm related regulatory compliance advice, and general civil-business litigation. Mr. Brady has worked on high-profile cases in most of these areas. The most recent was a challenge to three state laws regulating ammunition, which Mr. Brady and other attorneys for Michel & Associates, PC were successful in having struck down. Mr. Brady's passion for firearms and protecting the liberties of people to own and use them – as well as protecting all civil liberties – brought him into these legal practice areas.

Prior to joining Michel & Associates, P.C., Mr. Brady worked in his family's construction business. Over his many years in the construction industry he worked his way up from basic manual labor, to operating heavy earth-moving equipment, to being involved in every aspect of managing a construction project from planning and permitting through completion. Mr. Brady's experience in the construction industry gives him an invaluable real life perspective in helping clients with construction and business related legal matters.

Mr. Brady received his bachelor's degree in language studies in 2004 from the University of California at San Diego. Mr. Brady can read, write, and speak Spanish proficiently. He attended Western State College of Law, earning his J.D. in 2008. As President of the Western State chapter of the Federalist Society, Mr. Brady organized the First Annual Second Amendment Celebration, an event that continues to provide law school students, many of whom are first-time shooters, an opportunity to be introduced to the world of firearms.

Mr. Brady is a native of Long Beach, California. He attended the same high school as his parents and two of his grandparents. He is now a husband and parent himself. Mr. Brady is an avid surfer, fisherman, and diver. He enjoys target shooting, soccer, and spending time with family and friends to the tune of country and mariachi music. Mr. Brady has a voracious appetite for education and culture. And, as a young man, he worked in construction, warehouses, restaurants, catering services, and beach life guarding to finance his travels around the world – from Japan to Ireland to Costa Rica – as well as his university life. Mr. Brady brings this depth of real-world experience, along with his strong work ethic, to bear for his clients in every legal matter he is involved in.

Scott M. Franklin

Mr. Franklin's current practice areas include the following types of litigation: business dispute, environmental, toxic tort, land use, employment, and public record access.

Specific aspects of Mr. Franklin's practice include: mediation, Public Records Act compliance and litigation, insurance coverage disputes, condemnation, and environmental liability under CERCLA, RCRA, HSAA, and common law claims.

Mr. Franklin received his bachelor's degree in business administration from University of the Pacific in 2000. In 2005 he earned his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School.

Ben A. Machida

Mr. Machida's primary practice areas are firearms regulatory compliance, restoration of civil rights, and civil rights and business litigation.

Before joining Michel & Associates, P.C., Mr. Machida worked as a judicial extern for the Honorable Justice Richard D. Huffman in the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Circuit. There he gained valuable experience and insight into the practice of both civil and criminal litigation. He benefited immensely from seeing litigation from a judges's perspective.

Mr. Machida earned his Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego in 2010. He graduated *cum laude* from California Western School of Law in 2013. While in law school, Mr. Machida was awarded a Distinguished Advocate Award in appellate advocacy, and competed on the school's National Appellate Moot Court team. Mr. Machida also served as an associate writer and editor on the *California Western Law Review and International Law Journal*.

Thomas E. Maciejewski

Mr. Maciejewski's current practice emphasizes environmental law, including cost-recovery litigation under CERCLA, and general civil litigation.

Mr. Maciejewski worked extensively on the National Rifle Association's successful challenge to San Francisco's 2005 handgun-ban ordinance, which resulted in a published opinion (*Fiscal v. City and County of San Francisco* (2008) 158 Cal.App.4th 895).

Mr. Maciejewski graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 with dual majors in economics and linguistics and dual minors in mathematics and cognitive science. He later attended UCLA School of Law and earned his J.D. in 2002.

