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After a brief career as a Deputy District Attorney with the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office from 1977-1978, Jim returned to the San Joaquin Valley where he was born and raised. Since 1978, Jim has been in private practice in Modesto, California and has been General Counsel to the Housing Authority of the County of Stanislaus since 1982. His present practice emphasis is real estate law, business law, corporate law, construction law, public housing law, estate planning, probate and trust administration.

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