



PARTNER

Albert J. Maldonado

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📍 Ontario

Albert J. Maldonado is a Partner in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Municipal Law and Special Districts practice groups. He provides legal services to cities and special districts by handling land use, constitutional and ethics issues, and drafting and negotiating various types of contracts. He advises clients on the application of California's transparency and ethics laws, including the Brown Act, the Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act and conflict of interest laws. He is well-versed in dealing with sidewalk vendor issues and has drafted sidewalk vending ordinances for several California cities.

Albert serves as assistant town attorney to the Town of Apple Valley, assistant city attorney to the City of Big Bear Lake, deputy city attorney to the City of San Bernardino, general counsel to the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation and Park District, and assistant general counsel to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. In these roles, he reviews and helps negotiate public contracts, including those for which the State or the United States government has provided grant funding. He also assists in preparing bid packages and reviewing bids received.

Albert serves as counsel to the planning commissions for the City of San Bernardino, the City of Upland and the City of Big Bear Lake. Albert advises on all aspects of the planning and development process including the review of use permits, variances, general and specific plans, development code compliance and amendments, and compliance with the Subdivision Map Act.

Albert has served as general counsel to the City of Ontario's Community Life & Culture Agency, which oversees the Recreation & Community Services Department, the city's libraries and the Museum of History.

Albert assisted drafting a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ontario and nine community partners, forming a "collaborative stakeholder structure" necessary to apply for the State of California's Transformative Climate Communities Program grant. In January 2018, the City was awarded \$35 million from the State's Transformative Climate Communities Program. After the money was awarded, Albert assisted drafting pass-through agreements with each of the nine partners. These agreements set up ways to govern the money's distribution and the proper administration of the programming in accordance with the Master Agreement between the City and the State. The money will help fund new projects regarding housing, transportation, workforce development, small business development and environmental sustainability initiatives, focusing especially in the City's downtown commercial areas.

Albert volunteers as pro bono counsel to the Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Foundation.

CORE PRACTICES

- Municipal Law
- Open Government & Ethics
- Public Infrastructure
- Special Districts

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

- Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, J.D.
- Harvard Divinity School, MTS
- Pitzer College, B.A., with honors

Bar Admissions

- California

During law school at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Albert participated in the school's U.S. Supreme Court Clinic, where he helped draft petitions for certiorari and amicus and merits briefs. He was an associate editor of the *Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy*. He also was a recipient of the Federal Bar Association Chicago Chapter's Lefkow Fellowship and interned for the National Immigrant Justice Center's Children's Protection Project.

Albert was intimately involved with the National Latina/o Law Student Association, culminating in serving as the organization's director of public relations from 2016-2017. He has also served on the organization's alumni advisory board.

Prior to law school, Albert received his master's degree of theological studies at Harvard Divinity School. He concentrated on studying religion, ethics, and politics and completed half his coursework at the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government.

While attending Pitzer College, Albert interned for then-Congressman David Dreier and then-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Albert is passionate about community engagement and about increasing diversity in higher education and in the legal profession. He is a founding board member of the Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire, served on the board of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, and served on the National Board of Directors of the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance as the vice president of finance. He is also president of the Board of Directors for the Ontario-Montclair School District Foundation, which fundraises for and institutes the Promise Scholars Program — a program that works to ensure students have post-secondary education opportunities. Albert grew up in Alta Loma, Calif. He enjoys dancing, especially salsa and bachata, and also plays the piano.

Accolades

- Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America, Municipal Law, 2026
- Annual Hot List, *Lawyers of Color*, 2022

Professional & Community Involvement

- Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire Board, Co-Founder, Past President, Advisory Board
- Ontario-Montclair School District Foundation Board of Directors, President
- West End Family Counseling, Board
- San Bernardino Symphony, Board
- Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation, Board

Thought Leadership

Publications

- "Cruz Reynoso and California Rural Legal Assistance: Achieving Justice," *Riverside Lawyer Magazine*, Mar. 2020
- "HBAIE Launches to Serve and Connect the Hispanic Community," *Riverside Lawyer Magazine*, Dec. 2018

Presentations

- "Opening Plenary to the Convention: 250 Years of the Great Experiment and Beyond, Through the Latino Lens," Hispanic National Bar Association, Annual National Convention, Sept. 10, 2026

