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Joseph D. Hughes | Partner

Joseph D. Hughes is a partner in the firm and leader of the water and public agency practice group. He represents water agencies and private entities to obtain, develop, manage, and transfer water and water rights. As a member of various public boards himself, Joe understands the policy-making and governing challenges faced by public officials. 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

-Belridge Water Storage District, Lost Hills Water District,
Berrenda Mesa Water District, Dudley Ridge Water District

-West Kern Water District

-Kings River Water Association, Kings River Conservation District,
Kings River Water Quality Coalition

-Chowchilla Water District

-Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

-East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency

-Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

-North of River Sanitary District

Kern County Bar Association

-Member of the Board of Directors, 2015-Present

-Treasurer, 2018

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-Present

-Chairman, 2017-Present

Kern County Employees Retirement Association

-Member of the Board of Trustees, 2004-2012

-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

Kern County Superintendent of Schools Programs

-Attorney Coach, South High School, Mock Trial Team, 1996-1998

Professional Experience

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

-Managing Partner, 2014-2018

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

Kern County Counsel, Deputy County Counsel, 1994