Legislative Outlook 2018: A Community Choice Perspective
January 24, 2018

Speaker Bios

Shalini Swaroop

Shalini leads MCE’s policy advocacy at the California Legislature and state regulatory agencies. She has been with the agency since 2013, coordinated statewide efforts to defeat AB 2145 (2014), and negotiated CCA amendments on SB 350 (2015). Shalini has advocated on equity issues, CCA ratepayer fairness, and local governance matters. She previously practiced before the California Public Utilities Commission as a consumer advocate on behalf of low-income constituents and communities of color. Shalini received her Juris Doctorate from Berkeley Law School, where she was elected student body president. Afterwards, she completed a federal judicial clerkship at the High Court of American Samoa. Currently, Shalini holds leadership positions on several non-profit boards and sits on the board of the California Conference of Public Utility Counsel.

Emily Pappas, Partner

After being voted one of two “Up and Comer” Capitol lobbyists in 2006, and receiving the “Rising Star” award by Capitol Weekly Magazine, Emily Pappas became a Partner with Lehman Levi Pappas and Sadler in 2009. In late 2014, Ms. Pappas merged her clients with Erin Niemela’s to form the firm Niemela Pappas & Associates. Ms. Pappas directly manages a wide variety of clients, ranging from product manufacturers in the agricultural, technology, energy and food processing fields to local governments, and educational institutions.

Her expertise in both the legislative and regulatory branches of government has resulted in clients securing their desired outcomes in the Legislature and in the rule-making process, as well as obtaining significant financial grant assistance from state agencies.

Emily’s skills have been honed by experience working in the White House, the U.S. Embassy in France, the California Governor’s Office, the State Senate, and at the local level in the Central Valley. She also excelled in her educational endeavors – graduating with highest honors and a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from the University of California at Davis in three years; completed studies at the Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems at Georgetown University; and holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from California State University at Sacramento.

Adding to her other accolades, in September 2014 Emily was named to the Capitol’s 100 Best and Brightest List. Here’s what they had to say about her: “When we asked Capitol insiders for the Capitol’s best lobbyist, Emily Pappas, a partner with Lehman Levi Pappas & Sadler, topped several lists. Republicans and Democrats respect how ‘Pappas has fought her way to the top while keeping a great attitude.’ As the legislature increasingly kicks decisions to state agencies, Pappas’ expertise at the regulatory level helps her deliver big wins for product manufacturers in the agricultural, technology, energy and food processing sectors. For those clients, a victory at the regulatory level can make the difference between big profits and bankruptcy.”