

Name:

Brian C. Bunger

Title:

Partner

Company:

Holland & Knight LLP

City/State:

San Francisco, CA

Join Date:

2003

Section/Chapter:

Golden West Section

Education/Professional Credentials:

UC Law San Francisco (formerly Hastings College of the Law), San Francisco, CA
Juris Doctor • 1989 • Member and Note Editor, Hastings Jaw Journal

University of California, Berkeley, CA

Bachelor of Arts, with High Honors, Political Science • 1985

State Bar of California • Admitted 1989 • Member, sections on Environment, Public Law, Litigation

Biographical Summary:

Brian C. Bunger helps clients navigate complex environmental and air quality regulatory and climate matters, with particular depth in California and federal air permitting, compliance and enforcement. As former counsel for the Bay Area Air District for more than two decades, he brings a rare perspective to his practice – he has sat on the other side of the table, advising a regulatory agency's board and staff on permitting, rulemaking and enforcement. His vantage point of understanding how regulators think and act gives his clients a strategic advantage in obtaining permits, negotiating enforcement resolutions and building credible compliance programs.

Drawing on more than 35 years of experience, Mr. Bunger represents manufacturers, retailers, refiners, data center operators, and a wide range of companies in technology, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, medical diagnostics, waste

management and recycling, air travel, hospitality, multifamily housing, banking, energy, oil and gas, and real estate development. Whether the challenge is securing a complex air permit, developing a regulatory compliance program, responding to an enforcement action or litigating, he combines substantive knowledge of environmental, air and climate law with hands-on experience in rule drafting, agency counseling and courtroom advocacy, including bench and jury trials and appellate arguments in state and federal court.

At the Bay Area Air District, Mr. Bunger advised the board of directors and advisory council and led a team of eight attorneys handling counseling, enforcement and litigation matters. He also helped found and served as counsel and a board member for a nonprofit foundation supporting the district's mission. Earlier in his career, as an associate at a San Francisco law firm, he focused on complex environmental litigation involving hazardous waste, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund, toxic torts and related insurance coverage disputes.

Clients and colleagues describe Mr. Bunger as approachable, articulate and strategic. He is a collaborative leader who takes ownership of client challenges and translates complex regulatory issues into clear, practical guidance. He is active in the international Air & Waste Management Association, where he has served as President, Vice President and a board member, and he regularly mentors junior attorneys and handles pro bono litigation. Outside the office, he serves on the Board of Directors of his local Little League.

A&WMA Activities and Offices Held:

- President, 2021
- President-Elect, 2020
- Vice President, 2019
- Member, Board of Directors, 2018-2022
- Chair, Board of Directors' Finance Committee, 2019
- Assisted with planning 2019 Wildfires and Public Health Conference, Santa Rosa, CA
- Assisted with planning 2019 Bracing for Climate Change Conference, Goleta, CA
- Member, Local Host Committee, ACE 2020 – San Francisco
- Assisted with planning 2022 Freight and Environment: Ports of Entry Conference, Oakland, CA
- Member, Planning Committee, 2024 Freight and Environment: Ports of Entry Conference, Corpus Christi, TX

Goals/Vision for the Organization:

A&WMA has been central to my professional life since I attended my first Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE) in 2003, and it has shaped how I practice as an environmental attorney. I want to lead the Association again because I believe deeply in its mission: providing a neutral forum where environmental professionals across disciplines and perspectives can learn from one another and collaborate on solutions. That role is more valuable today, in an increasingly polarized world, than at any point in the Association's history.

Having already served as President-Elect in 2020 and President in 2021, I helped guide A&WMA through the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic and understand firsthand both the fragility and the resilience of this organization. I want to build on that experience to strengthen our membership, our programming, and our financial foundation for the next generation of environmental professionals. My approach would be steady, collaborative, and grounded in the lessons of my prior term: listen closely to our Sections, Chapters, Technical Councils, and staff; move quickly to capitalize on emerging issues; and never lose sight of the financial discipline that keeps the Association able to weather the next disruption, whatever it may be.

Vision for the Association

As President-Elect and President, I would focus on three essential areas: growing membership, delivering timely and high-quality programming, and maintaining financial discipline.

Membership. Our membership has stabilized, but a larger base would provide a more stable revenue and volunteer platform. Growth requires both strengthening our hold on traditional member candidates and reaching new audiences. Air quality and waste issues touch far more professionals than those formally titled "air quality" or "waste management" specialists - including people working in public involvement, public health, urban planning, and risk management and insurance. Programming built around shared interests, such as our Wildfire and Public Health conference, has proven effective at attracting these adjacent audiences as speakers and attendees. The next step is converting that engagement into membership, including through partnerships with organizations that share our members' interests.

Programming. A&WMA is already a recognized brand. We should build on recent successes by continuing to refine how we plan conferences and webinars and recruit quality speakers, drawing on our Technical Councils, academic members,

and the vibrant ideas generated by our Sections and Chapters. Webinar attendance is competitive, but when we identify emerging issues early and move quickly to schedule sessions, we can compete with any provider. A handful of timely, well-executed webinars each year goes a long way toward building our brand.

Financial Stability. I have focused on this issue since my first days on the Board in 2018, when I joined the Finance Committee to understand our finances and contribute to decision-making. The value of financial discipline became starkly clear during the pandemic, which spanned my year as President-Elect (2020) and President (2021). Had our Executive Director not secured a PPP loan and renegotiated conference commitments, the Association likely would not have survived. That experience is a permanent reminder of how quickly circumstances can change and why we must continue building appropriate reserves, controlling costs, and following best practices for investment of fund balances.