



→ Suzanne Y. Badawi

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Suzanne Badawi is special counsel in the Business Trial Practice Group in the firm's Los Angeles office. She is a member of the firm's Insurance Litigation Team.

Areas of Practice

Suzanne is a civil litigator focusing on insurance bad faith/coverage litigation and business litigation. She has several published decisions reflecting her successful results. She also provides consulting and training to claims handlers and managers throughout California and nationwide.

She has extensive experience litigating cases in California state and federal courts with successful results by way of attacking the pleadings, summary judgment, trial, nominal settlements, or dismissal. Her approach is to litigate cases successfully and cost effectively, with regular client communication, to ensure client objectives are met.

Suzanne is an appointed member of the California State Bar Affinity Committee and a Senior Fellow and Barrister (Order of Veritas) of the Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, Litigation Counsel of America.

She is also a frequent lecturer on legal ethics and professional liability law in California.

Honors

- Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Barrister, Order of Veritas (The Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, Litigation Counsel of America)
- Member, Diversity Law Institute
- Member, The Trial Law Institute

Articles

- 2023 Insurance Team Year-In-Review
04.03.2024
- Sheppard Mullin Celebrates Stellar Year in Insurance Litigation
03.30.2023
- Four Steps to Take When Changing Firms
The Recorder, 07.29.2015

- Stay Ethical While Growing Your Law Business
The Recorder, 07.09.2015
- Plan Ahead for a Successful Retirement Transition
The Recorder, 07.02.2015
- Discovering Law Partner Misconduct
Daily Journal, 06.26.2015
- Defending Your Insurance Defense Work
The Recorder, 06.18.2015
- Keep it Civil, or Face the Consequences
The Recorder, 06.10.2015
- When Partners are Liable for Something They Didn't Do
Daily Journal, 06.05.2015
- Mind State Lines When Taking On New Clients
The Recorder, 06.01.2015
- Four Things to Know About Motions to Disqualify
The Recorder, 05.28.2015
- Ensure Lateral Moves are a Win-Win
Daily Journal, 05.22.2015
- Five Tips for Avoiding Trouble as Replacement Counsel
The Recorder, 05.20.2015
- Guarding Firms and Laterals Against Impacts From Jewel Doctrine
Originally Appeared In Print as Guarding Firms and Laterals Against Impacts from Jewel Doctrine
The Recorder, 05.19.2015
- Evaluating Whether to Change Firms
Daily Journal, 05.15.2015
- Getting Smart About Law Firm Cybersecurity
The Recorder, 05.08.2015
- When Attorneys Abruptly Depart
Daily Journal, 05.01.2015
- Managing Risk When Working with Experts and Consultants
Originally Appeared In Print as Keeping it Clean
The Recorder, 04.24.2015
- Associates on The Move: A Checklist
Daily Journal, 04.17.2015
- Five Tips for Enforcing Fee Agreement Arbitration
The Recorder, 04.16.2015
- Legal Malpractice Claims Are Costing Firms Big Bucks
The Recorder, 04.08.2015
- Sharing Office Space to Save on Expenses
Daily Journal, 03.27.2015

- Advance Planning Can Help Avoid the Risks in Law Firm Failures
The Recorder, 03.24.2015
- Four Steps to Mitigate Attorney Misconduct
The Recorder, 03.19.2015
- Asking a Partner to Leave, The Right Way
Daily Journal, 03.13.2015
- How to Manage Law Firm Lay-Offs
The Recorder, 03.10.2015
- Bringing Your Law Firm Into the 21st Century
The Recorder, 03.05.2015
- Handing Over the Reins to a Practice
Daily Journal, 02.27.2015
- Three Steps to Shield Innocent Partners From Malpractice Liability
The Recorder, 02.24.2015
- Staff Lateral Moves Raise Tricky Ethical Questions Too
Daily Journal, 02.13.2015
- Don't Let Partner Pay Fracture Your Firm
The Recorder, 02.12.2015
- Attorney Suicide Can Be Prevented With Increased Awareness
The Recorder, 02.03.2015
- Who's Minding the Practice While You're on Vacation?
The Recorder, 01.27.2015
- Ethics Compliance: The Outsourcing Option
Daily Journal, 01.23.2015
- Don't Make These Five Law Firm Merger Mistakes
The Recorder, 01.22.2015
- Minding the Fine Print in Law Firm Mergers
The Recorder, 01.07.2015
- Four Factors That Can Lower Your Malpractice Insurance Costs
The Recorder, 12.31.2014
- Five Reasons to Find a New Legal Malpractice Insurer
The Recorder, 12.23.2014
- Out-of-State Clients: An Ethical Minefield
12.19.2014
- A How-To Guide for Malpractice Insurance Forms
The Recorder, 12.17.2014
- Best Practices for Choosing Malpractice Insurance
The Recorder, 12.12.2014
- Know Your Legal Malpractice Insurance Coverage Before You Need It
The Recorder, 12.04.2014

