

**Karen L. Stevenson**

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Karen L. Stevenson is Of Counsel in the Firm's Litigation Practice Group in Los Angeles. She specializes in complex commercial matters, including insurance coverage for policyholders, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, unfair competition, and business torts. A skilled trial lawyer, Ms. Stevenson is lead counsel in high-stakes disputes for national and regional clients, including banks, institutional investors, and mortgage lenders. She is a frequent speaker and advisor on electronic discovery, the admissibility of electronically stored information, cybersecurity and social media.

Ms. Stevenson is Co-Chair of the ABA Litigation Section's Women-in-Insurance Subcommittee and Managing Editor of the ABA's Litigation News and Litigation Update. She is a member of Women in e-Discovery and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, and she serves on the L.A. County Bar Association Litigation Section Executive Committee.

She also serves as a Trustee to the Rhodes Trust and as the 2011-2012 Rhodes Scholarship District Secretary for Southern California and Arizona. Ms. Stevenson sits on the Board of Directors for the Culver City Chamber of Commerce and for the Arts and Sciences Foundation for the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and is a past President of the Board of Directors for the nonprofit, Women's Care Cottage.

Ms. Stevenson has been selected a Southern California *Super Lawyer Rising Star* three times in 2005, 2007 and 2008 and nominated by the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles as one of the Top 100 Women Litigators in Los Angeles.

**Representative Matters**

- On behalf of national insurance broker, successfully demurred to \$20 million professional negligence complaint and dismissal affirmed on appeal
- Represent manufacturer/policyholder in insurance coverage dispute concerning losses associated with contaminated food product
- Advise financial services clients on insurance coverage issues arising from electronic fraud, data breach and cyber crimes
- Successfully defended biotechnology company in dispute with Department of Defense regarding alleged breach of joint research and development agreement.
- Successfully opposed motion for summary judgment on behalf of mortgage loan originator in breach of contract action alleging damages in excess of \$44 million and involving secondary market securitizations of subprime mortgage loans.
- Lead trial defense counsel in sexual harassment action against a leading California escrow company and its senior officers.
- Lead trial defense counsel for mortgage lender in national class action alleging racially discriminatory lending practices.
- Second-chaired a successful federal court jury trial representing an Oregon-based cargo airline in a breach of contract action in which the jury awarded over \$16 million in damages to the plaintiff. Verdict upheld by the Ninth Circuit.
- Member of defense team that won summary judgment on behalf of a major accounting firm in an action for professional negligence brought by investment partnership members. *Mariani v. Price Waterhouse*, 70 Cal. App. 4th 685 (1999).
- Represented over 40 institutional investors in securities litigation against major investment banks for misrepresentation in offering memoranda for Enron-backed securities.

## Recent Publications & Presentations

- "E-Discovery – Best Practices for Litigation Holds and Preservation," the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Federal Court Boot Camp, May 15, 2015
- "Creating Your Complaint After *Towmbly* and *Iqbal*," the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Federal Court Boot Camp, May 15 2015
- "It's Not Nice to Brag, But Is It Disparagement? Recent Trends in Coverage for Implied Disparagement Claims," ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee's Annual CLE Conference, Tucson, Arizona, March 8, 2014
- "Cybersecurity: Risks and Resolution," Buchalter Nemer *Video Blog*, December 2013
- Commentary, "Liability Fears Mount Among Legislative Efforts to Stop Cyberattacks," *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, November 26, 2013
- Moderator, "Success," featuring women Rhodes Scholars, Oxford University, September 18, 2013
- Commentary, "Threat of the Week: Cyber Insurance – Need It or Not?," *Credit Union Times*, September 6, 2013
- Commentary, "Cost of Cybersecurity: Cyber-Insurance, New Laws and a New Approach," *Hacksurfer*, August 5, 2013
- Panelist, "The How of eDiscovery: Making It Work in the Real World," Laguna Beach eDiscovery Retreat, July 29, 2013, Laguna Beach, CA
- "Protecting Your Small Business from Cybersecurity Risks," Culver City Chamber of Commerce, April 18, 2013
- "The Bodily Injury Concept in Liability Policies Revisited," Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee's Annual Seminar, February 28, 2013
- "Critical Self-Promotion Skills for Rainmaking," ABA Women in Leadership Conference, December 6, 2012
- "Who Moved My Terabytes? Tips and Strategies for Mastering E-Discovery," Commercial Law League of America, October 12, 2012
- "2011 E-Discovery Wrap Up: Social Media, Statistical Sampling, Smart Phones, and Other Digital Innovations," Bridgeport CLE Program, March 23, 2012
- "Ninth Circuit Sets Limits on Breaking Jury Deadlock," *ABA Litigation News*, September 14, 2011
- "California Retailers Banned from Asking for Zip Codes," *ABA Litigation News*, Summer 2011
- "Magistrate Judge Examines Broad Scope of Rule 30(b)(6) Depositions," *ABA Litigation News*, Spring 2011
- "Litigation in the Social Networking Era," *ABA*, March 24, 2011; *Points & Authorities*, Summer 2010
- "Lateral Associate's Conflict of Interest Disqualifies Entire Firm," *ABA Litigation News*, Winter 2011
- "Alabama Supreme Court Overturns Fraud Verdicts Against Drug Companies," *Litigation News*, February 22, 2010
- "E-Discovery: We're Not in Kansas Anymore," *Of Counsel*, April 2007
- "Retailers Beware: Do You Know What Your Receipts Say?" *Los Angeles Business Journal*, March 26, 2007
- Co-author, "Involuntary Dissolution: The Nuclear Option," *Business Law News*, Issue 3 2009
- "Rodriguez v. West Publishing: Hidden Class Rep Incentive Deals Lead to Denial of Award Altogether," *Litigation News*, Summer 2009
- "Proposed Amendments to Rule 26(a)(2) Expand Expert Disclosures, Clarify Work-Product Protections," *Litigation News*, September 2008
- "Courts Confront Admissibility of Text and Instant Messages," *Litigation News*, April 2008
- "What's On Your Witness's MySpace Page?" *Litigation News*, March 2008

Ms. Stevenson earned her J.D. *with distinction* at Stanford Law School. While at Stanford Law, with her teammate, Ms. Stevenson won the Marian Rice Kirkwood Moot Court Award for Best Team of Advocates. She earned an M.A. in European History at Oxford University, England as a Rhodes Scholar and received her B.A. in History (Phi Beta Kappa) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where she was a Morehead Scholar.

**Areas of Practice**

Litigation

Insurance Coverage

Unfair Competition

Financial Institutions Litigation

**Bar Admissions**

California

**Court Admissions**

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit



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