


City Councilmember John Rea violates California Fair Political Practices Commission laws

John Rea has been a City Councilmember since 2007, with the exception of a few months in 2015 when he chose not to run for re-election but then re-applied to take George Bird's seat when Bird resigned to take a Judgeship. See <http://www.pvestates.org/government/city-council/councilmember-john-rea>



CITY OF

Palos Verdes Estates

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Mayor Pro Tempore James D. Vandever

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Councilmember John Rea


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Councilmember John Rea

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The Honorable **John Rea** served two terms on the City Council from 2007 to 2015, and served as Mayor in 2011-2012. Throughout his tenure he also served the City's delegate to the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, where he was elected vice-president and chaired the claims committee. Previously, he served on the City's Planning Commission, and two terms as the president of the Palos Verdes Tennis Club. After deciding not to run for reelection, Mr. Rea stepped down from the City Council in March 2015 and served briefly as the Chair of the City's Planning Commission, until May 2015 when he was appointed by the Council to fill the unexpired term vacated by then-Mayor George Bird, who was named to the Superior Court.

Councilmember Rea volunteers on the Board of Trustees of the non-profit Harbor Regional Center, which contracts with the State to provide support services to developmentally disabled children and adults in the South Bay. He serves as president of the Board, overseeing an annual budget of about \$200,000,000.

Councilmember Rea and his wife Meredith moved to Palos Verdes Estates in 1987 and raised two sons in the Palos Verdes school system. Meredith grew up in Palos Verdes Estates, and graduated from Palos Verdes High School. She is a professional chef, at one time operating her own restaurant in Hillside Village.


Mr. Rea graduated from UCLA with a degree in economics, and received his JD from UCLA School of Law. He clerked for the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, and is now a partner in a national full-service law firm where he focuses his civil law practice on the defense of professionals sued for malpractice and on complex civil litigation. He was elected by his peers to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), and has been recognized as one of the top attorneys in the Los Angeles area.

Councilmember Rea is committed to serving the residents of the Palos Verdes Estates community by preserving and enhancing the unique qualities, character and beauty of our City, and by working to ensure public safety and continued fiscal prudence.

Email: jrea@pvestates.org

John Rea is also a partner at the law firm of **Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP**. Here is his profile page:

<http://lewisbrisbois.com/attorneys/rea-jr.-william-john>



William John Rea, Jr.

Partner

Los Angeles, CA
633 West 5th Street
Suite 4000
Los Angeles, CA 90071

William.Rea@lewisbrisbois.com
213.680.5013
213.250.7900

BIOGRAPHY ADMISSIONS ASSOCIATIONS AWARDS & HONORS PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS EDUCATION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

William John Rea, Jr. is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Lewis Brisbois and a member of the Professional Liability Practice. He has more than 36 years of experience in the areas of professional liability defense, directors and officers litigation, commercial and property/casualty litigation, insurance law (coverage and bad faith defense), including jury trial and appellate practice.

His professional liability practice focuses on defense of attorneys in legal malpractice and malicious prosecution litigation, and defense of errors and omissions claims against accountants, architects, engineers, insurance agents and other professionals. He also defends attorneys and accountants in securities fraud litigation.

Directors and officers practice includes defense of shareholders' derivative litigation.

Litigation experience also includes defending property/casualty cases ranging from landlord-tenant disputes, to civil rights litigation to brain injury claims. Insurance law practice includes coverage opinions and coverage litigation, and first- and third-party bad faith defense.



Primary Area(s) of Practice

[Professional Liability](#)
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Additional Experience

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Rea's firm has been the attorney of record for co-defendant Palos Verdes Homes Association in the CEPC case (Citizens for Enforcement of Parkland Covenants vs The City of Palos Verdes Estates, the Palos Verdes Homes Association, and Robert Lugliani), and has been since the outset of the case in 2013. Here is the Appellant Opening Brief filed November 9, 2016 clearly showing that it was prepared by Mr. Rea's firm:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5855e1e2be659437630c71e3/t/588f53031b10e309aef7e297/1485787908341/Citizens+-+Homes+AOB+-+FINAL+11+9+16.pdf>

**In the Court of Appeal
Of the State of California
SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT
DIVISION TWO**

CITIZENS FOR ENFORCEMENT
OF PARKLAND COVENANTS, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs and Respondents,

v.

