

Steve M. Karcher



Steve Karcher is Senior Counsel in the Bakersfield office. He received his undergraduate degree from California State University, East Bay in political science and public administration graduating magna cum laude in 1984. Steve received his Juris Doctorate from the prestigious Emory University, School of Law (Gambrell Hall) in 1988, where he focused on trial advocacy and real estate law.

An eight year member of the Firm, Steve brings 20 years of experience as an attorney. Prior

to practicing law, he had experience in business and management from both an academic and a “boots on the ground” perspective through managing his own small business for 10 years. Steve also launched and managed a branch law office for a state-wide law firm for nine years before joining Borton Petrini. Steve understands the legal concerns and the economics of small to medium-sized business in the personal way that only real life experience can bring.

Today Steve specializes in creditor bankruptcy, real estate, business law and litigation, transactions, and construction cases. He has extensive trial and litigation practice experience in California civil and probate courts, as well as federal civil and bankruptcy courts, from Butte to San Diego counties, from the Northern District to the Central District (Southern Division). His successful trial experience includes multi-million dollar tort claims, as well as complex and challenging contract matters. He is said by some jurors to deliver a “mesmerizing” closing argument.

A California native, Steve and his family have planted deep roots in Kern County. He has served on numerous non-profit boards, and provided years of volunteer service to the community through public and private schools, Rotary, The Tree Foundation, and The Boys and Girls Club.

A well received candidate for California’s largest K-8 school board, Steve’s interest in public service has not waned. He is today a popular speaker as an advocate for children and public civility, as well as legal, spiritual and business matters. Steve is also an Adjunct Professor at Cal State University Bakersfield, where he lectures on constitutional law, business and contract law, and international law.

Steve is presently Vice President of the City of Shafter Chamber of Commerce. He has also served as Chairman of the Rotary in School Committee, on the City Schools Education Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kern Boards. He has been, in addition, an adjunct Business Law Professor at Cal State University, Bakersfield. He also serves as a member of the Eastern District’s Civil Rights Pro Bono Panel.

Education:

- California State University, East Bay (Magna Cum Laude) 1984
- Emory University, School of Law (Gambrell Hall), Atlanta, GA 1988
- Claremont School of Theology, M.Div. (pending)

Admitted:

- State Bar of California, 1989
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, 1990
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of California, 1990
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, 1990
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California, 1990
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California, 1994
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California, 1994

Business and Professional Associations:

- City of Shafter, Chamber of Commerce Board, Vice President
- Bakersfield East Rotary, Chairman Various Committees 1995-2006
- Paul Harris Fellowship (Rotary)
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Kern, Member of the Board 2001-2006
- Bakersfield City Schools Education Foundation, Member of the Board 1997-2001
- Federal Eastern District Civil Rights Pro Bono Panel, Member
- Kern County Bar Association (twice Chairman of Speaker’s Bureau)
- Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity (Officer, 1986-1987)
- Thomas More Legal Society of Orange County
- National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Summer Program co-producer, 1986 & 1987
- Expert testimony on gender harassment cases

Publications:

- California Defense (numerous articles, 1992 - 2000)
- Frequent contributor to the Firm’s Newsletters

Lectures & Seminars:

- ICPA-LAW Forum of Kern: Lecturer on Collections, the Legal System and Other Mysteries (2001-2005)
- California Unfair Claims Practice Seminar (1995)

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