



Partner

Joshua J. Hicks

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Direct: 775.326.4317

Areas of Practice

Government Affairs &
Advocacy

Tax Law

Bar Admissions

California

Nevada

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
P: 702.873.4100 F: 702.873.9966

RENO

100 West Liberty Street, Tenth Floor
Reno, NV 89501
P: 775.788.2000 F: 775.788.2020

mcdonaldcarano.com

Professional Background

Josh Hicks leads McDonald Carano's Government Affairs and 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 Practice and provides counsel on local jurisdiction tax matters ranging from tax planning to litigated tax controversies.

Before joining McDonald Carano, Josh was a shareholder at a national law firm. Josh also served as General Counsel and Chief of Staff to former Governor of Nevada Jim Gibbons. Prior to his work 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. A fourth-generation Nevadan, Josh, and his family reside in Reno.

Representative Engagements

Josh has served as lead counsel on many legislative accomplishments and lead advocate on several pieces of key legislation in Nevada, including:

- Reform of Nevada construction defect laws
- Sales tax exemption on durable medical equipment and oxygen delivery equipment
- Nevada property tax reform
- Data privacy
- Employment background checks
- Tax abatements for NFL caliber stadium in Las Vegas
- Nevada contracts and procurement
- Pro-solar renewable energy incentives
- Streamlining construction rules and building codes
- Public records
- Business licensing
- Live entertainment tax
- Economic development abatements and incentives
- Blockchain technology in the financial sector

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Representative Clients

Josh has represented clients throughout a wide variety of industries in Nevada and beyond. His representative clients include:

- Microsoft
- Las Vegas Raiders
- Nevada Homebuilders Association
- Southern Nevada Homebuilders Association
- Builders Association of Northern Nevada
- Retail Association of Northern Nevada
- Consumer Data Industry Association
- C&S Waste
- First Solar
- Figure Technologies
- Public Employees Retirement System
- Streamlink Software
- Lennar Homes

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. 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)



Publications

- American Bar Association Property Tax Deskbook – Nevada: Co-Author
- American Bar Association Sales Tax Deskbook – Nevada: Co-Author



Workshops

- Contributor for the CH40 Construction Defect Workshop in conjunction with The Builders Association



Awards and Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® – Government Relations Practice (2018-2022)
- *Super Lawyers Magazine* “Mountain States Rising Stars” – in Government Relations, Legislative and Government Affairs, Lobbying, Tax/Business (2012)
- *Nevada Business Magazine* “Legal Elite” (2016)



Community Engagement

- Board Member, Nevada Taxpayers Association
- Board Member, Reno-Tahoe Open Foundation
- President, Catamount Fund
- Volunteer, Maison T. Ortiz Youth Outdoor Skills Camp

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