

**T. Peter Pierce** is a shareholder in the Litigation Department at Richards, Watson & Gershon in Los Angeles, where he specializes in representing public agencies in disputes involving land use, zoning, environmental, and constitutional issues, among others.

Mr. Pierce is the lead litigator representing the City of Newport Beach in two ongoing federal lawsuits challenging the City's regulation of group homes. The City won both lawsuits in the trial court, and a consolidated appeal is pending before the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Pierce is one of approximately 250 attorneys certified as a specialist in appellate law by the California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. He has represented public agencies before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the California Supreme Court, the California Court of Appeal, and various federal and state trial courts throughout California.

He recently was appointed to a three-year term (2011-2014) on the State Bar's Appellate Law Advisory Commission. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the State Bar Committee on Appellate Courts. Mr. Pierce has been named as a Southern California Super Lawyer in the field of appellate law for four consecutive years (2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 [named last week]).

Mr. Pierce has participated as a panelist in numerous programs involving public law issues, and has written several articles focusing on those issues from a litigation perspective. He served as an adjunct professor from 2006-2009 at the University of Southern California School of Law, where he taught a civil litigation course to second and third-year students.

After graduating with honors from the Tulane University School of Law in 1992, Mr. Pierce served as a law clerk to the Honorable Marcel Livaudais, Jr., Judge of the United States District Court in New Orleans. Mr. Pierce received his B.A. from Cornell University and an M.S. from Syracuse University.