

Linda Puertas

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Special Counsel

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Litigation; Appellate Law; Professional Responsibility



Linda Puertas is a Special Counsel in the Firm's Orange County office, and a member of the Litigation Practice group. Ms. Puertas focuses on aggressive pre-trial motion and appellate strategy. Equally an academic and practitioner, Ms. Puertas hunts for every procedural advantage to secure desirable outcomes for clients. For example, early in her legal career, Ms. Puertas assisted in drafting the successful motion to dismiss a national class action lawsuit involving a chain of home improvement stores. More recently, Ms. Puertas convinced the California Court of Appeal to apply—for the first time—a Rule of Court to overcome respondent's forfeiture challenge to the client's untimely appeal.

Ms. Puertas also has demonstrated excellence in statutory interpretation and constitutional law including these successes:

- Challenged the trial court's imprecise application of federal and state statutes protecting Native American tribes' rights to intervene in child welfare proceedings, which resulted in a limited reversal and remand for the client;
- Argued the California legislature's undefined term "substance abuse" in the Welfare and Institutions Code did not include a parent's use of medical marijuana. Appellate briefing and argument resulted in a reversal of the trial court's order as unsupported by substantial evidence;
- Conducted extensive legislative research to defend a prominent computer company in a multi-district class action alleging violation of a federal identity theft statute; and
- Defended against a structural due process challenge to a trial court's evidentiary rulings, securing an affirmance of the trial court's order for the respondent.

Ms. Puertas brings over eight years of experience as a court-appointed attorney for the California Court of Appeal, Second and Fourth Districts, as well as ten years of teaching at UCI Law School and USC Gould School of Law. She was awarded "Upper-Division Professor of the Year" at UCI Law for teaching Evidence from 2019-2020. Immediately after graduating from UCLA Law, Ms. Puertas served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Christina A. Snyder in the Central District of California, and worked as an associate in the litigation group at a large international law firm.

Education

Ms. Puertas obtained her J.D. degree from UCLA School of Law, where she served as a senior editor of the *UCLA Law Review* and a teaching assistant for the Lawyering Skills course. During her third year, Ms. Puertas co-wrote the winning appellate brief in a California Court of Appeal case affecting the termination of parental rights. Ms. Puertas earned her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Scripps College in Claremont, California, where she received Phi Beta Kappa honors and the Outstanding Senior Thesis Award in History.

Bar Admissions

- California

Community

- Adjunct Professor, UCI Law School and USC Gould School of Law, 10 years