Clint B. Monfort

Civil Rights Litigator, Legislative Analyst and Regulatory Compliance Counsel

Mr. Monfort specializes in constitutional law and civil rights litigation, municipal law, state legislation, firearms-related litigation and regulatory matters, and medical marijuana law and patient/collective advocacy. Mr. Monfort has litigated multiple high-profile civil rights cases, drafted state legislation, and provided regulatory compliance advice to multi-billion dollar enterprises. Having represented his clients in the courtroom, before licensing agencies, and before state and local legislative bodies, Mr. Monfort is uniquely qualified to provide the highest level representation by knowledgeably considering all possible options to achieve favorable results for his clients.

Mr. Monfort has quickly emerged as one of the preeminent Second Amendment and civil rights litigators in the state, being the attorney primarily responsible for the development and litigation of the landmark case, *Parker v. State of California*, which found three state laws restricting the transfer of ammunition to be unconstitutional. Mr. Monfort successfully handled all phases of the litigation, ultimately achieving extraordinary and rare relief for his clients, a permanent injunction that prevented the statutes from being enforced. Mr. Monfort also achieved a favorable settlement in a high-profile challenge to San Francisco's prohibition on the possession of firearms by public housing residents. The case, *Guy Montag Doe v. San Francisco*, was one of six cases filed across the nation in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Heller v. District of Columbia*, which held that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms. *Doe v. San Francisco* and its sister cases were aimed at securing a ruling that the Second Amendment is "incorporated" via the Fourteenth Amendment to apply to state and municipal governments.

Mr. Monfort secured a repeal of the Housing Authority's policies and obtained a settlement wherein the City conceded it is powerless to ban firearms possession by public housing residents.

In 2010 and 2011, Mr. Monfort was recognized by Southern California Super Lawyers Magazine as one of the top civil rights and municipal litigators in Southern California.

In addition to his successes in the courtroom, Mr. Monfort also has extensive experience serving as regulatory compliance counsel. Mr. Monfort routinely represents clients in dealing with municipal, state and federal licensing authorities, including the California Department of Justice and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Mr. Monfort has drafted regulatory comment letters, and has obtained numerous state and local licenses held by his clients, including Dangerous Weapons Permits, Federal Firearms Licences, California Firearms Dealer Licenses, as well as licenses held by medical marijuana collectives. Mr. Monfort has also incorporated numerous medical marijuana mutual benefit non-profit corporations, and regularly provides compliance counseling to these businesses and represents them in dealings with municipal governments.

Notably, Mr. Monfort's practice also includes extensive counseling on state and local legislative issues, having drafted multiple pieces of state legislation and having analyzed hundreds of California Assembly and Senate bills, ensuring his clients' interests are best represented not only in the courts, but in the legislative arena as well.

Mr. Monfort received his bachelor's degree in political science in 2002 from San Diego State University, where he was named to the Dean's list. He later attended California Western School of Law, where he was a finalist in the 2003 Oral Appellate Advocacy Competition. Mr. Monfort was a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship at California Western and earned his J.D. in 2005.

Joseph A. Silviso, III

Mr. Silviso's primary areas of practice are firearms law and criminal defense.

Mr. Silviso is well versed in both California and federal firearms law. He has counseled a number of major firearm manufacturers regarding the ins-and-outs of California firearm law. Mr. Silviso was a major contributor to both versions of C.D. Michel's book, California Gun Law. He drafted and is responsible for many of the legal memoranda that Michel & Associates, P.C. makes available via its website Calgunlaws.com. He frequently lectures on state and federal firearm law to attorneys (for continuing legal educational class credit) and to members of the firearm community. Mr. Silviso has appeared on the Radio to discuss matters of state firearm law. He has counseled thousands of individuals over the years concerning state and federal firearm laws, and has represented firearm dealers in proceedings with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the California Department of Justice.

Mr. Silviso has represented numerous individuals charged with criminal violations. He has successfully defended clients in all manner of state charges ranging from infractions to multi-count felony indictments with sentencing enhancements. Mr. Silviso has appeared in courts throughout California while representing clients charged with driving under the influence, domestic violence, environmental crimes, local housing/health code violations, possession of controlled substances, possession of "assault weapons," carrying firearms concealed/loaded, brandishing, possession of illegal weapons, possession of stolen property, prohibited person in possession of firearms, and many others. While in law

school, Mr. Silvoso worked with a prosecutor for the Orange County District Attorney's Office in the Hardcore Gang Unit.

Mr. Silvoso graduated from Whittier Law School in 2006 in the top third of his class with a specialization in criminal law. Before law school he attended the University of Missouri-Columbia majoring in English.

PRACTICE AREA: FIREARMS LAW

Michel & Associates, P.C. has one of the most recognized and well-respected firearms law practices in the nation. For years, we have helped our clients to achieve their goals.

Firearms law is a unique and challenging specialty. Our firearms law attorneys are former prosecutors, trial lawyers, retired state legislators, constitutional law professors, and authors of best-selling firearms law books and articles. Together, our group is unparalleled in firearms law and firearms-related litigation and advocacy.

Among other things, our attorneys appear at agency and legislative rule-making proceedings that impact firearm owner interests, assist in drafting firearms legislation, represent clients in firearm licensing matters, represent firearms manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers in product liability litigation, defend against firearms-related criminal charges, and challenge ill-conceived or unconstitutional state laws and local ordinances in court.

Our clients include the National Rifle Association, the California Rifle and Pistol Association, law enforcement agencies and officers, industry trade associations, gun shows, importers, manufacturers, distributors, dealers, indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, special-effects companies, prop houses, armories, pyrotechnicians, and individuals who face firearms-related federal or state licensing and compliance issues or criminal charges. Michel & Associates, P.C. is Preferred Counsel for firearm retailer advocate FFLGuard for all California firearms issues including legislative advocacy, litigation, and regulatory compliance advice.

We constantly adapt our firearms law practice to respond to changes in firearms laws and the political environment. For example, the firearms law group now works closely with the firm's environmental and land use lawyers to advise shooting ranges on environmental concerns specific to such facilities. Those attorneys also work with hunters on game and natural resource management issues across the country.

California state statutes regulating firearm manufacture, distribution, sale, and possession now number more than 700. That number does not include regulations, local ordinances, and the written and unwritten policies of the California Department of Justice. As former California Attorney General Dan Lungren recognized, thanks to political influences California firearms laws are now as complex as the state's byzantine environmental and tax laws. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys are familiar with the confusing and often inconsistent firearms laws, and know how to cut through the red tape to achieve our clients' goals.

Whether challenging a law's constitutionality, advocating to invalidate or change a law, or simply determining the most cost-effective way to comply with it, our lawyers have been there. We know where to find answers when illogical, ill-conceived and poorly implemented laws do not provide them. We know the state and local requirements and politics. Our network of professional relationships includes politicians and political staffers, as well as staff at regulatory agencies administering firearms laws.

Our unique and extensive firearms law and litigation experience enables us to address increasingly complex regulatory schemes to meet our clients' legal needs.

PRACTICE AREA: CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s civil rights lawyers advocate on behalf of a variety of civil rights, including the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, the right to self-defense, student rights, housing rights, and the rights of medical marijuana patients and their caregivers.

The Second Amendment and the Right to Self-Defense

Michel & Associates, P.C. has one of the most recognized and respected firearms litigation practices in the nation. Our team of litigators and legal advisors is comprised of former district attorneys, trial lawyers, retired state legislators, constitutional law professors, and authors of law review articles and best-selling books on firearms law. We are proud to be on the front lines of the self-defense civil rights battle. Litigation and test cases moving through the courts today will establish the parameters of the right to keep and bear arms for future generations. We provide outstanding advocacy on behalf of the National Rifle Association, the California Rifle and Pistol Association, other Second Amendment and self-defense civil rights advocacy groups, as well as the individual gun owner.

Student Rights and Special Education

Having legal representation at student disciplinary proceedings has become increasingly important. Often parents and students are not informed that they have the right to an attorney at all stages of school discipline and special education proceedings. With the advent of "zero tolerance" policies, school districts and their attorneys take advantage of their familiarity with the system and often quickly suspend and expel children leaving inexperienced parents and students with little or no recourse. Students facing disciplinary proceedings before a school board often simultaneously face criminal charges in juvenile court stemming from the same conduct. Because the lawyers of Michel & Associates, P.C. have experience in both criminal and education law, we can represent students before both venues.

