

Gianna Gruenwald

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SUMMARY

Experienced attorney with trial expertise in contentious probate litigation matters involving trusts, estates, and conservatorships. Skilled in representing individual and institutional clients from intake to trial or settlement. Proven track record of building and expanding probate litigation practice. Excellent negotiation and mediation skills. Committed to achieving favorable outcomes for clients while minimizing risk and expense.

EXPERIENCE

Law Offices of Gianna Gruenwald, Newport Beach, CA

2021-present

Founder

- Represent high-net-worth clients in complex probate litigation matters, including trusts, estates, and conservatorships from intake to trial or settlement.
- Advise professional fiduciaries and corporate trustees regarding administration of large estates.
- Provide mediation services for families who seek to avoid litigation.

Ross, Wersching & Wolcott LLP, Costa Mesa, CA.

2014 - 2021

Partner

- Represent trustees, beneficiaries, conservators, and conservatees in high-conflict probate litigation matters, including trusts, estates, and conservatorships.
- Successfully removed trustee for breach of fiduciary duty and replaced with professional fiduciary to improve management of commercial shopping center.
- Expanded firm's probate litigation practice and trained associates in probate litigation matters.

Nossaman LLP, Irvine, CA

2012 - 2014

Associate

- Represent clients in all phases of trust, estate, elder abuse and conservatorship litigation.
- Won \$2.1 million judgment for benefit of incapacitated conservatee after a two-week trial in trust accounting action.
- Successfully propose creative solutions and negotiate settlement agreements that satisfy clients' goals without the risk and expense of trial.

Law Offices of Besson & Yarbrough, Los Altos, CA

2010 - 2011

Associate

- Advised fiduciaries and beneficiaries in litigation concerning trust and estate disputes, conservatorships, elder abuse, and end-of-life care.
- Successfully defended trustee against breach of trust claims in three-day accounting trial.
- Obtained protective order against large hospital to keep client's father on life support.

- Represent consumers and small businesses in multi-million-dollar antitrust class actions.
- Researched and drafted class certification, summary judgment and evidentiary briefs, and selected trial exhibits in a federal price-fixing case that settled for \$325 million.
- Successfully negotiated discovery, argued a motion to compel, and drafted an appellate brief in a state action that settled for \$5.25 million.

EDUCATION

University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, CA
J.D., 2003

California Supreme Court, San Francisco, CA
Judicial Extern to the Honorable Joyce L. Kennard, 2003

University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
B.A., Political Science, *Cum Laude* and College Honors, 1999

MEMBERSHIPS & LEADERSHIP

California State Bar (2003-present)

Orange County Bar Association, Trusts & Estates Section, Chair (2017)

Orange County Bar Association, Mentor (2017-2018)

Orange County Superior Court, Court-Appointed Attorney Panel (2014-2022)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Orange County Bar Association, *Estate Planning and Dispute Resolution In Light of the Judicial System's Budget Crisis*, 2013

Orange County Bar Association, *Think Smart: Protecting & Serving the Client in a Digital World* (Program Chair), 2016

Orange County Bar Association, *Tips & Strategies for Practicing in Probate Court*, 2018

Orange County Bar Association, *The Conservatorship Trial of Old Mother Hubbard*, 2019