- "IE Latino Voices, A Conversation with Albert Maldonado," *KVCR / 91.9 NPR News*, Jan. 28, 2026
- "Planning Commissioner Jeopardy!" League of California Cities Planning Commissioners Academy, March 12, 2026
- "Local Protections During Immigration Enforcement Actions," Municipal Management Association of Southern California Annual Conference, Nov. 13, 2025
- "Advising Pre-Law Students on Applying to Law School & Paths in the Legal Profession," Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire and California State University San Bernardino "Ask Me Anything" Roundtable Discussion, Apr. 9, 2025
- "Planning Commissioner Jeopardy," League of California Cities 2025 Planning Commissioners Academy, March 6, 2025
- "Associated Students of UC Riverside's Law Day," UC Riverside Law Day, May 2, 2024
- "Planning Commissioner Jeopardy," League of California Cities Planning Commissioners Academy, Mar. 7, 2024
- "Park and Recreation Law Jeopardy!" California Park & Recreation Society Conference & Expo, Feb. 29, 2024
- "Municipal Law Jeopardy," Municipal Management Association of Southern California Annual Conference, Nov. 2, 2023
- "State of Diversity in the Legal Profession," Joint General Membership Meeting, Riverside County Bar Association and Hispanic Bar Association of the Inland Empire, Jun. 23, 2023
- "Park and Recreation Law Jeopardy!," California Park & Recreation Society's Conference & Expo, Apr. 6, 2023
- "Planning Commissioner Jeopardy," League of California Cities Planning Commissioners Academy, Mar. 30, 2023
- "Ethics and Government – Cross-jurisdictional Jeopardy," NALEO 14th Biennial National Institute for Newly Elected Officials, Nov. 18, 2022
- "Municipal Law Jeopardy," Municipal Management Association of Southern California Annual Conference, Nov. 3, 2022
- "Municipal Law Jeopardy," National Association of Latino Elected Officials Annual Conference, June 24, 2022
- Alumni Keynote Speaker, Claremont Colleges Latinx Graduation, Chicano Latino Student Affairs, May 13, 2022
- "Do You Speak My Language? Language Inclusivity and Belonging in my Community," League of California Cities City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar, Dec. 8, 2021
- "1L/2L Summer Employment Law Panel," National Latina/o Law Student Association, Nov. 19, 2021
- "Municipal Law Jeopardy," Municipal Management Association of Southern California Annual Conference, Oct. 28, 2021
- "Becoming a Lawtinx," Chicano Latino Student Affairs Latinos in Law Virtual Workshop, Oct. 20, 2021
- "Municipal Law Jeopardy," Municipal Management Association of Southern California Summer Session, July 29, 2021
- "Rules of Engagement in Local Governments," Leadership *Charlas* for Newly Elected Officials, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Apr. 30, 2021
- "Trailblazers: Where Can a Law Degree Take You In Your Career?" Pathways Webinar Series, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Mar. 30, 2021
- Harvard Latinx Graduation Celebration for Class of 2024
- Harvard Latinx Convocation for entering Class of 2020
- "Thinking Like a Lawyer: A Framework to Critical Thinking," Municipal Management Association of Southern California Annual Conference, Oct. 29, 2020
- "Strengthening the Relationship Between Black and Brown Communities," Latino Economic & Policy Summit, Inland Empire Economic Partnership, Oct. 13-14, 2020
- "Pathway to Law School," Career Readiness Series, Hispanic Bar Association Of Inland Empire and CSUSB Career Center, Oct. 6, 2020

- “The Brown Act: The People’s Business and the Right to Access,” BBK Webinar, Sept. 16, 2020
- “Thinking Like a Lawyer,” Municipal Management Association of Southern California, fall 2020
- “Reopening Government During COVID-19,” Webinar, Municipal Management Association of Southern California, July 9, 2020
- “AB 1234 Ethics Training,” BBK Webinar, May 21, 2020
- “Latinx on the Forefront of Legislative Policy Making,” National Latinx Law Student Association Conference, Mar. 7, 2020
- “Life After Graduation: A CLS Major in ‘The Real World,’” Intercollegiate Department of Chicana/o Latina/o Studies of the Claremont Colleges, Feb. 8, 2020
- “How Can Your Attorney Help Your Public Agency,” Municipal Management Association of Southern California Annual Conference, Nov. 15, 2019
- “Enforcement of Solicitation/Panhandling Regulations and Overview of SB 946 (Sidewalk Vending),” BBK Webinar, Dec. 11, 2018
- “2018 Pacific Region Encuentro Corporate Law Panel & Mixer,” USC Gould School of Law, Aug. 30, 2018