

Independent Cities Association Conference (7/9/11) Report*

Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Powell

AB 1234 Ethics Training (AB 1234 Certificate Earned)

The following subjects were covered during the three hour AB 1234 Ethics session:

- Public Service Ethics Overview
- Conflicts of Interest – definitions, actions, disclosures and disqualification
- California Political Reform Act (GOVT. CODE §§ 81000 et. seq.)
- Ralph M. Brown Act (GOVT. CODE §§ 54950-54963)
- California Public Records Act (GOVT. CODE §§ 6250 - 6276.48)
- The Role of the Fair Political Practices Commission
- FPPC Form 700 (Statement of Economic Interests) Filing Requirements/Disclosures
- Restrictions on the Use of Public Resources
- Compensation/Perks Issues
- Gifts of Public Funds (Prohibitions)
- Mass Mailing Rules/Exceptions
- Restrictions on Gifts to Public Officials
- Restrictions on Honoraria
- Restrictions on Use of Personal Loans
- Restrictions on Use of Campaign Contributions
- Free/Discounted Travel Rules
- Competitive Bidding Requirements for Public Contracts
- Nepotism Rules/Restrictions
- Bribery (Quid Pro Quo) Rules
- Transparency and Open Meetings Laws
- Prohibited Communications (including Serial Communications)
- Fair Process Laws and Merit-Based Decision Making
- Restrictions on Holding Multiple Public Offices
- Charitable Fundraising Issues
- Protections for “Whistle-Blowers”
- Ethics Enforcement and Penalties
- Other Ethical Considerations and Ethics Resources (www.fppc.ca.gov)

Luncheon Session – A Bird’s Eye View From Sacramento

Dan Walters, *Sacramento Bee* journalist was the guest speaker. Mr. Walters delivered a very informative (and often sadly humorous) presentation on the political state of affairs in Sacramento.

How to Utilize Social Media Seminar Speaker: Brad Ritter (Ritter Communications)

The use of social media such as *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *LinkedIn* and websites by public officials and municipalities was demonstrated. The advantages and pitfalls/issues were also discussed. Seminar participants described their experiences and shared their ideas on various internet social media.

* Seminar handouts are attached to this conference report. There was no expense reimbursement.