



LEPISCOPO & ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM

SAN DIEGO—ORANGE COUNTY



<http://www.linkedin.com/in/petelepiscopo/>
www.LepiscopoLawFirm.com

SAN DIEGO OFFICE



JAMES M. GRIFFITHS, ESQ.

Admitted to the State Bar of California
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

LEGAL CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: LEPISCOPO & ASSOCIATES
(June 2005 to Present)

Corporate and Business Law & Civil Litigation

- Performed all tasks associated with civil and constitutional litigation, including drafting and filing briefs, motions, and petitions

- Made court appearances for various trial related matters, including motion hearings and pre-trial conferences
- Conducted all manner of pre and post-trial discovery, including depositions, Requests for Production, Interrogatories, and Demands for Bill of Particulars.
- Drafted all types of law and motion pleadings, including Motions for Summary Judgment, Demurrers, Motions to Strike, Motions for Directed Verdict, Motions to Compel, Declarations, and Motions for Attorney's Fees.

Constitutional Law

Constitutional law practice includes:

- Litigating constitutional law issues under state and federal law: Freedom of Speech, freedom of association, freedom of press, freedom of religion, due process, and other issues under the Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Analyzing pending legislation
- Drafting of *amicus* briefs and briefs on the merits in notable constitutional law cases

Notable State & Federal Cases

Staley v. Harris County, Texas (5th Cir.2007) 485 F.3d 305 (assisted with representation of Pacific Justice Institute in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the constitutionality of a Bible Monument displayed at Harris County Civil Courthouse).

O'Toole v. Superior Court (San Diego Community College District) (2006) 140 Cal.App.4th 488 (case relating to free speech and assembly issues on college campus).

McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky, 545 U.S. 844 (2005) (“*McCreary*”) and *Van Orden v. Perry*, 545 U.S. 677 (2005) (“*Van Orden*”) (co-represented Pacific Justice Institute in the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the Kentucky and Texas Ten Commandments cases, respectively).

Notable Memberships & Associations

- Graduate, Alliance Defense Fund National Litigation Academies XVIII and XXIV, and Regional Litigation Academy San Diego, January 2010.
- Member, Alliance Defense Fund Honor Guard

- Past Member, Council for National Policy Youth Council
- Member, Rancho Santa Fe Community Emergency Response Team

INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIP:

United States Department of Justice, Office of the U.S. Attorney—Law Clerk,
January—April 2003

Researched and wrote an Appellate Brief argued before the 9th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals. Acted as a liaison between government investigative agencies (US Customs, Border Patrol) and prosecuting attorneys. Assisted in the investigation and trial preparation of criminal cases. Attended training seminars conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice on the topics of narcotics enforcement, asset forfeiture, deposition tactics, and legal writing skills. Researched and wrote prosecution memoranda evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of pending indictments.

Pacific Justice Institute—Post Graduate Fellow

Managed over 500 open case files dealing with issues of religious freedom, parental rights, home schooling defense, education, labor unions, religious land use (RLUIPA), civil rights, Equal Access, protection of marriage, and sanctity of life. Researched and drafted legal complaints, Memoranda of Points and Authorities, Motions for Preliminary Injunction, *amicus* briefs to the California and United States Supreme Courts, and appellate briefs. Coordinated cases and developed relationships with “affiliate attorneys” nationwide. Composed and edited press releases, newsletters, and fundraising letters which were distributed to more than 15,000 recipients nationwide and available via the internet. Acted as a liaison between legal organization and policy groups for the purpose of testifying before California Legislature. Drafted model legislation and worked with members of the legislature to create policy initiatives. Recruited, supervised and managed a staff of seven law clerks and legal interns.

EDUCATION:

Doctorate of Jurisprudence (2003), San Diego, University of San Diego School of Law

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (1999), San Diego, University of San Diego *magna cum laude*