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Senior attorney joins Gaw Van Male

Scott Greenwood-Meinert specializes in water rights and real estate

FAIRFIELD, Calif.—Gaw Van Male, counselors at law, announces senior real estate and water rights attorney Scott D. Greenwood-Meinert has joined the firm. He comes to the practice with over eight years experience in water rights litigation and real estate development and land use transactions in Fresno, Calif.

"I also handled sophisticated real estate and water cases in Westlands, the largest water district in the world," said Greenwood-Meinert. "Water rights is a narrow field with fewer than 50 attorneys like myself who know what they're doing and do it well. Gaw Van Male's market area of Napa, Solano and Yolo counties has many water rights issues and people should know they don't have to go to Sacramento to a large firm to have their concerns resolved.

"You can't have a big firm litigation attitude with water rights; there are too many regulatory agencies involved. The attorney needs to be involved in the process because the transactions aren't cookie-cutter."

Greenwood-Meinert is a graduate of Stanford University and received his Juris Doctorate from Willamette University College of Law. He previously worked in the Fresno County Counsel Office as well as in private practice, focusing on real estate transactions, business, public agency representation, the Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and water rights litigation.

"I looked at various law firms that believe the client is the most important part of their work. Gaw Van Male develops client relationships that actually turn into friendships. The work gets done, but they have a personable way with clients. I bring a skill set that expands the work they can do and expands the depth of what they can offer."

Land development attorney Bob Lando stresses the importance of the firm's expertise in water rights and development.

"In areas where growth is limited and domestic water public agencies are not available, the value of land depends heavily on well or river water," said Lando. "Without that access, the land may be worthwhile only for cattle grazing. The right to use riparian or well water is subject to confusing and sometimes conflicting regulations, so the ability to advise clients can be critical to make full use of agricultural land. This is especially true within the wine industry, but also important in other agricultural uses.

"We are extremely fortunate that this firm has Scott and a team of attorneys to help clients make these critical evaluations."

Founded in 1972, Gaw Van Male has grown to be the largest law firm in Napa and Solano counties with 25 attorneys and 40 staff members. Gaw Van Male is one of California's leading Estate Planning firms, offering a broad range of wealth preservation, business succession, and exit strategies. With active practices also in employment law, litigation, tax, intellectual property, and real estate, Gaw Van Male takes a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach to the opportunities and challenges facing its clients.

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