



## **SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER BENEFITS: LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE**

The Texas Water Association Risk Management Fund (TWARMF) continues to expand the resources available to support members in navigating complex liability issues. One of the most valuable offerings is **complimentary legal consulting services** for members of the Fund's Liability Program.

For more than two decades, **Joel Geary** has represented Fund members in lawsuits and liability matters. His deep knowledge of and experience with governmental immunity, the Texas Tort Claims Act, and employment law makes him a trusted advisor for districts and authorities across the state.

Joel's long history of working directly with member organizations gives him a practical understanding of day-to-day operations and the liability exposures that can arise. Whether you're facing a sensitive personnel issue or a high-stakes operational incident, he brings clarity, calm, and expertise.

### **What This Service Provides**

#### **Legal Consulting Success Story: Supporting a Water Entity Through Complex Challenges**

When a mid-sized water utility district in Texas faced a potential liability issue related to aging infrastructure and regulatory compliance, they turned to TWARMF's legal consulting services for guidance. The district was concerned about possible claims arising from water quality concerns and operational disruptions.

Joel Geary worked closely with the district's management team to review their policies, assess risk exposures, and develop a proactive response plan. His expertise helped the district navigate regulatory requirements and communicate effectively with stakeholders, minimizing legal risks and maintaining public trust.

This collaboration not only prevented costly litigation but also strengthened the district's operational resilience. The water entity continues to rely on the Fund's legal consulting as a key part of their risk management strategy.

Members can rely on this service as a **loss-prevention tool** and way to get ahead of potential liability exposures before they become claims. Examples of how members use this resource include:

- **Education & Guidance**

Members often call Joel to talk through decisions that may carry liability risks such as employee terminations or questions regarding adequacy of documentation before a termination.

- **Crisis Response Support**

In the event of a serious incident, such as an employee fatality or major operational failure, Joel can provide immediate legal perspective, including guidance on media inquiries.

- **Policy & Procedure Review**

Members may request a review of proposed policy updates or procedural changes to help reduce exposure.

- **Consultation on Emerging Risks**

As new liability trends arise—such as changes in State or Federal law or guidelines, Joel is available to help members navigate the legal landscape.

### **A Reminder for Members**

Since July 1, 2021, legal consulting services have been included at **no additional cost** for Liability Program participants. These services are designed to support, not replace, your local counsel and are available whenever you need an experienced legal perspective.

### **We're Here to Help**

The Fund encourages all members to take advantage of this valuable resource, especially when facing situations that could lead to liability claims. Our goal is to help you operate confidently, safely, and with the support you need.

For questions about legal consulting or other member services, reach out anytime.

### **Contact Joel Geary**

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### **Member Services Contact**

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