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SPECIAL REPORT: VALLEY POWER BROKERS 12 People Who Make Things Happen in Valley

Lee Kanon Alpert

Partner
Alpert & Barr

When now City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo was running for office against former City Councilman Michael Feuer, the odds were on Feuer.

The former councilman, after all, was being termed out of a city office serving in a district that included Sherman Oaks, Encino, and West L.A., the kinds of neighborhoods that can give a city official significant exposure.

Delgadillo, on the other hand, had been a deputy to former Mayor Richard Riordan, so it was something of an upset when he beat Feuer in the race.

With his political clout and connections, Lee Kanon Alpert, a partner at Alpert & Barr in Encino, could have thrown his support behind Feuer, and it would have been the safer bet.

But he didn't.

"One of the things you need to decide as an individual is do you put yourself out there and do you take the risk and support the people you really feel will do the best job," said Alpert. "I felt Rocky would do an incredible job as a city attorney."

Alpert worked diligently on behalf of Delgadillo, getting him out in front of the San Fernando Valley community and its policy makers. And his efforts held a great deal of sway.

"Lee is very politically connected," said James Felton, a fellow attorney and partner at Greenberg & Bass. "I don't know how many times I get an invitation to one of these campaign events, and Lee is either the chair, the co-chair or the host."

Alpert, whose practice areas include business and corporate law, administrative and government relations and arbitration and mediation, has a long history of activism in the San Fernando Valley. He served as chair of the governing board of directors of the Encino-Tarzana Regional Medical Centers, he is a board member of Genesis L.A. and the Valley Economic Development Center. He has served on both the airport and the building and safety commissions and he is past president of the city's first Commission on Neighborhood Councils, playing a key role in designing the councils.

But if Alpert has achieved prominence in mainstream politics, he has not always wielded that influence like many of his counterparts.

Alpert refuses to throw either political or financial support behind two candidates running for office, choosing to take a stand rather than hedge his bets.

"When I support someone, there's reasons and the reason isn't just because they're going to get elected," said Alpert. "Too many of us do that and what ends up happening is too many people you don't want get elected. So if you want change, you need to stand up and say, here's what I think."

— Shelly Garcia

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