In addition to ensuring discipline hearings meet due process requirements, we hold school districts accountable when they fail to provide the appropriate educational opportunities for children with disabilities. We assist parents in requesting assessment, and in formulating and implementing Individualized Education Plans. When parents and school districts disagree on placement, our attorneys have represented children and parents in due process hearings and, where appropriate, sought emergency intervention from the State.

Landlord – Tenant / Housing Law

Landlords who turn a blind eye to the law subject themselves to civil and, on some occasions, criminal liability. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys have represented tenants in lawsuits against their landlords and have obtained substantial money judgments and improved living conditions. Our attorneys have successfully brought claims for racial, religious, ethnic, and gender discrimination; for failure to disclose certain dangerous conditions such as the presence of lead, asbestos or mold; and for failure to maintain rented properties in legally habitable condition.

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s lawyers also help landlords comply with the law and zealously

defend against claims brought by tenants.

Medical Marijuana

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s lawyers use their specialized experience in a variety of legal fields to assist patients, caregivers, doctors, cooperatives, collectives, dispensaries, and others associated with the cultivation, distribution, and use of medical marijuana. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys typically assist our clients in business formation, licensing, permitting, tax collection, leasing of facilities, establishment and implementation of best management practices, interaction with and lobbying of state and local law enforcement and government representatives, seeking the return of seized property including marijuana, bringing civil actions to protect the rights of our clients, and defending against civil litigation and criminal prosecutions. For now at least, the federal government steadfastly refuses to recognize the medicinal value of marijuana, or even to acknowledge the difference between medical and recreational use of marijuana. So marijuana, including medical marijuana, is still illegal under federal law. But many states have enacted legislation that allows certain patients to use medical marijuana legally. In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act (CUA), allowing medical marijuana patients and their caregivers the right to cultivate and possess marijuana for medical use. And in 2003 the State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 420, which gave the Attorney General the authority to clarify some aspects of the CUA.

Unfortunately, interpreting the often ambiguous Health & Safety Code provisions that set the CUA and SB 420 into law has proven to be extremely complicated and politically influenced. Legal interpretations of the CUA and SB 420 continue to evolve. In California, regulations and opinions regarding the application of the medical marijuana laws vary widely between cities, counties, State agencies, and multi-jurisdictional agencies. As some jurisdictions resist allowing dispensaries to operate, legal issues concerning the identification and qualification of patients and caregivers; forming, opening and operating a collective or cooperative; cultivating and distributing medical marijuana; recovering costs of operation; and getting back property seized by law enforcement officials are necessarily being resolved or refined through litigation. As cases work their way through the courts, judicial decisions often raise more questions than they answer.

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PRACTICE AREA: CIVIL LITIGATION

The litigation practice of Michel and Associates, P.C. is civil and criminal, regulatory and commercial. Our attorneys litigate through trials, writs and appeals in state and federal courts and administrative forums across the country. Our firm's litigation clientele consists of corporations, government and public entities, trade and lobbying associations, corporate officers and directors, and private individuals. Our clients come from a variety of industries, including manufacturing, wholesale, retail, entertainment, real estate, oil and gas, and sporting goods enterprises.

We strive to help our clients avoid expensive and time-consuming litigation when possible and appropriate. When appropriate or necessary however, our adversaries know that our lawyers will develop and implement hard-hitting and effective legal strategies, and that we are ready, willing and able to litigate and try cases before judges or juries and to obtain favorable results.

Michel & Associates, P.C. fields a team of exceptionally experienced, well-known dynamic trial lawyers and litigators. Our lawyers are known for devising and advocating practical solutions for complex legal disputes, often in highly charged political environments. Our senior lawyers have extensive trial experience. We have successfully litigated and won many "scorched earth" and "bet the company" cases.

