



→ Polly Towill

Partner
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Polly Towill is a partner in the Business Trial Practice Group in the firm's Los Angeles office. She is the leader of the Toxic Torts and Products Liability team and she Co-Chairs the Global Climate Change team. She is also a member of the firm's Diversity Committee and Hispanic/Latino team. Ms. Towill was recognized by *The Daily Journal* editors as one of the "Top Women Litigators."

Areas of Practice

Ms. Towill has extensive experience in litigating complex business issues in state and federal courts. Her varied practice includes representing clients in a number of substantive areas including commercial transactions, real estate, fraud actions, unfair business practice claims, employment disputes, toxic tort litigation, products liability matters, environmental litigation and in performing internal investigations and audits. She also has significant experience with government contract litigation, including defending contractors in False Claim Act actions (with parallel criminal proceedings).

Ms. Towill is the former law clerk to United States District Court Judge Manuel L. Real. While with the firm, she also worked as in-house counsel for Northrop Grumman Corporation, where she managed litigation and supervised outside counsel. Ms. Towill has federal and state court trial experience, including three criminal jury trials.

Honors

Named one of the Los Angeles Business Journal's Most Influential Women Lawyers, 2017

Southern California Super Lawyer

Named one of the Los Angeles Business Journal's Leading Environmental Lawyers in Los Angeles

Named one of the Daily Journal's Top Women Litigators

Finalist, Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers In America, Lawdragon Magazine

Received an AV® rating from Martindale-Hubbell®, highest rating an attorney can receive for legal quality and ethics

Experience

Defeated on the eve of trial, a headline-making case spearheaded by Erin Brokovich alleging that client's oil facility caused cancer in Beverly Hills High School students.

Had a primary role in successfully arbitrating the first False Claims Act action decided by two federal judges in a unique baseball arbitration brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice.

Represented owner of a valuable Picasso painting in Nazi stolen art case in action simultaneously pursued in state and federal courts in California and Illinois by private parties and the United States government. After successfully defeating personal jurisdiction in California trial and appellate courts, matter settled after review granted by California Supreme Court.

Achieved a jury verdict on behalf of one of the state's largest commercial printers in a case against another commercial printer, its president and one of its sales people. Client was awarded damages for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets and unfair competition. A jury also found in favor of client on cross-complaints for slander, libel and interference with prospective business advantage. The case was tried in the Orange County Superior Court.

Represented real estate developer in several actions for fraud and breach of contract involving 100,000 acre ranch located in Central California.

Investigation for Board of Directors of gourmet meal company of compliance with organic food laws.

Representative Clients

Ms. Towill has represented such clients as Venoco, Inc., Herbalife International of America, Inc., Consolidated Graphics, Inc., Mattel, Inc., ColorGraphics, Inc., Northrop Grumman Corporation, Raytheon Systems Company, Dale Poe Development Company and Hughes Aircraft Company.

Articles

- *Compound Solutions: California Leads The Way In Regulating Chemicals In Consumer Products*, U.S.-Mexico Bar Association Newsletter, April 2009
- *Beverly High Appeal*, Los Angeles Business Journal, December 11, 2006
- *Judge OKs Pursuit of Stolen Art*, Daily Journal, January 21, 2005
- Chapters in the Compliance Manual for Health Care Providers to Prevent Fraud and Abuse, sponsored by the California Healthcare Association addressing civil enforcement actions, sanctions and voluntary disclosures

Media Mentions

Office Snapshot: Sheppard Mullin's New Digs In Downtown LA
Law360, 06.10.2025

Collaboration is Key at Sheppard Mullin's New LA Office
Daily Journal, 05.27.2025

2025 Women of Influence: Attorneys
Los Angeles Business Journal, 05.26.2025

Sheppard Mullin sues San Bernardino County over foster care
Daily Journal, 05.30.2023

San Bernardino County child services sued on behalf of 5,800 foster children
ABC 7 Los Angeles, 05.27.2023

Deemed 'too broken to fix,' San Bernardino County child services is sued on behalf of nearly 6,000 kids
Los Angeles Times, 05.25.2023

Bofl Seeks Dismissal, Sanctions For 'Copy-Cat' Investor Suit
Law360, 04.09.2018

Bofl Gets Early Exit From Securities Class Action
Law360, 03.16.2018

Speaking Engagements

Speaker, "Understanding Products Liability and Recall Law in the United States and Mexico," December 2008

Speaker, USMBA 2008 Annual Conference, "Investing in the Future of Cross Border Relations: Examining Laws that Bind and Separate Mexico and the United States," November 2008

Memberships

Los Angeles Bar Association

United States Law Firm Group, Litigation Committee

Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Committee, Defense Research Institute (DRI)

American Bar Association

Practices

International Reach

International Arbitration

Litigation

Financial Services Litigation

Toxic Tort and Product Liability

Securities Enforcement

International Arbitration

Industries

Aerospace, Defense & Government Services

Healthcare

Education

J.D., Georgetown University, 1985, *The American Criminal Law Review*

B.A., The University of Connecticut, 1981, *Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude*