



OF COUNSEL

Joseph Manalili

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📍 Los Angeles

Joseph Manalili is of counsel and a member of Best Best & Krieger LLP's (BBK) Municipal Law, Airports, and Environment and Natural Resources practices. He advises public agencies on a variety of municipal law matters, including airport and aviation, and state and federal environmental laws, with a specific focus on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Before joining BBK, Joseph spent more than 20 years with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). At the FAA's Office of Chief Counsel, Airports and Environmental Law Division, he counseled FAA clients on compliance with federal, state and local environmental regulatory requirements for major airport, air traffic and commercial space projects throughout the West. He has considerable experience advising clients on their obligations under NEPA, the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, CERCLA, and other federal statutes and regulations. Additionally, Joseph advised the FAA's Airports Division, Western-Pacific Region, on compliance with airport grant assurances, AIP/PFC grants, revenue diversion, 14 C.F.R. Parts 13 and 16 processes, airport layout plans, compatible land use planning, land transfers, and noise compatibility programs (Part 150) and noise exposure maps.

Prior to the FAA, Joseph worked as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He began his legal career as an environmental attorney with a Glendale, California firm.

A native Angelino, Joseph enjoys playing tennis, pickleball and golf. An enthusiastic traveler, his goal is to visit every state in the Union and all the continents.

Thought Leadership

Presentations

- "NEPA After Marin Audubon Society: What Practitioners Need to Know About the Changing Federal Environmental Review Landscape," Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives "Role of the Attorney as Part of the Airport Management Team" Workshop, Jan. 31, 2026

CORE PRACTICES

Airports

Municipal Law

Environmental Law & Natural Resources

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, J.D.

University of Pennsylvania, B.A., history

Bar Admissions

California

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Central District of California

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

- "Navigating NEPA and ESA Compliance in a Changing Landscape," IMLA Environmental Law/Compliance Webinar, Jan. 27, 2026