- Arbitration Provisions in Fee Agreements
Daily Report, 12.02.2014
- Don't Let Your Clients Land You in Jail
The Recorder, 11.24.2014
- Sex With Clients Is Flirting With Disaster
Daily Journal, 11.21.2014
- Five Things to Avoid When Facing a Legal Malpractice Claim
The Recorder, 11.18.2014
- A No Gap Approach to Malpractice Insurance
The Recorder, 11.11.2014
- Keeping Internal Communications Private Is Paramount During Malpractice Suits
The Recorder, 11.06.2014
- Three Essential Steps After a Legal Blunder
The Recorder, 10.29.2014
- Billy Graham And The Modern Day Firm
Daily Journal, 10.24.2014
- Four Steps to Take When You're Sued
The Recorder, 10.21.2014
- Avoid Legal Malpractice Headaches by Closing Old Files
The Recorder, 10.15.2014
- How to Ethically Part Ways With a Client
The Recorder, 10.09.2014
- Three Signs It's Time to Break Up With a Problem Client
The Recorder, 10.02.2014
- Legal Ethics Lessons for a Digital World
The Recorder, 09.24.2014
- Courts near and far tire of incivility
Daily Journal, 09.19.2014
- Let Technology Reduce Your Legal Malpractice Risks
The Recorder, 09.16.2014
- Protecting Pre-Merger Client Communications After the Deal's Done
The Recorder, 09.10.2014
- Attorneys as Witnesses Face Host of Hazards
The Recorder, 09.03.2014
- Keeping Client Confidences in the Digital Age
The Recorder, 08.26.2014
- Be Professional, save the practice of law
Daily Journal, 08.22.2014
- Effective Email and Calendar Systems Can Prevent Malpractice Claims
The Recorder, 08.19.2014

- Three Attorney-Client Relationships That Invite Conflicts
The Recorder, 08.13.2014
- Misfired Emails Are Legal Malpractice Claims Waiting to Happen
The Recorder, 08.05.2014
- Beware Unintended Attorney-Client Relationships
The Recorder, 07.30.2014
- Five Must-Haves for Engagement Letters
The Recorder, 07.22.2014
- Understanding Legal Malpractice to Reduce Your Risk
The Recorder, 07.16.2014
- Constant Communication Can Prevent Payment Problems From Becoming Lawsuits
The Recorder, 07.09.2014
- When to Sue Your Client for Unpaid Fees
The American Lawyer, 06.27.2014
- The Ethical Implications of Alternative Fee Arrangements
The Recorder, 06.18.2014
- Attorney-Mediators Can't Hide From Conflicts of Interest
The Recorder, 06.11.2014
- Keys to Effective Conflict Waiver Disclosures
The Recorder, 06.04.2014
- Check Conflicts Early and Always
The Recorder, Law.com, 05.29.2014
- Tips for Effective Client Screening
The Recorder, Law.com, 05.21.2014
- Ten Tips for Avoiding Malpractice Claims
The Recorder, Law.com, 05.20.2014
- Conflicts Arise When In House Play Dual Roles
Daily Journal, 02.07.2014
- Pre-dispute jury waivers in attorney-client disputes
Daily Journal, 11.15.2013
- Your Career: Finding Your Niche
The Recorder, 10.28.2013
- Missed the statute of limitations?
Daily Journal, 10.18.2013
- Navigating the Conflicts Maze
Daily Journal, 09.13.2013
- Causation hurdles in legal malpractice suits
Daily Journal, 07.22.2013
- IP malpractice claims rising
Daily Journal, 07.10.2013

