



Jena Shoaf Acos

Associate

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Santa Barbara, California

Jena brings her natural resources experience to clients at the junction of water and public law. She works with both public and private sector clients in the water industry and utilizes her public law experience when working with water districts.

Jena's water district clients include one with the largest managed ground water resources in California's Central Coast. With the recent passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Jena helps clients comply with the landmark Act while also drafting and implementing sustainable groundwater management plans.

For her public agency clients, Jena draws on her experience as a research assistant for the Harrison Institute for Public Law in Washington, D.C. She reviews contacts, ordinances and code enforcements and attends public meetings for municipalities. Her current experience includes assisting the city attorney for the City of Carpinteria.

Prior to joining the firm, Jena worked as a law clerk for Earthjustice in Oakland, California. She also spent a year as a clinical student focusing on coastal climate change and land use issues at the state and local level and was a law clerk for Coronel & Perez Abogados in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fluent in both Spanish and Portuguese, Jena worked as a paralegal and translator for an international arbitration group at Arnold & Porter, LLP prior to attending law school.

Practices

Energy & Natural Resources, Water

Representative Matters

- Counsel to a group of local agencies in Ventura County to draft and negotiate a joint powers agreement to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Community

Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County, Board Member

California Groundwater Resource Association Central Coast Board, Vice President

Georgetown Pro Bono Fellows Program

Central American Refugee Committee (CRECE)

Planning for College Success

California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG)

Northwest Youth Corp – Conservation Corps

Publications & Presentations

- California Sea Level Rise: A Primer,
Guest Lecturer, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, Environmental Law Seminar Class,
June 4, 2019
- Funding Considerations,

- Panelist, GRA/CGC 2019 Groundwater Law and Legislation Forum, Sacramento, CA, March 27, 2019
- SGMA Fee Issues: How to Fund GSA Implementation, GSP Projects, and How to Avoid Prop 218 Pitfalls, Panelist, AGWA - AGWT Annual Groundwater Conference, Ontario, CA, February 12, 2019
- Brownstein Water: Current Trends in Water Law & Policy, Contributor
- Fee Authority Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Speaker, Groundwater Resources Association's First Annual Western Groundwater Congress, Sacramento, CA, September 27, 2018
- Take me to the (Ground)Water: Hot Legal Issues in Groundwater Law , Moderator, Groundwater Resources Association's First Annual Western Groundwater Congress, Sacramento, CA, September 27, 2018
- Climate Change and State and Local Water Management, Speaker, California Water Law and Policy - 33rd Conference Program, San Francisco, CA, June 12, 2018
- 2017 Groundwater Law Workshop, Co-Chair, 2017 Groundwater Law Workshop, Sacramento, CA, October 2, 2017; Water Quality Panel Moderator
- CEQA News You Can Use - Vol. 1, Issue 2, *Brownstein Client Alert*, February 2, 2017
- California Water Law, Speaker, California Water Law MCLE, Santa Barbara, CA, Nov. 10, 2016

Education

- J.D., 2013, Georgetown University Law Center
- M.P.P., 2013, Georgetown Public Policy Institute
- B.A., 2007, University of California at Berkeley

Admissions

- California

Recognition

2019 Young Pro, *Water & Wastes Digest*

Top 50 Women in Business 2019, *Pacific Coast Business Times*, March 2019

Global Law Scholar, Georgetown University Law School

Senior Articles Editor, *The Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law*