

Frederick N. Merkin

Mr. Merkin has worked for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office since 1973. Recently appointed as a Senior Counsel within the Civil Branch of the office, for the previous year and a half he had been assigned as a Special Assistant in that branch. In his current position, as in his prior one, Mr. Merkin continues to focus on major civil matters affecting Los Angeles City government. These matters have included proposals to break off the San Fernando Valley and Harbor Area from the City, as to which he continues to serve as the City's lead counsel, and authoring legal opinions on Police Department governance, including the respective roles of the Police Commission, Chief of Police, and Inspector General in the administration of the Police Department. From 1980 to 1999 he served as head of the office's Employee Relations Division and, for much of that time, as head of the Police-Fire Services Division as well.

Mr. Merkin received a B.A. from Claremont McKenna College in 1967 and his J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1972.

During his career in the City Attorney's Office Mr. Merkin has had the privilege of being involved in some of the more significant legal matters encountered by the City in the past quarter century. In the late 1970's he represented the City in resolving a dispute with federal and state authorities over the discharge of wastewater into Santa Monica Bay. In the early 1980's he represented the City before the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving police "chokeholds" that was ultimately decided on justiciability grounds in the City's favor -- *Los Angeles v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95 (1983). In 1985 he counseled City government on the adoption of its anti-apartheid divestment program. In 1991 he led the City's successful defense against litigation brought to block the City Council's settlement of the lawsuit filed by Police Chief Daryl Gates concerning the Police Commission's decision to place him on administrative leave. Thereafter, Mr. Merkin served as the Office's lead legal advisor to Los Angeles City government with regard to implementation of the recommendations made by the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department (the "Christopher Commission"). In recent years he advised the Los Angeles City Council on legislation requiring certain municipal contractors to retain workers of prior contractors (1996) and requiring payment of a "living wage" to many of their employees (1997). In that year he played a major role in the City's successful effort to stop a strike of port pilots against the Port of Los Angeles that threatened to shut down the Port. In 1998, he led the City's defense against litigation brought by a City employee union to block layoffs at the Department of Water and Power required to prepare the Department for a competitive marketplace created by deregulation of the electrical industry.