- Higher bar for anti-SLAPP in malpractice suits
Daily Journal, 06.15.2013
- Supreme Court to Address Hanif/Nishihama Rule
Petition for Review Granted in Howell v. Hamilton Meats & Provisions, Inc., 03.15.2013
- Commercial Landlords Amidst Those Affected By The Dot Com Era
2001

Insurance Law Blog Posts

- "New Insurance Law: The Extension of California's "Genuine Dispute" Doctrine to Disputes Over the Value of General Damages In UM/UIM Claims Handling," February 15, 2023
- "Insurer Entitled to Arbitrate Disputed UIM Claim Before Insured Could Pursue Bad Faith Action," June 9, 2021
- "Auto Insurer Properly Denied Liability Coverage Where Insured Operated a "Non-Owned" Auto Furnished for Insured's Regular Use," October 27, 2017

Books

California Legal Malpractice Law
04.16.2014

Media Mentions

GEICO Wins Bad Faith Claim
Daily Journal, 02.02.2018

5 Questions To Ask About Your Legal Malpractice Insurance
Law360, 11.18.2014

3 Ways To Avoid Conflict Of Interest Land Mines
Law360, 09.18.2014

Real estate-related malpractice claims are up for third year in a row, studies show
Daily Journal, 08.14.2013

Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, "Professional Liability Insurance: What Your E&O Policy Does and Does Not Cover," California Bar Association, Committee on Professional Liability Insurance, June 2, 2016
- Co-presenter with U.S. District Court Bankruptcy Judge Neil Bason, "Social Media: The Digital Highway to Hell?" California Bankruptcy Forum 2016: Ethics Panel at the annual California Bankruptcy Forum, May 21, 2016
- Presenter, California Bar Association Event, "Advertising Your Expertise and Experience: What Can You Do to Build Your Practice While Meeting Your Ethical Obligations?" Webinar, California Bar Committee on Professional Liability Insurance, December 1, 2014
- Presenter, Practising Law Institute, "Getting The Engagement Letter Right," Webinar Program, October 14, 2014

- Presenter, "Mistakes Lawyers Make When They're Desperate for Business," California Bar Annual Solo and Small Firm Summit, June 20, 2014
- Presenter, "Legal Ethics in a Tech World and Tips to Avoid Legal Malpractice Claims," The American Lawyer Media, Litigator Summit, San Francisco, May 27, 2014
- Book Signing for California Legal Malpractice Law, sponsored by the American Lawyer Media, San Francisco, May 27, 2014
- Solo Presenter, "Ethical Considerations for Attorneys Practicing in the Age of Technology," Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, Annual Spring Conference, April 2014
- Video Interview, "Using social media in conjunction with voir dire," *Daily Journal*, October 12, 2013
- Panelist, "Lawyers in Transition: Practical and Ethical Considerations When Making Changes," California State Bar Convention, October 12, 2013
- Presenter, "Client Selection, Relations & Billing: Keeping Your Law Practice Ethically Compliant and Profitable," California Solo and Small Firm Summit, June 21, 2013
- Presenter, "Recent Developments Regarding the 'Genuine Dispute' Defense," Luce Forward Insurance Litigation Seminar, October 14, 2010
- Solo Presenter, "Insurance in a Climate of Change," Luce Forward Insurance Litigation Seminar, September 11, 2008

Memberships

- Member, Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Appointed Member of Cal Bar Affinity that oversees and administers the State Bar of California-sponsored insurance programs pursuant to CA Bus & Prof Code §6141.3
- Member, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles
- Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Member, Illinois Bar Association

Practices

Litigation

Insurance

Industries

Insurance

Education

J.D., Syracuse Law School, *cum laude*

B.A., University of Maryland at College Park

Admissions

California

Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Central, Eastern, Northern and Southern Districts of California