

## Sabrina Buendia

**Associate** 

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## What can I solve for you?

Bringing extensive legal experience and an education background, I address a wide spectrum of issues that my clients face in the business, facilities and real estate arenas so that they can focus on providing the best learning environments possible. I also handle employment matters, conduct investigations, and represent school districts in litigation.

### What's it like to work with me?

As a member of a family that has worked in education for decades, I feel a strong personal connection to our school district clients and find great joy in supporting educators across California. I combine my passion for public schools with a cando attitude, a reasonable approach and honesty about the pros and cons of each potential course of action my clients may take. They appreciate my candor, communication skills and knowledge of the law.

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#### Overview

Sabrina Buendia assists school districts and county offices of education in the areas of business, facilities and real estate, as well as in employment matters such as Title IX investigations.

Applying her detail-oriented approach, Sabrina handles many real property transactions and the contracts they entail. She enjoys carefully reviewing these documents and determining how they can be improved—a way to advocate for her clients by keeping them out of potentially difficult circumstances down the road. When disputes involving facilities or real estate arise, Sabrina draws on her litigation skills to best position districts for good resolutions. In the past, she has successfully represented school districts before the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The combination of Sabrina's congenial nature, outstanding people skills and legal acumen enhances her effectiveness in employment- and human resources-related matters such as Title IX investigations. She brings sensitivity and tact to her inquiries into allegations of sexual bigotry, intolerance, harassment, assault, stalking and other gender-based harms listed in official anti-discrimination policies.

Previously, Sabrina interned for the Los Angeles Unified School District in the Office of the General Counsel, where she assisted attorneys with all phases of the certificated and classified employee dismissal process. Additionally, her parents have long been employed by the LAUSD's central office. Sabrina's in-depth familiarity with the conditions and challenges school districts face gives her a valuable perspective and insight into how to best help them and mitigate their problems.

Administrators, school district employees and other attorneys frequently tell Sabrina that they appreciate her relatable personality and feel comfortable working with her. She's particularly gratified to receive that feedback from younger people who are starting their careers in the legal or education fields.

# **Experience Highlights**

- With the Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic, Sabrina represented a client through the Title IX investigation process
- Participated extensively in the law school's clinical programs, allowing her to gain hands-on experience working with clients, conducting investigations, and facilitating settlement discussions between parties
- Executive Editor for the Business Law Journal
- Co-Chair of the Filipino Law Students Association



#### **Externships**

California Civil Rights Department (formerly Department of Fair Employment and Housing) Clinical Externship, Sabrina acted as a neutral investigator, investigating complaints of employment discrimination under California's anti-discrimination laws and facilitating settlement negotiations resulting in a successful resolution of the matter

#### **Internships**

Interned for the Los Angeles Unified School District in the Office of the General Counsel, assisting attorneys with all phases of the certificated and classified employee dismissal process

## Recognition

Earned a Witkin Award for Academic Excellence in Trust, Wills, and Estates

### After School

I enjoy spending time with friends and family, reading page-turning thrillers, attending sports games and trying new restaurants.

### Education

- University of California, Davis School of Law (J.D.)
- University of California, Irvine (B.A., cum laude)

## **Admissions**

#### **Bar Admissions**

California

### **Related Services**

- Business
- Education Technology
- Facilities & Construction



- Investigations
- Real Estate & Property
- Title IX

# **Related Clients**

Public Education K-12