



ACWA LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

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David Aladjem

David Aladjem is a Partner in Downey Brand's Sacramento office where he helps clients throughout California manage and resolve water resources management problems, especially those at the intersection of water rights, groundwater, endangered species, and CEQA/NEPA. He represents water districts, cities, counties and private companies in obtaining, developing and protecting their water rights. He regularly represents clients in connection with water transfers and about the conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater. He was one of the group of ACWA lawyers who were deeply involved in the drafting of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

As both general counsel and special counsel, he provides clients with decades of experience and insight in dealing with the regulatory maze and in negotiating with other water rights holders, state and federal agencies and environmental groups. He practices regularly before the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Water Resources and other state and federal agencies with control over water resources.

David is a Stanford (B.A) and Princeton (M.A.) alumnus and earned his J.D. from U.C. Berkeley School of Law.

Ryan Bezerra

Ryan Bezerra has been a Partner with Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan since 2002. His practice focuses on water right and water quality issues, including litigation of related disputes, advising clients concerning related issues such as groundwater rights and the Endangered Species Act and preparing water-supply assessments. Mr. Bezerra also is general counsel for a community services district. He is a co-instructor of the University of California, Davis Extension class Conjunctive Use of Groundwater and Surface Water and has spoken at multiple conferences concerning groundwater rights and water-supply assessments. Mr. Bezerra has been the editor of the water quality section of the League of California Cities' California Municipal Law Handbook and has published several articles, including Submerged in the Yuba River: The State Water Resources Control Board's Prioritization of the Governor's Commission's Proposals, 36 McGeorge L. Rev. 331 (2005).

Ryan received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Davis in 1992 and his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law in 1995. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif.

Debby Cherney

Debby Cherney is the Deputy General Manager at the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). In this capacity, Debby is responsible for services including finance, development services, human resources, customer service, purchasing and contract management, safety, risk and emergency management.

Prior to joining EMWD, Debby was the Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services at Irvine Ranch Water District in Irvine, California and was in management consulting, working with public agencies and private companies. She is on the Executive Board of Directors of Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada and is the Co-Chair of the GFOA Women's Public Finance Network.

Debby is a Certified Public Accountant, licensed in the State of California. She has a Bachelor's degree from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from the University of California, Irvine.

Ed Manning

Ed Manning is a Partner at KP Public Affairs. He is a registered lobbyist and an attorney specializing in environmental, energy and land use law with over 30 years of experience. Manning is an expert in energy, environmental and water policy, and has managed broad coalitions and developed winning strategies on diverse issues including water supply, air quality, energy infrastructure, environmental enforcement and transportation infrastructure issues.

Manning was the lead negotiator for business interests on many landmark legislative climate change, Brownfields and land use reform efforts, including SB 375 (Steinberg) and the California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act of 2004. He was also one of the lead negotiators of the 2009 Delta Reform Act, 2009 Water Bond and most recent Water Bond, Proposition 1.

Manning earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at Rider University, and his Juris Doctor at Loyola Law School of Los Angeles.

Stefanie Morris

Best Best & Krieger LLP Partner Stefanie Morris served four years as the in-house general counsel for the State Water Contractors before rejoining the firm in 2017. The State Water Contractors is the umbrella group representing the 27 water agencies that obtain water from the State Water Project. Stefanie has practiced almost exclusively in the area of water rights, but also has experience with environmental litigation.

Her water experience includes working on complex Sacramento Delta water issues and surface water rights matters throughout California. In addition, Stefanie has extensive groundwater experience, including the massive adjudications of the Santa Maria and Antelope Valley groundwater basins. Stefanie also helped to negotiate and draft parts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act on behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies.

Licensed in both California and Nevada, Stefanie received her J.D. from Loyola Law School, and B.A from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Brian Poulsen

Brian Poulsen is General Counsel at the El Dorado Irrigation District. Prior to his appointment as General Counsel, Brian served as Deputy General Counsel for six years. Poulsen spent the first four years of his law practice as an associate attorney at Somach Simmons & Dunn in Sacramento specializing in water and environmental law.

Dave Puglia

Dave Puglia joined Western Growers in 2005, leading the association's state government affairs team and media communications staff on behalf of the association's 2,500 members in California, Arizona and Colorado. He was promoted to Executive Vice President in July 2015 in recognition of expanded responsibilities for Western Growers' operations and his extensive work on water policy issues affecting western agriculture.

Prior to joining Western Growers, Puglia was Vice President of APCO Worldwide, a global public affairs consulting firm. He also served for seven years in the California Attorney General's Office, first as Press Secretary and later as Director of Public Affairs and Communications. In addition to serving as chief spokesperson for the state Department of Justice, Puglia directed the agency's public policy research and was a senior adviser to Attorney General Daniel E. Lungren.

He currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Public Policy Institute of California Water Policy Center and is a member of the board of directors of SWIIM System, Ltd©., a Denver-based irrigation management company. A native of Sacramento, Puglia earned a bachelor's degree from California State University, Sacramento, in Government-Journalism.

Cindy Tuck

Cindy Tuck joined ACWA in March 2011 as State Legislative Director. In this position, she led the association's State Legislative Department and, together with ACWA's other two advocates, represented the interests of ACWA members before the California Legislature and at the Governor's office. In 2012, she became Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations overseeing the Federal Relations Department, State Legislative Relations Department, and the State Regulatory Relations Department. Cindy's Legislative portfolio includes water bonds, the Delta, and drinking water.

Cindy has three decades of experience developing and implementing legislation and regulations involving water and environmental issues. Prior to joining ACWA, she served as Undersecretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). In that role she was the senior policy advisor to the Secretary for Environmental Protection under Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown. She also oversaw the administration of the Agency, including the Agency's budget of over \$1.5 billion. She represented California on the Environmental Council of the States and served as the Agency's liaison to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Cindy is a licensed professional engineer and an attorney. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering, both from the University of Illinois. She also holds a Juris Doctorate degree from McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific and is a member of the State Bar. She is an alumna of Leadership California. In her spare time, Cindy enjoys travel and photography.