



THE WATER INSTITUTE  
OF THE GULF

## JUSTIN EHRENWERTH, J.D.



**Institute Role**  
President and CEO

**Education**  
J.D.— University of Pennsylvania  
Law School, 2009  
M.A. – Philosophy, Politics and  
Economics, University of Oxford,  
2004  
B.A. – *summa cum laude*,  
Philosophy, Colby College, 2001

**Professional Experience**  
The Water Institute of the Gulf  
President and CEO  
2017-Present  
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration  
Council  
Executive Director  
2013-2017  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Chief of Staff to the  
Deputy Secretary  
2012-2013  
The White House  
Assistant Counsel to the  
President  
2011-2012  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Counsel, Office of the  
Secretary  
2009-2011

### Experience Profile

Justin R. Ehrenwerth was appointed the second President and CEO of The Water Institute of the Gulf in January 2017. Ehrenwerth's technical work at the Institute has focused on assisting clients navigate the interaction of environment, economic, and social factors in complex and often contentious matters. He has worked closely with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers national, division, and district leadership on a variety of projects including reforming the manner in which project benefits—such as the ability of nature to capture and sequester carbon—are quantified and considered.

Prior to joining the Institute, Ehrenwerth served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council). The Council was created in the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and charged with using billions of dollars in penalties to restore the Gulf Coast's economy and environment, and adapt in the face of climate change. Ehrenwerth successfully established the Council as an independent federal agency and oversaw all aspects of its programmatic, technical, and operational activities. He worked closely with the leadership of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security, Interior, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency.

Ehrenwerth previously served as Chief of Staff to the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce where he assisted in overseeing issues of policy, budgeting, and strategic planning. He focused on matters impacting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) including complex regulatory and management challenges.

Earlier, Ehrenwerth served as Assistant Counsel to the President where he took the lead on Deepwater Horizon litigation for the White House working with the Department of Justice. He also served as a member of the Oversight and Litigation group representing the White House in Congressional investigations and advising federal agencies on oversight matters. Before joining the White House, Ehrenwerth served in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of General Counsel where he provided support to NOAA leadership on sensitive regulatory and political matters. He received NOAA's Award for Excellence for work in response to Deepwater Horizon.

Ehrenwerth has held leadership positions on a number of national political campaigns and has been active in the non-profit sector. He served as a Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Teaching Fellow as well as a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs. He and his wife, Dana Dupré, reside in New Orleans with their two sons.