

**NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Darrell Uran
duan@aalrr.com
(562) 653-3565

**Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo Names
Five New Non-Equity Partners and One New Equity Partner**

CERRITOS, Calif.—Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) is pleased to announce that Constance M. Taylor has been named an equity partner, and that Sukhi K. Ahluwalia, W. Bryce Chastain, Jesus R. Gonzales, Andres C. Hurwitz and Ann K. Smith have become partners with the firm.

“We are thrilled to recognize the contribution these individuals make to both their clients and our firm.” said Managing Partner James C. Romo.

Constance Taylor represents school districts at IEP team meetings, resolution sessions, mediations, due process hearings, Section 504 meetings, expulsion hearings, and expulsion appeals. She often works with districts to prepare board policies with regard to special education, Section 504, student discipline, and other student issues.

Sukhi Ahluwalia represents California public school districts and county offices of education in several aspects of education and employment law. Her main areas of expertise include charter schools, student rights and discipline, conflicts of interest, employment discrimination and sexual harassment, and transactional matters. She is a recognized expert in charter school matters.

W. Bryce Chastain provides public agencies with a full range of legal services for facilities development and other procurement needs. He also advises private clients in all areas of construction and development matters. Mr. Chastain is recognized statewide for his expertise in energy efficiency and alternative energy contracting for public agencies, as well as drafting and negotiating agreements for energy auditing, retro-commissioning, energy efficiency retrofits, renewable energy and power purchase agreements.

Jesus Gonzales has advised school districts, community colleges, county offices of education, special districts and other public entities on a wide variety of construction and public law matters. He assists clients in every phase of the public and private construction process, from the initial planning and bidding stages through alternative dispute resolution and/or litigation. His representation includes the drafting and negotiating of construction contracts, architectural agreements, engineering contracts, construction management agreements, and other professional service agreements.

Andres Hurwitz is an experienced litigator handling commercial and employment matters primarily for employers, including complex and class action litigation in both federal and state courts throughout California. He has experience in the area of prevailing wage law and both state and federal wage/hour and pay practice laws. He is a Certified Information Privacy Professional.

Ann K. Smith represents management in all employment related matters including discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour and wrongful termination. She handles litigation in both state and federal courts as well as defending claims before various administrative agencies, including the DFEH and the EEOC. She also provides advice and counsel on a variety of employment issues, including employee discipline, wage and hour compliance, and adherence to federal and state family and medical leave laws.

About Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

With 35 years of unwavering commitment to client service, [AALRR](http://www.aalrr.com) has become one of California's leading law firms. Our diverse team brings a seasoned perspective to California's complex legal landscape for [private](#) and [public](#) entities, with particular strength in the areas of education, [labor and employment](#), [construction](#), [complex litigation](#), [corporate](#), taxation and bankruptcy. Our public sector clients include more than 400 K-12 school districts, community college districts and universities, as well as cities, counties and special districts. We also represent businesses of all shapes and sizes, from "mom and pop" companies to publicly traded corporations. At 145 lawyers and growing, we maintain eight offices in [Cerritos](#), [Pleasanton](#), [Riverside](#), [Irvine](#), [Fresno](#), [Sacramento](#), [San Diego](#) and [Pasadena](#). For more information about us, visit our website at www.aalrr.com and sign up for our blogs, www.aalrreducationlaw.com and www.aalrremploymentlaw.com.

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