

Philip B. Avila is a partner in the Modesto office of Borton Petrini, LLP. Phil did his undergraduate work at California State University, Fresno and went on to graduate school at California State University, Stanislaus, where he was conferred a Masters Degree in Public Administration graduating with honors.

Following college, Phil completed his legal education at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor degree in 1982. Phil has practiced his entire career in Modesto serving clients throughout the San Joaquin Valley area. First as an associate and later as a partner and a sole proprietor, he has acquired a depth of knowledge in a wide and varied range of practice areas.

Phil presently emphasizes practice in Housing Authority Law and Public Entity Defense. He currently serves as general counsel for the Housing Authority of the County of Stanislaus and the Housing Authority of the City of Riverbank. This practice has morphed into counseling his clients in non-litigation contexts such as lease drafting, litigation avoidance, employment practices and policies, and landlord-tenant issues.

At Borton Petrini, LLP, Phil has managed to keep his litigation skills honed. He has represented clients in defense of motor vehicle collisions, employment disability and discrimination suits, wrongful terminations, harassment and retaliation claims, defective products, and commercial contract claims. This litigation practice, especially in the employment field, has proven a fertile source of knowledge from which Phil has been able to properly advise employers on many aspects of employment law. He has often been a seminar speaker on the topics of sexual harassment, termination and hiring practices.

The client base that Phil has cultivated over the years ensures that he will continue to service their family practice needs. This includes practice in wills and trusts, estate planning, probate, health care decisions, and elder law.

Phil has taught civil procedure and employment law as a lecturer for the California State University, Stanislaus paralegal studies program. Phil was born and raised in Modesto, California. He is married to Geeta and has one son, Ishan, a pilot in the United States Air Force and a daughter, Jyoti, an attorney.