



Jessica L. Diaz

Associate

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Santa Barbara, California

Assisting clients on a broad range of California water rights and land use matters, Jessica Diaz's practice encompasses water rights litigation and due diligence, counsel on compliance with state water regulations, a range of public law issues and assistance with land use disputes and transactions. Jessica works with public agencies and private property owners on a variety of matters, including issues related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Coastal Act, local land use law and regulatory compliance.

Prior to her legal career Jessica worked in both state and local government and her familiarity with public agency work supports her ability to advise clients on regulatory compliance. Before joining Brownstein, Jessica clerked for Alaska Supreme Court Justice Joel Bolger. She also worked as a summer law clerk for a San Francisco law firm and for the California Attorney General's Natural Resources Section.

Jessica's pre-law background contributes to her ability to counsel clients on environmental and land use issues. She worked as an aide for a California state legislator and later served as the district director for a Sonoma County supervisor, where she provided counsel on a range of policy issues including water resources, land use, and solid waste. She also led a community-based nonprofit focused on the intersection of affordable housing, labor and environmental issues.

Jessica has spoken on water and public law issues throughout the state and is committed to her pro bono work.

Practices

Energy & Natural Resources, California Coastal Act, Land Use, NEPA/CEQA, Water

Representative Matters

- Counsel to a broad group of agricultural stakeholders in the Salinas Valley providing assistance with the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency that includes significant participation by the agricultural groundwater users within the valley.

Community

- Santa Barbara Mock Trial Competition, Judge
- McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition, Brief Judge

Publications & Presentations

- Brownstein Water: Current Trends in Water Law & Policy, Contributor
- What the Water Conservation Bills Mean for California's Water Suppliers: Reporting and Increased Data Collection as a Way of Life, Co-author, *Brownstein Water Blog*, July 3, 2018
- AB 1234 Ethics, Speaker, 2018 ACWA Spring Conference & Exhibition, Sacramento, CA, May 10, 2018
- CEQA News You Can Use - Vol. 3, Issue 1,

Brownstein Client Alert, February 1, 2018

- **Prior Appropriation Water Law Made Simple**,
Speaker, Water Rights in California Seminar, National Business Institute, San Luis Obispo and Fresno, CA, January 2018
- **Green v. Gray Infrastructure in Land Use and Development**,
Panelist, California Water Law Symposium, Berkeley, CA, January 20, 2018
- **Developments in Groundwater Litigation**, Moderator, 2017 Groundwater Law Workshop, Sacramento, CA, October 2, 2017
- **Serving Development During Drought: Creative & Sustainable Solutions**, Co-author, *Santa Barbara Lawyer*, August 2017
- **CEQA News You Can Use - Vol. 2, Issue 2**, *Brownstein Client Alert*, July 20, 2017
- **CEQA News You Can Use - Vol. 1, Issue 2**, *Brownstein Client Alert*, February 2, 2017

Education

- J.D., 2014, *Order of the Coif*, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law
- B.A., 2006, Harvard College

Admissions

- California
- Alaska

Recognition

2018 Santa Barbara Bar Association Pro Bono Award
2018 Young Water Professional, Water & Wastes Digest
2018 Water Leader, Water Education Foundation
Land Use Law Writing Award
Best Petitioner Brief and Quarterfinalist, 2014 McBaine Moot Court Competition