



## Press Release

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### **PROMINENT LAND USE GROUP JOINS GILCHRIST & RUTTER PC**

*-- Addition of Robert "Mac" McMurry, Katie Norian and Elisa Paster expands firm's respected real estate practice --*

LOS ANGELES – Positioning itself for a market upturn, the business and real estate law firm Gilchrist & Rutter PC announced that three well-regarded land use attorneys have joined the firm's Land Use practice group - Robert "Mac" McMurry, A. Catherine (Katie) Norian and Elisa Paster. The attorneys, previously at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, have extensive experience in land use, entitlements and CEQA law. Representative clients include master plan developers Newhall Land & Farming Company, Lennar Corporation and Heritage Fields, El Toro LLC.

"The addition of such well-respected land use attorneys benefits our clients," said Jonathan Gross, managing partner of Gilchrist & Rutter. "As the real estate market begins to turn around, developers and other real estate businesses will have an increased need for land use and entitlement services. In such a sophisticated area of the law, it's critical to have superior professionals."

"Gilchrist & Rutter offers the perfect platform for our clients," said Mr. McMurry. "It's known as a firm whose experienced real estate attorneys provide a range of services, and can 'get the deal done' cost effectively and efficiently."

Mr. McMurry has 25 years of experience in all aspects of major land development, including entitlements, water issues and drafting, advice and litigation on CEQA documents for projects including residential, commercial redevelopment, public institutions, and parks/open spaces. He has successfully litigated numerous cases at both the trial and appellate level. He has particular expertise in the planning and implementation of Master Planned Communities from original design to completion.

Ms. Norian's practice focuses on representing developers in complying with land use laws and regulations at the state and local levels. She places particular emphasis on CEQA compliance, entitlement strategies and Environmental Impact Reports for Master Planned Communities and urban developments, and on defending project approvals against litigation challenges in the trial and appellate courts.

Ms. Paster represents developers, land owners, investors and municipal governments in all aspects of land use, entitlements, CEQA compliance and planning. She has experience entitling a wide range of projects, from urban infill to mixed-use Master Planned Communities, and has defended those projects against litigation challenges.

*Since 1983, Gilchrist & Rutter has conducted a broad practice in the areas of real estate, business and commercial transactions, environmental law, land use and civil and complex business litigation.*

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