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s lawyers readily adapt to the particular needs of each client. Our attorneys are keenly aware of the nonlegal issues underlying every lawsuit and familiarize themselves with the business, scientific, technical, economic and political issues of every case. Considering the client's needs and objectives, available resources, evidence, and judicial trends, our attorneys help clients evaluate litigation risks and develop litigation strategies that maximize awards and settlements and minimize potential liability exposure.

We recognize that at times a client's goals may be best achieved through coordinated actions in more than one venue. We frequently utilize litigation in tandem with legislative and lobbying efforts as part of a broad plan to pursue a client's objectives. A regulatory barrier can often be overcome by government cooperation. We appear before administrative agencies and legislative bodies when appropriate to seek assistance. The dispute that seems destined for long and costly private litigation may be resolved more efficiently through legislation, and the barrier to a business goal may be removed by advocacy before the executive branch. In matters where the government has an adverse stake, our understanding of administrative and legislative agendas often helps clients avoid or limit litigation.

When advantageous, our attorneys make use of alternative dispute resolution proceedings including arbitrations, mediations, and administrative agency proceedings. But in cases that do reach the courts, Michel & Associates, P.C. has the depth, size and experience necessary to conduct full-scale litigation and to win.

PRACTICE AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Increasingly complex environmental laws and challenging technical considerations confront practically every company doing business today. Michel & Associates, P.C. provides quality legal and technical services to those clients facing environmental issues in any regulatory or adversarial context.

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys represent small, medium, and Fortune 500-sized companies, as well as developers, natural resource management advocacy groups, and individuals. Michel & Associates, P.C. has assembled a unique team of individuals and consultants to achieve our clients' goals. Our attorneys, support staff, engineers, scientists, experts and public relations advisors provide support and expertise at every stage and on every level.

We counsel clients to develop and implement best-management practices and promote regulatory compliance to prevent environmentally based conflicts from arising in the first place. When conflicts are unavoidable, we focus on resolving environmentally based conflicts responsibly and efficiently.

We often handle Brownfield projects and work with clients on contaminated property characterization and remediation. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys and experts evaluate the nature and extent of site contamination, estimate remediation costs, and define the potential development value and potential investment return within the chosen legal strategy.

Our attorneys also have extensive experience with environmental legislation such as CERCLA, RCRA, CEQA, NEPA, Proposition 65, the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and the Endangered Species Act. We are familiar with the application of those laws in the regulatory context, in multifaceted environmental litigation, and in prosecuting or defending against civil and criminal charges alleging environmental violations.

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys have handled many environmental matters of national prominence, including the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the follow-up Chromium VI cases made famous by the "Erin Brokovich" movie, the Oil Superfund Site, the Denova Environmental Superfund Site, the Santa Margarita River adjudication, and Times Beach / Syntech chemical dioxin cost-allocation action.

Michel & Associates, P.C. has a long history of experience counseling clients in resolving environmental regulatory compliance matters and litigation, and also in the increasingly interrelated land use legal practice area. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys represent private and public landholders and developers before city councils, county boards, the State Coastal Commission, and other local, state and federal administrative bodies. We assist our clients in obtaining permits and other entitlements including general plan amendments, specific plans, zone changes, tract maps and development agreements. We also protect and advance our clients' interests, including eminent domain concerns, by legislative advocacy before local, state and federal agencies.

Michel & Associates, P.C. has extensive experience in both environmental and land use issues. Our goal is to use our experience and knowledge to help our clients achieve their goals at a reasonable cost and in a manner consistent with good business practices. We use our experience and knowledge to help our clients plan proactively, identify their options, make wise choices, and achieve their objectives.

PRACTICE AREA: CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Michel & Associates, P.C. has uncommon expertise in defending individuals and businesses against criminal charges. We pride ourselves in the depth of experience our attorneys possess from both sides of the criminal court bar. Several of our attorneys are former prosecutors who zealously handled the entire spectrum of criminal offenses in representing the government. Because of the real-world education our attorneys share with our firm, all of our lawyers hold prosecutors to the highest standard of conduct. In an increasingly politicized criminal courtroom environment, this is no easy task.

