

LEGAL PRACTICE

Misa Stefen Koller Ward, Senior Attorney, Westminster, CA

Oct 2024 - Present

- Handle public entity cases including police and firefighter, hospital, court and county, and school district accounts

Michael Sullivan & Associates, Supervising Attorney, Ontario, CA

Oct 2021 – Oct 2024

- Took an average of two complex cases to trial monthly; obtained two take-nothings; mentor and develop associates
- Saved over \$1.7m in client costs by settling files early, prepared settlement valuations to highlight cost savings
- Drafted about 35 well-researched briefs, motions, and pleadings to pinpoint case law and issues; attended MSCs
- Assisted with interactive process, employee classifications, internal complaints/investigation including harassment and retaliation
- Streamlined firm workflow processes in billing, litigation procedure, and case handling by amending resources and work product
- Exceeded billing targets by 109% each quarter by expeditious file closure for clients and advising sound legal strategy
- Lead and presented 20 client meetings and functions to provide case law updates and legal trends
- Convinced 25 medical expert physicians during cross exam to amend their opinions and understanding of the issues
- Spearheaded collaboration between associates by utilizing already existing resources to implement efficient communication
- Demonstrated skilled social acumen in collaborating with challenging opposing counsel in devising settlements

Hanna Brophy MacLean, MacAleer & Jensen, Associate, Orange, CA

Oct 2017 – Oct 2021

- Took an average of two cases to trial monthly; obtained a take-nothing and prevailed at four other trials/expedited hearings
- Surpassed all attorneys firmwide in most trials during first year at firm
- Drafted hundreds of settlement documents, prepared hundreds of settlement valuations, briefs, and motions; leveraged settlement
- Filed three successful petitions for recon and costs/sanctions; analyzed thousands of medical reports, prepared numerous ratings, took and defended a hundred depositions including PMK depositions and other key witnesses, research & analyze issues
- Lead and present at about 20 client functions including HB Academy trainings

Samuelson Gonzalez Valenzuela & Brown, Associate, Newport Beach, CA

June 2014 – Oct 2017

- Prepared hundreds of settlement valuations, drafted settlement documents, argued numerous briefs and motions
- Managed a multitude of discovery for lien issues, resolved hundreds of liens below settlement authority
- Settled a myriad of cases early, appeared at hearings, analyzed and advised of legal options & strategies

Law Offices of Callas & Heise, Associate, Upland, CA

Feb 2014 – June 2014

- Litigated issues on behalf of several insurance carriers, self-insured employers, school districts, and sports applicants
- Negotiated settlements, attended hearings, drafted correspondence & reports, advised legal remedies, analyzed discovery

Law Offices of Fred Thiagarajah, Associate Attorney, Newport Beach, CA

Jan 2014 – Feb 2014

- Second-chaired a criminal jury trial; defendant acquitted

Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Law Clerk, Los Angeles, CA

Sep 2012 – Jun 2013

- Drafted a PC §11350 charge sentencing memorandum to hold extradited defendant pending multiple murder charges
- Prepared trial material for over 10 capital cases; drafted all documents for multiple Grand Jury hearings from October 2012 through January 2013
- Analyzed and prepared memoranda of transcripts and drafted case summaries for a serial murder case

LEGAL CLERKSHIP EXPERIENCE

San Diego City Attorney's Office, Law Clerk, San Diego, CA

Dec 2011 – May 2012

- Reviewed voluminous affidavits in support of arrest warrants as part of the Issuing Unit
- Wrote approximately 50 memoranda to issue or reject cases for misdemeanor charges

Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Law Clerk, Norwalk, CA

May 2011 – Aug 2011

- Proved up an *Estes* robbery in court on a probation violation hearing; cross-examined defendant
- Appeared on prolific preliminary hearings, questioned witnesses; several defendants held to answer on multiple counts
- Researched law for about 15 trials regarding hearsay, robbery, striking testimony, Confrontation Clause, etc.
- Created a presentation for closing argument for a double homicide jury trial

San Diego Public Defender's Office, Law Clerk, San Diego, CA

Jun 2009 – Aug 2009

- Counseled clients on possible probation terms and legal options; edited motions, briefs, and witness impact statements for trial
- Wrote §654 informal probation motions for juvenile court hearings

INTERESTS

Yoga, the beach, superhero/comic movies, languages, exploring Southeast Asia

LICENSES

CA State Bar Member #286230

Dec 2012

EDUCATION

University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA

Aug 2008 – May 2012

Awards: University of San Diego School of Law Grant

Activities: American Association for Justice Mock Trial Competition, *Competitor*
Student Bar Association, *Honor Court, Judiciary Committee*

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Arts International Development, Double Minors Women's Studies and Philosophy

Activities: UCLA Spirit Squad, Los Angeles, CA

Kappa Delta Sorority, Los Angeles, CA

2008

Sep 2005 – Jun 2006

Dec 2004 – Jun 2008

LANGUAGES

Teo Chiu (fluent), Vietnamese (conversant), Mandarin (basic), Spanish (basic), French (basic)