

KATHERINE ANNE HANSEN

PROFILE

Seasoned trial attorney with broad experience in government affairs, legislative analysis and advocacy, civil litigation and negotiation, corporate and government contracts, and public policy. Extensive trial and deposition experience in state and federal court. Skilled in legislative writing and analysis, political and governmental advocacy, and consensus-building from positions in government and politics. Exceptional department leader, with vast experience overseeing, mentoring, and developing staff; developing and meeting office goals; and handling department budget. Committed to volunteering, and community involvement. Licensed in California and all federal district courts in California.

EXPERIENCE

Office of the County Counsel, Monterey County, Salinas, CA

Deputy County Counsel IV, 2019-present

- Attorney in Government Division and Litigation Division
- Counsel, advise and respond to six County departments: IT, Human Resources (Labor & Employment), Emergency Communications, Workforce Development Board, Fleet, and Animal Services
 - Advise, counsel, and negotiate government contracts on behalf of County departments, including complex multi-party government IT contracts (e.g., Microsoft, Lenovo, Zoom)
 - Advise, counsel and negotiate on behalf of County labor and employment disputes, including union negotiations, bargaining unit negotiations, counseling, and disciplinary procedures
 - Draft County ordinances, resolutions, and reports to the Board of Supervisors; draft RFPs, MOUs, and employee policies for all departments
 - Respond to press and other media
 - Serve as counsel for all Brown Act meetings arising from six County departments
 - Provide legal counsel on any matter requested by department heads and elected and appointed officials, as they arise (e.g., legislative intent; negotiation strategy; risk exposure, community interface; consensus-building)

American Association for Justice, Washington, D.C. (California office)

State Affairs Counsel, 2016-2019

- State Affairs Counsel to largest civil justice organization in the U.S. composed of 20,000 members; AAJ promotes a fair and effective civil justice system and protects the 7th Amendment
- Provide legislative advocacy and analysis to 50 states, to help states promote pro-civil justice state legislation consistent with federal legislation and public policy
- Specialize in legislation addressing governmental immunity, municipal law, sexual assault, climate change, opioids, and preemption
- Draft model legislation, rewrite proposed legislation and provide amended language to find compromise
- Meet with federal legislators and state legislators to advocate for pro-civil justice laws
- Speak on behalf of AAJ to press, and at national conferences, conventions, and meetings, regarding public policy and legislative efforts by AAJ
- Serve on Uniform Law Commission's drafting committees to provide AAJ's perspective on model legislation
- Previously served as Deputy Director of Membership of AAJ, overseeing a team of nine employees who handled member recruitment, retention, and engagement.

The Veen Firm, PC, San Francisco, CA

Trial Attorney, Civil Litigation, 2014-2016

- Trial attorney for those who suffered from catastrophic injuries, psychological injuries, and wrongful death; also handled employment litigation
- Tried multiple cases to verdict, in multiple-month trials
- Took and defended hundreds of depositions, including experts, parties, and physicians
- Mediated dozens of cases with successful outcomes
- Recipient of Rising Star Award in 2011- 2015 and chosen as one of the Top Women Attorneys in Northern California in 2012-2015
- Leadership Academy Fellow with Consumer Attorneys of California 2015
- Authored three published articles in statewide legal journals

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, San Francisco, CA

Partner, Civil Litigation, 2008-2013

- Litigation partner and handling attorney for hundreds of high-exposure general liability cases
- Trial experience in state and federal court with very successful results
- Defended municipalities, large international businesses, small businesses, and individuals
- Managed all aspects of defense litigation, from pre-litigation through jury trial, in high-exposure cases including wrongful death, catastrophic injury, premises liability, product liability, construction defect, environmental claims, general tort claims, complex litigation, and employment litigation
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Barbary Coast Consulting, San Francisco, CA

Vice President, Government Affairs, 2007-2008

- Handled all aspects of government affairs, including strategic messaging, media relations, crisis management, lobbying, coalition building, and community outreach
- Engaged in legislative and political advocacy in numerous jurisdictions and forums, including the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor's office, planning commissions, planning departments, and other governmental entities
- Developed significant new business, resulting in high-profile clients including Polo Ralph Lauren and Whole Foods Market

San Francisco City and County Board of Supervisors, San Francisco, CA

Legislative Aide to Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, 2007

- Staffed San Francisco Land Use and Economic Development Committee; analyzed all legislation heard by the committee and prepared strategy for effective advocacy
- Prepared legislation regarding energy, redevelopment, public housing, green building, and water rights; advocated on behalf of said legislation; assisted in implementation of legislation
- Negotiated with city departments, private entities, NGOs, and community groups on issues relating to the environment, energy, redevelopment, new development, funding, the budget, and services, in order to build consensus among stakeholders
- Represented the supervisor before the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, and testified at multiple commissions regarding the Supervisor's positions
- Handled all press communications for office

Gordon & Rees LLP, San Francisco, CA

Senior Associate, Civil Litigation, 2003-2007

- Assigned primarily to pharmaceutical and medical device practice, specifically fenfluramine-phentermine ("Fen-Phen") litigation, Bextra/Celebrex litigation, and polio vaccine/SV40 litigation
- Selected for an elite team of litigators to travel nationwide to depose plaintiffs, fact witnesses, cardiologists, psychiatrists, and experts in sophisticated claims alleging primary pulmonary hypertension ("PPH") from Fen-Phen use
- Took and defended depositions of plaintiffs, physicians, and witnesses; argued at hearings in state and federal court; wrote and successfully argued dispositive motions.

San Francisco County District Attorney's Office, San Francisco, CA

Assistant District Attorney, Criminal Division, 2002-2003

- Assigned to misdemeanor trial unit, preliminary hearing unit, and twice-weekly calendar assignment.
- Tried multiple misdemeanor cases and conducted over 400 preliminary hearings.
- Negotiated pre-preliminary hearing settlements. Interviewed witnesses and handled felony arraignments.
- Wrote and argued motions in felony and misdemeanor cases.

San Francisco City and County Board of Supervisors, San Francisco, CA

Legislative Aide to Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, 2002

- Reviewed legislation and researched issues surrounding legislation to respond to constituent concerns
- Staffed Budget Committee; analyzed proposed county budgets, met with stakeholders and elected officials, and prepared revisions to budget
- Planned and executed regular Town Hall meetings; managed Supervisor's schedule

- Met with interest groups and constituents regarding community concerns and legislation; reviewed and discussed constituent concerns with the Supervisor in preparation for hearings. Handled press calls.

EDUCATION

University of San Francisco School of Law, San Francisco, CA

Juris Doctor, 2000

- Vice President, Women's Law Association, 1998-1999
- Secretary, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and Student Bar Association, 1998-1999
- Member, Public Interest Law Foundation and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, 1997-2000

University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Communications, 1997

- UCSB Sorority President of the Year, 1997
- President, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, 1996–1997
- Member, Order of Omega Honor Society, 1995–1997

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ACTIVITIES

- Consumer Attorneys of California – Board of Directors – 2019-present
- Monterey County Women Lawyers Association – Board of Directors – 2019-present
- Petaluma Educational Foundation – Executive Committee of the Board of Directors – 2015-2018
- Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church – Elder and church's attorney (pro bono) – 2014-2018
- The City Club of San Francisco – Board of Governors – 2015-present
- Commission on the Status of Women, Sonoma County – Commissioner – 2014-2016
- YMCA, San Francisco, Shih Yu-Lang Central – Board of Managers – 2005-2010
- San Francisco SAFE – Board of Directors, Vice President -- 2005-2007
- City College of San Francisco, Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee – committee member – 2006-2007
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Greater Bay Area Chapter – volunteer – 2004-2005
- Runner, ballet dancer, yogi