

Diane L. Abraham, Attorney at Law*

Certified Appellate Law Specialist : California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization

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*Licensed to practice in States of California, Oregon, Utah, Hawaii and before the U.S. Supreme Court

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor

Boalt Hall, University of California, Berkeley - January 2004 to ----

Instructing third-year law students in two-unit course on the issue of adverse gender, racial and ethnic discrimination in the legal profession. Title of course: "The American Legal Profession: The Rhetoric of Race and Gender." Tuesdays, 9:00 -10:50 a.m.

Of Counsel

Brayton ♦ Purcell - Novato, CA March 1998 - present

Plaintiffs civil litigation law firm with primary emphasis in complex toxic tort :involves management and litigation of cases. Position requires extensive trial and appellate advocacy skills, including oral argument and legal writing. Written in excess of 70 appellate briefs, 12 writ petitions, assisted in drafting petitions for review and brief on the merits before California Supreme Court, and Petition for Certiorari in the United States Supreme Court.

Previously managed the Southern California office, a position requiring litigation, management of caseload as well as administrative and supervisory duties.

Deputy Attorney

State of California, Department of Transportation: Legal Division – October 1998–October 1999

Civil defense of government entity; case trial load involved serious and catastrophic injury to persons, wrongful death and property damage.

Attorney at Law, Law Office of Diane L. Abraham - June 5, 1997 - January 1, 1998

Sole practitioner civil litigation practice. Also involved legislative lobbying for revision of California Family Code, including testimony before the California State Senate.

Volunteer Attorney, Public Law Center - Santa Ana, CA, March 1997 - January 1998

Pro-bono representation of indigent plaintiffs in civil litigation, including AIDS/HIV issues, domestic violence, dependency cases.

Legal Research Assistant, California Court of Appeal - Santa Ana, CA -

Research and draft appellate opinions, and bench memoranda under Presiding Justice David Sills. Published *In re Blanca P.* (1996) 45 Cal. App.4th 1738, cited in *Simpson v. Brown* (1998) 67 Cal.App.4th 914.

Guardian ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocate, 1992 - 1994

Research and draft court reports, offer oral argument advocating best interest of minor dependent child. Requires interpersonal skills involving court-appointed legal counsel, judicial officers, law enforcement agencies, state and county agencies, education and medical staff.

NON-LEGAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Educator: Santa Ana Unified School District; Stoneybrooke Private Schools, 1983-1988

Create and implement education plans for middle school students. Honored as Commencement Speaker in 1984, 1985. **Masters of Science in Education: Univ. of California, Irvine**

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT, FUNDRAISING, LEGAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Chair, Committee on Diversity in the Profession, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, American Bar Association:

Revived a committee designated to be 'sunsetted' into a committee motivated to increase and achieve diversity goals of the ABA. Committee has been reorganized under my leadership into volunteer liaisons with other ABA committees to establish compliance with diversity goals. Position involves heading committee meetings, organizing meeting agenda, encouraging volunteer member involvement through email list-serve weekly, committee meetings quarterly and annual leadership awards presentation at the ABA Annual Meeting. Position also involves creating innovative programs to promote and implement diversity, including designing the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section's first written Diversity Plan, creating minority and women law student scholarships, law student and young lawyer mentor programs, Continuing Legal Education programs, creating the "Spirit of Racial Justice" award, improving use of technology and creating website, expanding involvement with other organizations, hosting committee receptions, and revising the Committee's scope and mission statement.

Designed nationally-applauded innovative program "Committing to End Lip Service to Diversity" for law firms and legal departments to publicly sign onto interactively, with signatory law firms and legal departments posted online with auto-links from the Committee on Diversity in the Profession's website to the websites of the firms and legal departments.