We represent clients in all criminal matters, from pre-filing advocacy through trial. We are specially recognized for handling environmental crimes, firearms violations, and white-collar defense. These areas are among the most challenging in the field of criminal law due to the political factors involved. We steadfastly hold the government to its burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, earning the gratitude of our clients and the respect of our peers for our strong advocacy in both state and federal courtrooms.

Environmental Crimes

Increased interest in protecting the environment has led to increased prosecution of business operators, owners and managers, and their employees for violating environmental regulations. With our attorneys' technical expertise and years of experience, we are uniquely suited to defend clients against these types of allegations in both criminal and civil court.

Firearm Offenses and Regulatory Compliance

Our work on behalf of firearm and accessory owners, retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers facing criminal charges has garnered national recognition. Increasingly complex state and local laws regulating "assault weapons," "high-capacity" magazines, and "destructive devices"; laws governing concealed weapons; and other firearm regulations increasingly confuse police and prosecutors, not to mention the general public. The political climate and lack of technical expertise possessed by many police, prosecutors, and judicial officers makes successfully defending against these allegations particularly challenging.

Special Investigations/White-Collar Defense

White-collar crimes are criminal violations that occur in a professional business or government setting. In the last 15 to 20 years, governmental prosecutors have been aggressively pursuing alleged white-collar crimes in several different industries, while Congress and state legislatures have passed new laws to regulate and punish this conduct. Some of the areas being subject to increased scrutiny include the health care industry, government contracting, the firearms industry, campaign financing, and environmental crimes.

Defending clients in white-collar investigations or prosecution poses unique problems and challenges. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys are well-equipped to meet those challenges while serving businesses and individuals who face white-collar criminal allegations. Our attorneys understand, and are sensitive to, the public relations ramifications of these matters and have significant expertise in environmental and firearm regulatory white-collar

investigations and criminal defense. As trial lawyers and former prosecutors, our Criminal Defense practice group provides the skills and experience that add a critical element to our effective representation of clients. Our lawyers have tried numerous cases in state and federal courts, argued successfully before courts of appeal, and have been special counsel to a number of investigative commissions.

Our clients range from large corporations to small and emerging businesses. We represent high-profile individuals who have made their mark in business, public office, sports, and entertainment. We prize our ability to help our clients avoid problems before they become the subject of investigation, charges, or publicity. When appropriate and necessary, we have and can negotiate preindictment or pretrial settlements, including agreements that avoid any criminal sanction.

Clients recognize the value of requesting our assistance as a proactive measure and working with us to design and implement corporate-compliance programs to prevent and detect violations of criminal law. Similarly, knowing how prosecutors apply criminal laws in particular industries, we undertake compliance audits, draft and edit compliance plans, and assist in implementing those plans.

Juvenile Proceedings

With the recent passage of Proposition 21, California juvenile law has changed its emphasis from rehabilitation to punishment. These changes affect all children charged with crimes, and a juvenile conviction can affect a child for a lifetime. Our attorneys are qualified to deal with the unique issues that arise in juvenile proceedings. Now more than ever, it is crucial that children have effective, aggressive representation to protect their rights and preserve their futures.

A child facing criminal charges is also commonly facing school disciplinary proceedings too. Our attorneys are experienced in representing children both in court and at school disciplinary or expulsion proceedings, including in matters involving learning disabilities or other special needs where unique laws and procedures apply.

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Know Your Rights When Encountering Law Enforcement. This booklet published by the ACLU addresses what rights you have when you are stopped, questioned, arrested, or searched by law officers.

What to do If You're Stopped by Police, Immigration Agents or the FBI. This travel sized booklet summarizes what you should do to protect your rights when you interact with law enforcement, and it can be conveniently carried on your person while you are traveling.

