



Joshua D. Katz

PARTNER

AUSTIN OFFICE

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Attorney Overview

Josh practices in the areas of environmental law, administrative law, water law, electric utility regulation, and civil litigation. He represents municipalities, river authorities, water districts, and private entities in these and related matters before state agencies and in state and federal courts.

Career Highlights

Prior to joining Bickerstaff Heath in 2010, Josh was an associate with a large Austin firm and an environmental and property law litigation boutique. He also researched and drafted publications and other documents while clerking at TCEQ and the Jones McClure Publishing Company, where he drafted and edited various *O'Connor's* legal publications.

Representative Experience

- ◆ Handled numerous environmental and property law litigation cases, including groundwater rights cases, title and easement disputes, and land use disputes
- ◆ Represented clients in contested case hearings before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Public Utility Commission (PUC), including electric and water utility rate cases and issues pertaining to municipal utility districts
- ◆ Drafted comments on behalf of clients in administrative rulemaking proceedings, and successfully litigated challenges of administrative rulemakings
- ◆ Participated in administrative proceedings regarding permitting and operations of municipal solid waste facilities, permitting of groundwater wells and surface water impoundments, eminent domain proceeding, electric utility transmission, generation and cost recovery, and water utility compliance and operations

Practice Areas

- ◆ Civil Litigation
- ◆ Water Law
- ◆ Cities
- ◆ Annexation & Land Use
- ◆ Environmental
- ◆ Voting Rights & Redistricting
- ◆ Groundwater Conservation Districts
- ◆ River Authorities & Water Districts

Education

- ◆ University of Houston Law Center, J.D., *cum laude*
—Chief Articles Editor, *Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy*, 2004-2005
—President, University of Houston Environmental and Energy Law Society, 2003-2004
- ◆ Rice University, B.A. - Economics and English

Admissions

- ◆ Supreme Court of Texas, 2005
- ◆ United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, 2012; Southern District, 2013; Eastern District, 2013
- ◆ United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2010

- ◆ Litigated breach of contract disputes and other civil litigation on behalf of public entity and private party clients
- ◆ Experienced in appellate law, having drafted successful appellate briefs in appeals of administrative decisions, groundwater litigation, land use and development litigation, and breach of contract cases
- ◆ Experienced in drafting and reviewing contracts and property rights transfer documents, including water and mineral rights transfers

Organizations & Involvement

- ◆ Member, State Bar of Texas (Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section and Administrative and Public Law Section); Member, Austin Bar Association (Administrative Law Section and Natural Resources, Environmental, and Water Law Section).
- ◆ Board of Directors Member – Austin Symphony BATS (Be At The Symphony); Treasurer, 2008-2010.

Publications, Papers, & Presentations

- ◆ *Can I Sue Your City? Dealing with the Public and Pro Se Litigants*, 2016 Texas City Attorneys Association Summer Conference (June 2016).
- ◆ *Regulatory Takings: The Intersection of Takings and Property Rights*, 2014 Texas Water Law Institute (November 2014).
- ◆ *Case Update on Texas Farm Bureau v. TCEQ*, Austin Bar Association, Natural Resources, Environmental, and Water Law Section (May 2013).
- ◆ *Case Update on Texas Farm Bureau v. TCEQ*, Texas Water Conservation Association Annual Conference (March 2013).
- ◆ *Case Law and Litigation Update*, Co-Author, presented at CLE International Texas Water Law Conference (September 2009).