An Introduction to the San Mateo County Attorney’s Office

JOHN NIBBELIN
NOVEMBER 1, 2022
Who are we?

John D. Nibbelin
County Attorney
Who are we (cont.)?

33 Attorneys
19 non-Attorney staff members
  ◦ Legal Secretaries
  ◦ Paralegals
  ◦ Legislative analyst
  ◦ Administrative managers
Who are we (cont.)?

All experienced attorneys and one fellow (recent law graduate). We come from lots of places:

- DA’s Office
- Attorney General’s Offices and other State and Federal agencies
- Large law firms
- Non-profit agencies
The Office of the County Attorney provides quality and timely legal services to the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive’s Office, elected County officials, all County departments, and boards and commissions. We also provide services to school districts, special districts, and other public agencies operating within the county, allowing them to carry out their responsibilities in a manner fully consistent with the law.
What do we do?
General Counsel to:

- BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
- COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CEO OFFICE
- COUNTY DEPARTMENTS
- ELECTED OFFICIALS
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS, BY CONTRACT
- SPECIAL DISTRICTS, BY CONTRACT
- JOINT POWERS AUTHORITIES BY CONTRACT
- MISCELLANEOUS OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES BY CONTRACT
Supervisorial Districts

DAVE PINE, 1ST DISTRICT
Cities of Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, San Bruno (everything east of Interstate 280 and areas west of 280 and south of Sneath Lane), and South San Francisco (east of Junipero Serra Boulevard and south of Hickey and Hillside Boulevards). Unincorporated Burlingame Hills, San Mateo Highlands, and San Francisco International Airport.

CAROLE GROOM, 2ND DISTRICT
Cities of San Mateo, Foster City, and most of Belmont (excluding southeast portion).

DON HORSLEY, 3RD DISTRICT

WARREN SLOCUM, 4TH DISTRICT
Cities of East Palo Alto, part of Menlo Park (east of El Camino Real), and Redwood City. Unincorporated North Fair Oaks.

DAVID CANEPA, 5TH DISTRICT
Cities of Brisbane, Colma, Daly City, San Bruno (north of Sneath Lane and west of Interstate 280), and South San Francisco (east of Junipero Serra Boulevard and north of Hickey and Hillside boulevards). Unincorporated Broadmoor Village.
20 Cities/Towns in SMC

1. Atherton
2. Belmont
3. Brisbane
4. Burlingame
5. Colma
6. Daly City
7. East Palo Alto
8. Foster City
9. Half Moon Bay
10. Hillsborough
11. Menlo Park
12. Millbrae
13. Pacifica
14. Portola Valley
15. Redwood City
16. San Bruno
17. San Carlos
18. San Mateo
19. South San Francisco
20. Woodside
Unincorporated San Mateo County
County & City Functions

Cities - Municipal powers/services (public works, planning & building permits, parks, etc.)

The County “acts like a city” for residents in the unincorporated areas

The County is a “political subdivision” of the state

- Fulfills certain “state” functions (i.e., implementation of programs re social services, health services, prosecution of crimes, etc., at the local level)

The County has no authority over the cities but sometimes acts on cities’ behalf

- Limited examples: animal control, environmental health, contracts for law enforcement services, etc.
Some of Our Clients/Acronym Soup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probate</th>
<th>Grand Jury</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Administrator</td>
<td>LAFCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>LPS</td>
<td>SMMCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPS (CFS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer</td>
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<td>Property Assessment (and Appeals Board)</td>
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<td>Coroner</td>
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<td>First Five</td>
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Cool Stuff and Major Initiatives

- Covid 19 Response
  - Health Orders
  - Economic Assistance/Recovery
- Housing
- Homelessness
- Procurement
- DEI Work
- Sheriff oversight
Cool Stuff (cont).
(unintentional t. pun)

CZU Fire
- Entry onto property
- Exclusion of people
- Disposition of animals
- Clean up
Cool Stuff (cont).

Forming Peninsula Clean Energy
-Billion Dollars of Power (negotiations)
-New Public Entity
-Expansion
-Credit rating
-7 years later
Cool Stuff (cont).

- Cannabis Permitting
- Tobacco
- Noise
- Prostitution
- Firearms (e.g., GVROs)
Cool Stuff (cont).

- PCBs
- Chevron
- Opioids
- Lead Paint
- Elder Abuse
- Heart of Hearts
Cool Stuff (cont).
Redistricting
Tasers
Cosco Busan Oil Spill