CITY OF PALOS VERDES
ESTATES, *et al.*,

Defendants and Appellants.

APPELLANT'S OPENING BRIEF

Appeal from the Superior Court of the State of California,
For the County of Los Angeles,
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS142768
Honorable Barbara A. Meiers, Judge

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

*Roy G. Weatherup, SB# 52882,
Brant H. Dveirin, SB# 130621, and
Allison A. Arabian, SB#151511
633 West 5th Street, Suite 4000
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone: 213.250.1800
Facsimile: 213.250.7900

*roy.weatherup@lewisbrisbois.com

Attorneys for Defendant and Appellant
PALOS VERDES HOMES ASSOCIATION

In addition, here is one of the briefs filed in 2015 to show that **Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith** has been the law firm engaged since the outset of the case:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54c2de5ae4b08b9c092866bb/t/5564ce91e4b00fe50ad46ee4/1432669841782/20150515+-+MSJ+-+Declaration+of+Brant+Dveirin+ISO+Opposition+to+MSJ.pdf>

14	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA	
15	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT	
16	CITIZENS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF PARKLAND COVENANTS and JOHN A. HARBISON,	Case No.: BS142768
17		<i>Assigned for all purposes to the</i>
18	Plaintiffs,	<i>Hon. Barbara A. Meiers, Dept. 12</i>
19	vs.	DECLARATION OF BRANT H. DVEIRIN IN
20	CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES, a	SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS PALOS VERDES
21	municipal corporation; PALOS VERDES	HOMES ASSOCIATION; ROBERT LUGLIANI
22	HOMES ASSOCIATION, a California	AND DOLORES A. LUGLIANI, AS CO-TRUSTEES
23	corporation; ROBERT LUGLIANI and	OF THE LUGLIANI TRUST; AND THOMAS J.
24	DOLORES A. LUGLIANI, as co-trustees of	LIEB, TRUSTEE, THE VIA PANORAMA TRUST
25	THE LUGLIANI TRUST; THOMAS J.	U/DO MAY 2, 2012'S OPPOSITION TO
26	LUGLIANI, TRUSTEE, THE VIA	PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY
27	PANORAMA TRUST U/DO MAY 2, 2012 and	JUDGMENT OR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION OR
28	DOES 1 through 20,	BOTH
	Defendants.	Action Filed: May 13, 2013
		Trial Date: None Set
		Hearing Date: May 29, 2015
		Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.
		Department: 12
DECLARATION OF BRANT H. DVEIRIN IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS PALOS VERDES HOMES ASSOCIATION, ROBERT LUGLIANI AND DOLORES A. LUGLIANI, AND THOMAS J. LIEB'S OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT OR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION OR BOTH		

1 I, Brant H. Dveirin, declare and state as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney and partner with the law firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith

3 LLP, counsel of record for Defendant Palos Verdes Homes Association.

The matter of appeal was discussed in closed session on November 10, 2015. City Attorney Christi Hogin stated that the City Council met in closed session and voted unanimously to

appeal, showing Mr. Rea did not disclose his conflict or recuse himself. Here is the City Attorney's statement that night:

"Tonight's Regular Meeting convened at 6 o'clock at which time we recessed to a closed session pursuant to Government Codes Section 549569B1. The Council discussed Citizens for Enforcement of Parkland Covenants versus the City of Palos Verdes Estates et al., and having tried unsuccessfully to resolve that matter out of court and in light of the appeals that have already been filed by the 4 Homes Association and by the real parties in interest the Luginis in that matter, the City Council unanimously voted to appeal the judgment in that case. We know that the community is gonna want to know the basis for the City's decision and the City is going to be updating the website and providing an explanation in the near future on the website. And that concludes my report."

For the video of City Attorney Christi Hogin's statement; click here:

<https://www.pvrrg.org/s/PVE-City-Council-2015-11-10-Announcement-Decision-to-Appeal.mov>.

For an explanation of why this is a clear violation of the Fair Political Practices Commission of California, see: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/conflicts-of-interest-rules.html>

This is a very serious offense, and disqualifies John Rea as a current City Councilmember and as a suitable candidate for Treasurer due to this clear ethics violation.