The NAACP Real World Guide to Interacting with Law Enforcement. This guide published by the NAACP provides helpful suggestions on how you should interact with law enforcement when you are on the street, in your car, or in your home.

PRACTICE AREA: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s Labor and Employment Law practice group offers its business and municipal clients experienced, sophisticated, and cost-effective representation concerning all aspects of personnel-related legal matters. We offer comprehensive counseling to address the myriad unique legal issues employers of all types and sizes face today.

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s lawyers are fierce labor and employment law litigators. Our labor and employment law team prosecutes claims against former employees and competing businesses for theft of trade secrets and confidential information. We also represent employers who have been sued by employees or charged by state or federal government agencies for alleged violations of labor and employment laws. We assist our clients in defending against all manner of employee claims, including claims of unpaid wages and benefits, wrongful termination, discrimination, retaliation, harassment and workplace violence.

Whether brought by a government agency, an individual, or through an attempted class action, we provide our clients with aggressive and effective representation before courts, administrative agencies, arbitrators, and mediators.

We also offer comprehensive counsel on employment relationships to employers of all sizes across a wide business and industry spectrum. We advise our clients on all aspects of the creation, management, and termination of the employment relationship including recruitment and hiring, employee discipline, and severance procedures. We help employers comply with and enforce federal and state wage and hour laws, handle unemployment and disability claims, maintain appropriate employment insurance coverage, understand and comply with state and federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) regulations, implement drug testing programs when appropriate, comply with employee privacy protections, and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Our attorneys help prevent problems by helping clients establish appropriate policies and procedures, design training programs, and conduct follow-up audits to ensure continuing regulatory compliance. We can educate and guide you through the maze of federal and state regulatory employment and labor laws, and provide you with aggressive and effective representation when you need it.

PRACTICE AREA: LAND USE LAW

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s land use law practice group addresses the complicated legal interrelationship between real property rights and land usage restrictions. Conflicts between these interests routinely arise from real estate development and use in California, particularly along its coastline. Michel & Associates, P.C. offers complete services to its land use clientele, allowing us to tailor our representation to each client's needs, budget, and goals.

Our land use clients include municipalities, landowners, real estate developers, natural resource management advocacy groups, and others affected by land use issues. We represent our clients before planning commissions, city councils, county boards, the California Coastal Commission, and before other local, state and federal administrative, legislative and judicial authorities.

Land use disputes are as varied as the plots of land from which they spring. Michel & Associates, P.C. develops specific strategies for each client and each property. Land use projects often involve many discrete but interrelated elements, including administrative proceedings, negotiation, coalition building, geological and environmental investigation, permitting, compliance advice, legislative lobbying, public relations, civil planning and increasingly, litigation. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s attorneys help our clients coordinate these elements to their advantage.

Michel & Associates, P.C.'s role in land use matters is frequently preemptive, avoiding costly and time-consuming litigation if possible. To that end, Michel & Associates, P.C.'s land use law practice group assists clients to obtain conditional use, coastal development, and other permits. And we help our clients negotiate and obtain general plan amendments, zoning changes, approval of tract maps, development agreements, and other specific plans.

Early resolution of land use issues often turns on discretionary decision-making by regulators. Michel & Associates, P.C.'s expertise and our professional relationships and experience with government regulators works to our clients' advantage.

When litigation is called for, Michel & Associates, P.C.'s land use law practice group includes practitioners experienced in various aspects of land use law litigation, including declaratory relief actions, contribution and cost-recovery suits regarding environmental damage to real property, takings claims, condemnation actions, writs of mandate, and defense against allegations of regulatory violations.

Land use legal challenges often involve state and federal environmental laws. Because of our environmental law experience, Michel & Associates, P.C. is uniquely positioned to advise clients on both the land use and environmental aspects of a case, creating a synergy that is both substantively important and financially beneficial.

Michel & Associates, P.C. is prepared to resolve any land use issues our clients may have, and we tenaciously strive to achieve each client's goals despite the procedural and political hurdles that may arise.