



*Partner*

## JOSHUA J. HICKS

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PHONE 775.788.2000

### Areas of Practice

Government Affairs & Advocacy;  
Tax Law

### Bar Admissions

Nevada  
California

### Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals,  
Ninth Circuit

### Education

J.D., Santa Clara University  
School of Law, 1998

B.A., Santa Clara University,  
History, 1995

### Offices

#### LAS VEGAS

2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
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#### RENO

100 West Liberty Street, Tenth Floor  
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### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Josh Hicks leads the firm's Government Affairs & Advocacy Group. He represents clients before the Nevada legislature, local governments, and state government agencies, and advises on all aspects of Nevada campaign finance and election law, including ballot initiatives. Josh is also a member of the firm's Tax Law Group and provides counsel on local jurisdiction tax matters ranging from tax planning to litigated tax controversies.

Before joining McDonald Carano, Josh was a registered lobbyist in the private sector. Before that, he served as chief of staff to Governor Jim Gibbons, and as general counsel and deputy chief of staff to the governor. During his tenure at the governor's office, Josh worked through two regular sessions and three special sessions of the Nevada legislature, including 2009, when the governor and legislature confronted one of the most severe economic downturns in the state's history.

Josh has also worked closely with legislators on bills in areas of Nevada law, including energy regulation, renewable energy incentives, taxation, water and natural resources, telecommunications, transportation, financial regulation, stimulus funds, gaming, healthcare, elections, wildlife, and fire prevention initiatives at Lake Tahoe. In addition, Josh was involved in the development of the state budget, including appropriations and expenditures. He was instrumental in developing the tax amnesty program used by Nevada in 2008 to bring in more than \$40 million in unpaid taxes. Moreover, Josh assisted with the budget crisis and supported Nevada taxpayers with relief from penalties and interest on outstanding tax debt. Josh was also the governor's primary liaison with federal, state, and local government agencies and business and industry representatives.

Before working in the governor's office, Josh was senior deputy attorney general in the Nevada Attorney General's Office, where he represented the Nevada Department of Taxation, the Nevada Tax Commission, and the Nevada Secretary of State.

He also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Deborah A. Agosti of the Nevada Supreme Court and the Honorable Robert A. McQuaid, Jr. of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

An effective advocate and charismatic speaker, Josh has testified many times before various state legislative committees, including the Senate Finance, Assembly Ways and Means, and the Interim Finance Committees. An effective communicator and a prolific author, Josh continues to draft and revise legislation and administrative regulations. A fourth-generation Nevadan, Josh resides with his family in Reno.

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## **REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS**

Josh has argued cases in front of various Nevada district courts, the Nevada Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He has been lead counsel on several published cases and numerous unpublished cases. The published cases include:

Malecon Tobacco v. Department of Taxation, 118 Nev. 837 (2002);

Meridian Gold v. Department of Taxation, 119 Nev. 630 (2003);

Department of Taxation v. DaimlerChrysler, 121 Nev. 541 (2005);

Herbst Gaming v. Heller, 122 Nev. 877 (2006);

Nevadans for the Protection of Property Rights v. Heller, 122 Nev. 894 (2006);

Nevadans for Nevada v. Beers, 122 Nev. 930 (2006);

The Education Initiative PAC v. Committee to Protect Nevada Jobs, 129 Nev. Adv. Op. 5 (Jan. 31, 2013).

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