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Joseph D. Hughes | Managing Partner

Joe Hughes is a partner in the firm and leader of the Water and Public Agency practice group. Joe represents water agencies and private entities to obtain, develop, manage, and transfer water and water rights. Joe also counsels Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act as well as landowners as they manage and protect their groundwater rights. He is AV® rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest level of distinction.

Practice Focus

Water and Public Agency Law

Bar Admissions

State Bar of California, 1993

Education

Bachelor of Arts, University of California at Santa Barbara, 1990
- Majors in Political Science and Communication Studies
Juris Doctor, Santa Clara University School of Law, 1993

Professional Associations

General Counsel
-Westside Water Authority
-Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
-Kings River Water Association
-Kings River Conservation District
-Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
-East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Kern County Bar Association

-Member of the Board of Directors, 2015-2021
-President, 2020

Association of California Water Agencies

-Member of the Legal Affairs Committee, 2012-Present

Community Involvement and Leadership

Kern County Museum Foundation
-Member of the Board of Trustees, 2013-2021
-Chairman, 2017-2021

Alta Sierra Mutual Water Company

-Member of the Board of Directors, 2014-2021
-President, 2017-2021

Kern County Employees Retirement Association

-Member of the Board of Trustees, 2004-2012; 2021- Present
-Chairman, 2009

Kern County Law Library

-Member of the Board of Trustees, 2002-2017

Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc.

-Member of the Board of Directors, 2000-2011

Judge Pro Tem, Small Claims, Kern County Superior Court, 2001-2004

Professional Experience

Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Cooper, Rosenlieb & Kimball, LLP, 2006-Present

-Managing Partner, 2014-2018, 2019-Present

Kuhs, Parker & Hughes, Associate & Partner, 1995-2005

Kern County Counsel, Deputy County Counsel, 1994