

Preeminence in Eminent Domain, Inverse Condemnation and Landslide Litigation

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Peterson Law Group PC

What a difference 30 years' legal experience, a mind for business and a sincere effort can make in an eminent domain case. It's a difference that can be measured plainly in dollars and cents.

Recently, the owner of an operating inert landfill in Los Angeles knew the condemning agency's offer of less than \$13.4 million did not reflect the property's real value and future potential. So the owner

enlisted the help of attorney John S. Peterson of Peterson Law Group PC. Without blinking, Peterson set to work. He delved into a host of related issues: business goodwill, relocation, highest and best use, site adaptability and property valuation. He brought his own experience, education and insights to bear. And he relied on the expertise of geologists, geotechnical engineers, civil engineers and appraisers to build a compelling case.

And compelling it was. Ultimately, the landfill owner received \$28 million – more than twice the original offer.

"We knew it would be an uphill climb," Peterson recalls. "But we took a comprehensive look at the case. We approached it with the assumption we would have to present it to a jury. We had the science and the expert assessments to support our position. And we believe the result was fair and just."

The Convergence of Business and Law

Often, in the course of representing property and business owners – which he does exclusively – Peterson is asked to provide his input on a wide range of business matters. And he is happy to comply. Peterson developed a keen interest in business early on, graduating Phi Beta Kappa with an Economics degree and *magna cum laude* from UCLA in 1978 and from UCLA School of Law in 1981. His understanding of business has continued to grow in breadth and depth in the years since.

"These property rights cases present business owners with critical decisions," Peterson says. "My goal, in examining each client's case with a business perspective and a particular sensitivity to the owner's needs, is to bring added value to the relationship."

Long Record of Property Rights Successes

In his 30 years of practice, Peterson has built a solid reputation in Southern California in a variety of property rights areas including eminent domain, inverse condemnation and landslide litigation. His trial work routinely results in jury awards and settlements far exceeding government agencies' initial property valuations and compensatory offers – successes that reflect his painstaking efforts on clients' behalf.

Peterson's professional achievements continue to earn the recognition of his peers. Listed in Southern California Super Lawyers in 2011 and awarded a Martindale-Hubbell AV® rating, Peterson was honored to be selected for membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 2010.

"Assisting clients with difficult decisions and individually preparing each and every case – these are the intangibles I try to deliver," Peterson says. "And I am proud of the results we've been able to achieve."



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