

Sarah Christopher Foley

Associate

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At a Glance

Sarah works on water rights issues in groundwater and surface water systems.

Her work includes water resource litigation, water supply planning and complex transactions involving water resources.

Sarah advises public and private clients regarding California's complex water laws.

Profile

Sarah Foley's practice focuses on California and Texas water law, and she has experience handling a wide variety of water-related issues. An associate in the Environmental Law & Natural Resources practice group of Best Best & Krieger LLP, Sarah represents both public and private sector clients on a broad range of water law and policy matters, such as surface and groundwater rights issues, water transactions and conveyance, and groundwater management and storage arrangements. Sarah also assists public agencies with water supply planning, water sufficiency analyses, and navigating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. She routinely counsels clients regarding the legal requirements of preparing Written Verifications and Water Supply Assessments under SB 221 and SB 610, water supply analyses under the California Environmental Quality Act, and Urban Water Management Plans.

In representing the public sector, Sarah serves as special water counsel for the City of El Paso de Robles, City of Santa Maria, City of Ventura, Los Angeles County, Tuolumne County, San Geronio Pass Water Agency, Western Municipal Water District, Desert Water Agency, State Water Contractors, Los Osos Community Services District, Santa Margarita Water District, Castaic

Areas of Focus

Practices

[Endangered Species](#)

[Environmental Law & Natural Resources](#)

[Environmental Litigation](#)

[Water](#)

[Water Quality](#)

[Water Rights](#)

Industries

[Municipal](#)

[Special Districts](#)

Lake Water Agency and numerous other cities, counties, and water agencies. Sarah also represents property owners throughout California, helping them to understand, utilize and protect their water rights.

Sarah works on water rights and water quality issues in groundwater and surface water systems throughout California. Her areas of experience include:

- Groundwater adjudications
- Groundwater management
- Surface water rights
- Water resource litigation
- Environmental litigation
- Negotiation of water rights agreements
- Water rights due diligence, planning, and reporting
- Water transactions and transfers
- Water supply planning
- Wastewater and recycled water

Sarah gives presentations throughout California on water issues. She has also written numerous articles about groundwater, surface water, and California's drought. She is admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Central and Southern districts of California and is licensed to practice law in California and Texas.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Sarah served in AmeriCorps as an early intervention literacy tutor for at-risk students. Sarah and her husband are both originally from Texas and enjoy spending time with their daughters.

Education

- Southern Methodist University, J.D., *cum laude*
- University of Texas at Austin, B.A., *with highest honors*

Authorships

LEGAL ALERTS | MAY 31, 2018

Governor Signs Historic Water Use Efficiency Bills

AB 1668 and SB 606 Impose New or Expanded Requirements on California Water Agencies and Suppliers

LEGAL ALERTS | SEP 27, 2016

New California Law Amends Water Supply Planning Laws

Water Supply Sufficiency Analyses Must Consider Groundwater Sustainability

LEGAL ALERTS | MAY 13, 2015

State Board Issues Curtailment Notices of Surface Water Rights Diversions

California Drought Prompts Action

AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | DEC 01, 2014

Swing, Pendulum, Swing: California's Historic Drought and Unprecedented Responses

BB&K Attorneys Paeter Garcia and Sarah Foley Present an In-Depth Look at the State's Drought and Recent Legislative and Legal Responses to It

AUTHORED ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS | OCT 16, 2014

Groundwater Basin Boundaries and Priorities Will Impose New Management Challenges on Local Agencies

By Sarah C. Foley

LEGAL ALERTS | SEP 24, 2014

Governor Signs New Laws Amending California's Urban Water Management Planning Act

July 1, 2016 Set as Deadline for Preparing New Plans

LEGAL ALERTS | AUG 29, 2014

Legislature Adopts Historic Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Act Imposes Groundwater Management and Reporting Requirements on Local Agencies

LEGAL ALERTS | AUG 07, 2014

Office of Planning and Research Issues Draft Update to State CEQA Guidelines for Analyzing Traffic Impacts

Deadline for Comments is 5 p.m. on October 10

LEGAL ALERTS | AUG 07, 2014

Federal Court of Appeals Rules that California Water District May Recover Expectancy Damages from the United States

Opinion Reverses Trial Court, and Bureau of Reclamation May Owe Additional Damages for Breach of Water Supply Contract

- “Historic Groundwater Legislation Bills Awaiting Governor Approval,” *BBKnowledge*, Sept. 8, 2014
- “Water District Shorted by Federal Government May Recover Expectancy Damages,” *BBKnowledge*, Aug. 7, 2014