

# HOGE ■ FENTON



## HONORABLE CATHARINE B. BAKER SPECIAL COUNSEL

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### PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Catharine Baker is a former California State Assemblymember who represented the 16th Assembly District from 2014 through 2018. She is a Commissioner with the California Fair Political Practices Commission, which administers and enforces California's landmark government ethics laws. Catharine is Special Counsel at Hoge Fenton, where she advises businesses and non-profits and practices election law.

### BACKGROUND

During her legislative tenure, Catharine was an independent, bipartisan voice in the Legislature, fostering breakthroughs in significant legislation, particularly on transportation, the environment, and government accountability. Her collaborative leadership made her one of the most effective members of the Assembly. In just four years, sixteen of her bills — all supporting education, transportation, public safety, and government efficiency — passed the Legislature with bipartisan support, and all sixteen were signed into law. Significant legislation included the creation of Valley Link to construct a commuter rail connection between the Central Valley and Bay Area, more admissions opportunities to the University of California for California students, and greater transparency and accountability rules for state and regional agencies.

Catharine is President of the Diablo Regional Arts Association, which supports professional arts access for families, students, and schools. She is a Board Director with California Women Lead, a statewide non-partisan non-profit that helps women attain appointed and elected office. Catharine also serves on the Board of Directors of the Livermore Lab Foundation, which supports STEM education and research endeavors at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She is also a former member of the California State Bar's Financial Institutions Committee. Catharine is a regular host on Tri-Valley Television for monthly episodes of Mayor's Report with local mayors and Supervisor's Report with Nate Miley. She also serves as Vice Chair of California Forward, a statewide non-profit advancing economic opportunity for all Californians.

### EDUCATION

J.D., U.C. Berkeley School of Law  
B.A., University of Chicago, with honors, Political Science

### ADMISSIONS

California  
U.S. District Court, Central & Northern Districts of California

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Moderator, [Documenting Trust Distributions](#) webinar, March 30, 2021
- Moderator, [How Remote Work is Transforming the Tri-Valley](#) webinar, March 2, 2021
- Moderator, [Election Outcomes and Actions to Take](#) webinar, November 12, 2020
- Co-Presenter, [Timely Tax-Friendly Tactic: 1031 Exchange](#) webinar, October 21, 2020

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS CONT.**

- Moderator, [How Propositions 15 & 19 Can Affect You and Your Taxes](#) webinar, October 7, 2020
- Moderator, [Make Your Vote Count: Understanding Voting in California](#) webinar, September 30, 2020
- Moderator, [Best Practices for Managing a Remote Workforce](#) webinar, September 2, 2020
- Moderator, [Tri-Valley Mayors Summit](#), Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, August 26, 2020
- Moderator, [ADA Lawsuits for Websites: Is Your Website Compliant?](#) webinar, July 30, 2020
- Moderator, [Lessons Learned from Lawyers: Trust Dept. Risk Reduction Strategies](#) webinar, July 23, 2020
- Moderator, [Reopening California: PPP Forgiveness & Return to Work](#) webinar, July 14, 2020
- Co-Presenter, [Championing Your Cause, Advocacy in Contemporary Times](#), Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance, May 14, 2020
- Co-Presenter, [SVO COVID-19 Business Resources: The Impact of COVID-19 on Silicon Valley Real Estate](#) webinar, April 14, 2020
- Co-Presenter, [Tri-Valley Commercial Real Estate Update: Impacts of COVID-19](#) webinar, April 1, 2020

## **OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS**

- Co-Author, [Opinion: When it comes to stealing campaign money, the penalty should fit the crime](#), East Bay Times, August 18, 2021
- Co-Author, [Some political campaigns trick California donors into recurring payments. That must end](#), The Sacramento Bee, August 11, 2021
- Author, [Don't Open up California's Coast to Oil Drilling](#), San Francisco Chronicle, February 20, 2018
- Author, [Protect Poor Kids' Healthcare, GOP Lawmakers Tells Congress](#), East Bay Times, December 12, 2017
- Author, [Smarter Alternatives for Transportation Infrastructure](#), San Francisco Chronicle, April 4, 2017
- Co-Author, [All Californians Should Agree: Get Guns Away From Criminals and Those With a Mental Illness](#), The Sacramento Bee, May 4, 2018
- Co-Author, Wolk and Baker: [End of Life Option Act is Optional](#), San Jose Mercury, August 24, 2016
- Co-Author, [Guest Commentary: Connecting BART to ACE Train Must Become Priority Item](#), East Bay Times, November 5, 2015

## **AWARDS**

Catharine was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from National University. She received several awards for her work in the Legislature, including:

- The Clean Money Campaign "Champion of Clean Money Award"
- California Common Cause "We The People Award"
- The National Foundation for Women Legislators Elected Women of Excellence Award
- California School Boards Association Legislator of the Year Award
- Crime Victims United Legislator of the Year Award
- March of Dimes Legislative Champion Award
- American Cancer Society/Cancer Action Network California Distinguished Advocacy
- California State Bar Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services