Legal Education Programs created and organized as Chair of the Committee on Diversity in the Profession:

'NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE, THE LAW AND COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS,' April 11, 2002 Hilton San Destin Resort, San Destin, Florida
'NATIVE AMERICANS, THE LAW AND BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CULTURES THROUGH ENTERTAINMENT,' October 17, 2002, Hilton Sedona Resort, Sedona, Arizona
'EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE: TIME TO END LIP SERVICE TO DIVERSITY,' August 9, 2003, Moscone Center, San Francisco
'SOUL OF THE GEECHE GULLAH ' : October 25, 2003, Savannah, Georgia
'IMMIGRANT SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING: VINEYARD WORKERS THEN AND NOW': April 30, 2004, Napa, California
MINORITY AND WOMEN LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND: created August 2002, already proving its success on a national level for minority law students

Public speaking and presentations as Chair of the Committee on Diversity in the Profession:

'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE' award presentation, August, 2002, Washington, D.C.
'SPIRIT OF RACIAL EQUALITY' award presentation, August 2002, Washington, D.C.
'DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS' annual presentation, August 2002, Washington, D.C.
'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE' award presentation, February 2003, Seattle, Washington
'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE' award presentation, May 2003, Austin, Texas
'EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE: TIME TO END LIP SERVICE TO DIVERSITY,' August 9, 2003, ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California
'KHUMO TIRE V. CARMICHAEL: DAUBERT FROM A PLAINTIFF'S PERSPECTIVE,' August 10, 2003, ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California
Testimony: STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE LAW, August 7, 2003, ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California
'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE' award presentation, August 8, 2003, San Francisco, California
'DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS' annual presentation, August 10, 2003, San Francisco, California

Fundraising as Chair of the Committee on Diversity in the Profession:

'EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE: TIME TO END LIP SERVICE TO DIVERSITY,' August 9, 2003, Moscone Center, San Francisco: Raised funding and sponsorship of program and its reception
'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE' award reception, August 8, 2003, San Francisco, CA
MINORITY AND WOMEN LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND: raised funds to fully sponsor law students to attend ABA events, including transportation and lodging, for two years

'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE" award presentation, August, 2002, Washington, D.C.: Raised funding and sponsorship to cover the presentation and reception
'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE" award presentation, February 2003, Seattle, Washington: Raised funding and sponsorship to cover the presentation and reception
'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE" award presentation, May 2003, Austin, Texas : Raised funding and sponsorship to cover the presentation and reception
'PURSUIT OF JUSTICE" award presentation, August, 2003, San Francisco, California: Raised funding and sponsorship to cover the presentation and reception
MARGARET BRENT AWARD LUNCHEON (2003): Raised funding and sponsored 3 female minority law students to attend.
'SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS LUNCHEON (2003, 2004)': Raised funding and sponsorship for 10 total minority law students to attend.

Liaison, Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity, American Bar Association

Position involves bridging sections of the American Bar Association with the Commission, educate members concerning the importance of diversity, participate in events and programs to implement diversity goals, including Judicial Clerkship Program and Spirit of Excellence Awards Program. Actively attended all Commission meetings, presenting updates on the Committee on Diversity in the Profession's activities through the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section. Actively assisted in preparing the Section's Goal IX survey regarding diversity activities.

Fundraising as Commission Liaison:

Spirit of Excellence Awards Program sponsorship, Seattle, WA, February 2003
Spirit of Excellence Awards Program, San Antonio, TX, February 2004: raised funds for a table for TIPS, through the Committee on Diversity in the Profession.

Trial Lawyers for Public Justice (TLPJ)

Co-Chair, Diversity Committee (TLPJ)

Hawaii State Coordinator (TLPJ)

Positions involve member recruitment, public speaking and awards events, outreach to other organizations, fundraising at phoneathons and membership drives. Fundraising efforts have resulted in successful placement on TLPJ's limited "Wall of Fame," as well as hosting dinners and receptions.

As Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee, I spearheaded a diversity 'checklist' for plaintiffs' firms to commit to, including a program of recognition and awards.

