



## Section of State and Local Government Law

### ABA Government Law News

State and Local

A 60 - Second Update on What's Happening

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#### **The Debate Over Public Pension Heats Up – With Wisconsin Leading the Way**

As the movement to limit the collective bargaining rights of public employees gains momentum, [employees begin to fight back](#) by launching state-wide protests. [Read the latest here.](#)

#### **New York Court System Plans for Disaster**

The innocuously titled "[New York State Public Health Legal Manual](#)" is actually a guidance document for the courts just in case they have to deal with disasters and catastrophic events. Ronald Younkings, the chief of operations for the court system, says "This is for potentially very grim situations in which difficult decisions have to be made."

#### **Hawaii Votes to Allow Civil Unions**

The Aloha state will be the seventh state to allow [civil unions for same-sex couples](#). Five other states allow same-sex marriage.

#### **What Do a Lily, an Elk and a Sugar Beet have in Common with a Handgun?**

In Utah, they will all be official state symbols as the State appears to be poised to become [the first state with an official firearm](#).

#### **Colorado Court Concludes that Zoning is Not Enough to Vest Property Rights**

The Tenth Circuit recently looked at vested development rights in Colorado and concluded that neither Colorado's Vested Rights Property Act nor Colorado common law protects a property owner against the rezoning of his property, even when he has incurred significant expense in reliance on the zoning district previously approved for the property. [Read the Opinion.](#)

#### **California Set to Implement New Green Building Code**

California's green building code, CALGreen, went into effect at the beginning of the year. The Building Standards Commission has also issued a guide to the new code. [Take a look.](#)

#### **SCOTUS to Review Conflict of Interest Standard for Local Officials**

The Supreme Court of the United States will soon be taking a look at land use, ethics and First Amendment issues in this case where a [city council member didn't recuse himself](#) on a vote for a business that his campaign manager consulted for. [Docket](#).

### **California Cities on the Cutting Edge of Public Participation in Land Use**

"[Berkeleyans add to West Berkeley debate](#) in novel forum" highlights public participation in Berkeley, California's proposals to rezone an industrial area to "other uses including research and development." What makes this interesting is the use of the web site "Peak Democracy" to allow residents to make their views known. "Pernickety Neighbors" can object to the Planning Commission through a unique process called "discretionary review," even after City planners have approved minor improvements. [Cost one homeowner \\$150k](#).

### **State & Local Gov't Law is Where the Action Is!**

Did you know that while the ABA's overall membership was down by 2.2%, the SLG Section actually increased our membership by 12.8%? Let's not rest on our laurels - tell your colleagues, friends, and contacts to come join us as a meeting, a CLE, or on-line.

### **Portland, Oregon will be buzzing with State & Local Government Lawyers May 12-15.**

Don't miss the CLE programs, the business meetings and the great camaraderie at our Spring Section meeting. [Details to register are here](#).

### **Nominations for the 14th Annual Jefferson B. Fordham Awards**

Please submit your nominations for the 14th Annual Jefferson B. Fordham Awards on or before March 4, 2011 in the categories of Lifetime Achievement, Advocacy, Up & Comers, and Law Office Accomplishments. Selections will be made by May 13; award winners will be honored at a special luncheon held during the ABA Annual Conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on August 5. [More information about submission criteria](#).

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