

## **MTA Appoints Brenda L. Diederichs Chief Labor Relations Officer**



**Brenda L.  
Diederichs**

(June 21) The MTA has appointed Brenda L. Diederichs, an attorney who has specialized in public sector labor law, as the agency's new chief labor relations officer.

Diederichs, who assumed her new post Tuesday, June 20, joins the MTA at a time when the agency is in negotiations with its three major labor unions. Contracts with the UTU, ATU and TCU expire June 30. The talks are being conducted by the MTA's labor consultant and chief negotiator, Tom Webb.

As chief labor relations officer, Diederichs is responsible for a department of 16 employee relations specialists whose activities include labor relations and arbitration, grievance reviews, discipline appeal reviews, implementing and interpreting labor contracts and training other departments on labor relations matters.

### **Ten years in labor law**

Diederichs has spent the past 10 years practicing labor and employment law with the law firms of Richards, Watson & Gershon and with Burke, Williams & Sorenson. She served as chair of the labor and employment law practice groups for both firms.

Her practice included labor negotiations, arbitration, grievances, employee discipline, training and development. She also worked with such administrative agencies as the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Justice and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

She served in the early 1990s as director of personnel for the City of West Covina.

### **Returns to transportation roots**

By joining the MTA, Diederichs is returning to her transportation roots. For almost 10 years beginning in October, 1980, she was employed by the SCRTD.

As an employment manager, she was responsible for employee recruiting, testing and classification and served as a member of the SCRTD's collective bargaining team. From 1982 to 1990, she was the District's labor relations manager and chief negotiator.

Diederichs is a 1979 graduate of Cal Poly Pomona, where she earned a BA in political science. She received her law degree from Loyola Law School in 1989. A resident of Chino, she enjoys hiking, cycling, gardening and interior decorating.

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