Public speaking events as Member of the Board for TLPJ to law students promoting civil liberties and law in the public interest:

Southern California Annual Public Interest Career Day: University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004)

Annual Northern California Public Interest/Public Sector legal career day, University of California, Berkeley, Boalt School of Law (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004)

Northwest Public Service Career Day, Lewis and Clark School of Law, Portland, Oregon (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004)

Rocky Mountain Career Fair, Salt Lake City, Utah (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003)

Public Interest Career Day, Richardson School of Law, Honolulu, HI (2002, 2003)

California State Bar Association: Access and Fairness Programs, Committee on Ethnic and Minority Relations

Appointed by the State Bar Board of Governors as the only Caucasian on the Committee to date; term expires 2006. Charged with advising the Board of Governors regarding ethnic minority bias in the legal system, in the delivery of legal services, in the profession and in the administration of justice. Serve as a liaison between the State Bar and ethnic minority attorneys, and produce programs and materials designed to maximize opportunities for ethnic minorities.

Chair, Minority Job Fair, March 2004: Loyola University School of Law, Los Angeles.

**Board of Directors: Legal Aid of North Bay
Chair, Fundraising Committee**

Monthly board meetings, fundraising, allocating program responsibilities for pro bono legal aid to indigent residents of Marin and Napa counties, including but not limited to elder abuse and affordable housing concerns.

California State Liaison, Women Trial Lawyers Caucus

Position involves member recruitment, outreach to womens organizations, including non-legal entities, fundraising at phoneathons and membership drives, and participating in lobbying efforts. Fundraising efforts at Caucus headquarters increased membership 20%.

Hall of Fame Committee, American Bar Association

Newly-formed exploratory committee of the ABA; position includes organizing committee to establish a Hall of Fame Museum at the ABA headquarters. Issues facing this committee and the position includes fundraising, guidelines and rules for qualification, assuring diversity of nominees and recipients, fundraising for award presentations and receptions.

Moot Court Honors Team Judge

Reviewed law students' appellate briefs, served as judge for California semi-final and final moot court honors team oral argument. Critiqued students' oral argument, presentation, style, knowledge of applicable law, ability to respond to questions from panel and courtroom demeanor.

Other Memberships:

Oregon Women Lawyers, co-chairing Diversity CLE, Portland, OR; May 14, 2004

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate - December 1996- **Southwestern University School of Law**, Los Angeles
Brief Writer, Moot Court Honors Program -Traynor Team National Competition 1995-96
Exceptional Achievement Award –Jewish Law, 1996

Master of Science, Education -1985- **University of California, Irvine**
Dean's List -1984-85. Graduated top 15%

Bachelor of Fine Arts -1981- **University of Hawaii, Manoa**, Honolulu. Graduated top 10%

PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

California's Stepparent Visitation Statute: For the Welfare of the Child, or a Court-Opened Door to Legally Interfere with Parental Autonomy...Where are the Constitutional Safeguards? - **University of Southern California Review of Law and Women's Studies**, Vol. 7-1, Fall 1997.

Lip Service and Diversity: Time for a Reality Check, **Oregon State Bar Bulletin**, March 2002.

Parting Thoughts, **Oregon State Bar Bulletin**, July 2002.

Women and Minorities in the Law, **City Solicitor**, London, UK, June 2002

Diversity in the Law: Time to End Indifference, **Utah State Bar Bulletin**, October 2002

The Legal Profession: Women and Minorities in the ABA, **Trial Techniques**, ABA Publications, Fall 2003

In re Blanca P. (1996) 45 Cal. App. 4th 1738.

Limited Reciprocity Maintains Competence, **California Bar Journal**, October 1997.

Chaknova v. Wilbur-Ellis Company (1999) 69 Cal.App.4th 962

Howard v. Owens Coming (1999) 72 Cal.App.4th 621

Scheiding v. Dinwidde Construction Company (1999) 61 Cal.App.4th 64

McKinney v. Amcord (2002) 96 Cal.App.4th 1214

McGonnell v. Kaiser Cement (2002) —Cal.App.4th --

REFERENCE LIST

Elihu Harris, Esq.
1717 Clay Street
Oakland, CA
(510) 622-3885

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Commission on Racial & Ethnic Diversity
750 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611

Arthur Bryant, Esq., Executive Director
Trial Lawyers for Public Justice
One Kaiser Plaza, Suite 275
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Additional references available upon request.