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**How did you find your way into the industry?** After four years as a judge advocate in the Marine Corps, I wanted to join the reserve and pursue private practice. I was familiar with Best Best & Krieger's reputation in public law from attending law school near my home in Orange County. Joining the municipal practice group has been a perfect opportunity to pursue my interests in land use and public policy.

**What advice would you give to an emerging young leader just starting their professional career?** Becoming an expert in any field requires an immense investment in time, so it really helps if you enjoy the work. I would think critically about your strengths and interests and try to leverage those. Finding satisfaction in your work and projecting it among those around you is essential to keeping you and other members of your team motivated.

**What traits do you think define a successful leader?** The best leaders lead by example and communicate well. Individuals perform their best when they perceive that their work is valued and that they have a key role on the team. A good leader also identifies strengths and weaknesses in their team and adjusts accordingly. A sense of humor helps everyone transcend the day-to-day minutiae and keep things in perspective.

**What is your current job and what types of projects are you working on now?** I'm a public law attorney with Best Best & Krieger LLP. I serve as deputy city attorney and deputy counsel to several cities and special districts in Southern California. I also serve as outside counsel to developers on project entitlements in jurisdictions where we do not serve as the City Attorney. My day-to-day includes reviewing land use applications, drafting ordinances and real property instruments, and preparing analysis and recommendations to public agencies and developers. Best Best & Krieger's deep bench and broad range of experience adds a lot of value to organizations that are constantly working through a diverse set of legal issues.

**What do you find most challenging about your profession on a day-to-day basis?** Municipal and land use law covers an expansive breadth of issues and different areas of legal practice. The diversity of subjects that we manage for our clients is fascinating and very enjoyable. Zoning, environmental review, governance, procurement, constitutional law, ethics, and code enforcement are a sample of the subjects I work in regularly. I'm motivated to ensure our clients, both public and private, achieve sound and defensible government decisions — so the challenge is really gratifying.

**What are you looking for in terms of career development - OR In what areas would you like to professionally develop further?** I'm interested in infrastructure, public-private partnerships, and their effects on economic growth. I would like to develop my ability to help public agencies employ tools and craft policies that foster responsible growth, improve quality of life, and sustain long-term economic vitality in Southern California.

**Describe a situation that was a great learning experience.** As a military lawyer in Afghanistan, I was responsible for winding down land leases, assessing fiscal and environmental compliance, and reviewing excess equipment, facilities and land for transfer to Afghan forces. I learned a lot from being part of a large multinational staff and from working with many stakeholders on the Coalition's land management during the drawdown.

**How do you deal with stress at work?** Trail running and open water swimming – Orange County's coastal wilderness areas are great places to train and get some fresh air. Getting out there also helps me appreciate some of the attributes that make a region a great place to live, work, and play.