



KATHLEEN M. EWINS

Partner

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Kathleen devotes the majority of her practice to defending lawyers and law firms in professional liability matters, partnership disputes, disciplinary actions and in providing loss prevention counseling. She has been named a “Northern California Super Lawyer” in Professional Liability Defense every year since 2006, and one of the Best Lawyers in America in that field since 2010. The State Bar of California certified Kathleen as a Legal Malpractice Specialist and she served as Chair of the State Bar Legal Malpractice Law Advisory Committee. Kathleen has also represented hundreds of judges in matters before the California Commission on Judicial Performance and defends employers facing harassment, discrimination and wrongful termination claims.

Admissions

- Member of the California Bar since 1991
- Admitted in numerous U.S. District Courts, the 9th Circuit and the Supreme Court

Academics

- University of California, Davis | B.A., International Relations/Economics
- University of San Diego School of Law, J.D.

Honors

- “Northern California Super Lawyer” in Professional Liability Defense, 2006–present
- “Best Lawyers in America” (2010–present) practicing in the Legal Malpractice Specialty

Professional and Civic Involvement

- Certified Legal Specialist–Legal Malpractice Law since 2011.
- Chair, State Bar’s Legal Malpractice Law Advisory Commission, 2014–2016.
- Chair, Legal Malpractice Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco, California, 2009–2010.
- Co-Chair: Electronic Communications Policy Committee, Section of Litigation, American Bar Association, 2006–2009.
- Member, Standing Committee on Lawyers’ Professional Liability, American Bar Association, 2003–2006, Section of Litigation Liaison, 2006–2007.

Professional and Civic Involvement, cont.

- Co-Chair, Professional Liability Litigation Committee, Section of Litigation, American Bar Association, 2002-2006.
- Editor, Professional Liability Litigation Alert newsletter and electronic eAlert bulletin, Section of Litigation, American Bar Association, 2002-2006; electronic eAdvisory, bulletin, Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability, American Bar Association, 2003-2006.
- Volunteer, Oakland FoodWorks, feeding Oakland children and the under-served during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020-2021.
- Secretary, San Francisco Police Foundation, a 301(c)(3) that created and funded programs benefiting San Francisco youth, through 2019.

Presentations

- "View from the Bench: Winning Plays, Winning Ways," moderator, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability, Fall 2014, National Legal Malpractice Conference.
- "*Living Through a Formal Commission on Judicial Performance Proceeding*," presented for the Supervising Judges Institute/Center for Judiciary Education and Research (CJER) on March 20, 2014.
- "*CJP Survival Guide*," Alliance of California Judges' Conference, March 2014.
- "*Commission on Judicial Performance: What Every Judge Needs to Know*," Alliance of California Judges' Conference, March 2012.
- "*Risk Management: Ethical and Professional Liability Issues that Confront Family Lawyers*," American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Annual Meeting, May 2011.
- "*Case Law Developments*," ABA National Legal Malpractice Conference, April 2010.
- "*Conflicts of Interest*," Avoiding 3D (Disqualifications, Disgorgement and Discipline), Contra Costa County Bar Association, Litigation Section, November 20, 2009.
- "*The At-Risk Attorney: Strategies to Help Colleagues with Substance Abuse and/or Other Impairment; Protect Clients; and Manage Risk*," presented for the Bar Association of San Francisco, January 2009.

Program Chair

- Conference chair, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability, Fall 2014 National Legal Malpractice Conference.
- Program chair, "Cognitive Decline: Assessing and Assuring Professional Competence in Lawyer Clients and Partners," ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability Fall 2014 Conference.
- Conference chair, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability, Fall 2011 National Legal Malpractice Conference.
- Program chair, "Same Sex, Same Rights?" presented at the ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California in August 2007.
- Program chair and panelist, "Assault On the Attorney-Client Privilege: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know" presented at the ABA Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, August 2005 and at the ABA National Legal Malpractice Conference, Chicago, Illinois, September 2006.
- Program chair, "Bias In the Courtroom" presented at the ABA Section of Litigation Annual Conference, Los Angeles, California, April 2006.
- "The Blame Game: Attorneys and Accountants In the Crosshairs" presented at the ABA Section of Litigation Annual Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, April 2004 and at the ABA National Legal Malpractice Conference, San Francisco, California, September 2004.

Program Chair, cont.

- Conference chair, American Bar Association Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability, Fall 2004 National Legal Malpractice Conference.
- "Trying the Case-Within-A Case" presented at the ABA National Legal Malpractice Conference, Miami Florida, April 2004.

Publications

- "Profile of Legal Malpractice Claims 2008-2011," American Bar Association Standing Committee On Lawyers' Professional Liability, published September 2012 (Report author).
- "Profile of Legal Malpractice Claims 2004-2007," American Bar Association Standing Committee On Lawyers' Professional Liability, published September 2008 (Report author).
- "Profile of Legal Malpractice Claims 2000-2003," American Bar Association Standing Committee On Lawyers' Professional Liability, published April 2005 (Report author).
- "Loss Prevention By The Numbers," Professional Liability Litigation Alert, Section of Litigation, American Bar Association, Spring 2003.
- "Chipping Away at the Attorney-Client Privilege and the Attorney Work Product Doctrine," Professional Liability Litigation Alert, Section of Litigation, American Bar Association, Winter 2003.