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California State Bar, Admission, 1993

Formal Education

Chico State University, Chico, B.S. 1989
Golden Gate University of Law, San Francisco Juris Doctorate 1992

Contra Costa County Bar Association Member
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Member
Member, National Child Abuse Defense and Resource Center

Most Recent Continuing Education (not all listed):

Traumatic Brain Injury and Abusive Head Trauma Webinars (2): Godoy Forensics 2020
Advokids year in review Dependency February 2020
Collateral consequences training 2020, Criminal Division Contra Costa County Bar Association
Histology Training in Canada, 2020
Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Seminar 2018 (two day)
Reasonable efforts and new laws for CFS 2020 (Retired Judge Edwards)
Preventing Wrongful Convictions-NACDL two day seminar 2019.
DVRO Hearing and procedure 2020, Family Law section Contra Costa County Bar Association
Dependency Law Training, 2017 and 2011, 8 hours each (recent update 2019)
NCDAC Sex Abuse Seminar, November 2016-video
National Child Abuse Defense Seminar (Two-Days), Las Vegas 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2019 (all-two day seminar)
Evidence and Justice Seminar Three days, Infant Trauma (inclu. Dependency) August 2013
Juvenile Dependency/Defense Practice Seminar, Monterey, 2 day, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2014 (by video)
Dependency Law Training, May 2011, 8 hours. Upcoming JAN. 2016
Forensic Pathology Seminar, 2012, Kansas City, MO
17th Annual California Appellate Defense Counsel Statewide Conference, 2010
Diversity Training, Nevada, 2010, Nevada, 2012
Permanency: A Legal and Psychological Mandate for Children Seminar, 2010
Numerous Luncheons regarding Criminal Law issues from presentation of Evidence, DUI, Laboratory Standards, Use of Psychologists
High Justice, 2008
Contra Costa Laboratory Tour Seminar, 2009
First Annual Management Institute, Berkeley CPDA, 2006
Defending Sex Crimes Seminar, 2004
Winning with Cal Crim Jury Instructions, 2006
Misc. Brown Bag Lunch Seminars Juvenile/Criminal Law, 2003-2012

Speaking Engagements at MCLE Spectacular, and Private Engagements, Contra Costa County:

Speaker and Creator of three-part training seminar, W&I 300(e) and Me. 2021

Speaker and Creator: *Juvenile Dependency, Los Medanos College* 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Speaker: *Upcoming: Cross Over issues in Dependency and Criminal Law*

Speaker: *AFCC Conference, Feb. 2016*

Speaker Co-Creator of: *Gender Bias, 2006*

Speaker Co-Creator of: *Cross Over Issues in Domestic Violence Cases and Juvenile Court, 2005*

Speaker Co-Creator: *How to Handle Sex Abuse Cases, 2004*

Published Opinion: ***L.Z. v. Superior Court, 188 Cal. App. 4th 1285 (2010)***, My appeal disposition trial prior to appeal. I authored all briefs. Unanimous reversal regarding W&I 300(e) allegations.

Several Appellate briefs and Writs filed and argued including multiple Oral Arguments, First, Fourth, Third, and Sixth District Court of Appeals. Dependency cases/Criminal cases.

Trial/Contest/Litigation Experience:

Abusive Head Trauma Alameda County 2021, child returned right before trial, Jesse Gill, Esq. Senior Associate partnered on the case.

Abusive head trauma/fracture Napa, 2020 dismissed day before trial was set to begin. Multiple motions filed.

Physical Abuse count dismissed at trial 2021, Napa

Child Strangulation case, Contra Costa County, child not detained after argument at detention hearing, case dismissed pre-jurisdictional hearing. 2019

Spiral fracture child abuse allegation, Napa, child returned after detention hearing and case dismissed pre-jurisdiction hearing. (2019)

Intentional submersion burn trial, Alameda County 2016, Dependency matter.

High Conflict Custody Trial, False allegations of physical abuse, 2015-2016, Contra Costa County: court finds no abuse occurred.

High Conflict Custody Trial, False allegations of sexual abuse, sexual abuse found NOT true. 2021

25-life Homicide Trial/Child Death, 2013, San Joaquin County, JURY TRIAL/Not Guilty all counts.

25-life Homicide Trial/Child Death, 2013 San Joaquin County, Client faces life in prison, Felony plea offered on first day of trial. Client released.

Infant Bone Disease case, San Diego Trial, Dependency 2013, 2014, two appellate filings and both unanimous reversals. Child goes home

Multiple sex abuse trial, Martinez, CA 2011-2012 (6 witnesses, several motions)

W&I 300 (b)(d) (c) trial Alameda County, 11 months, several briefs, 10 witnesses, 2011-2012, Alameda County Shaken Baby matter, 2012

Alameda County Superior Court, Complex Medical, Petition Dismissed, 2009

Merced County Superior Court, Petition Dismissed at Jurisdiction 2006 Sex Abuse 300(d) case, The Honorable Judge Dougherty *Approximately 7 witnesses called.*

Contra Costa County Superior Court, Shaken Baby Petition Dismissed at Jurisdiction 2006, Brief Submitted and Argued on Causation, 300(a)

Contra Costa County Shaken Baby Case, 2008, shaken baby allegations found not true.

Santa Clara Superior Court, Sex Abuse 300(d) Trial to Contest in 2005, 20+ witnesses called, Jurisdiction Taken, Matter appealed, Denied on Appeal with 17 Page unpublished opinion, split decision

Contested OVER 200 Juvenile Cases since beginning practice in 1993. Handled HUNDREDS OF JUVENILE CASES uncontested.

Jury and Court Trials/Criminal Defense: Est. 50+

Unpublished Juvenile Decision reversed on Appeal based on my No Reasonable Services argument at trial, 1998.

2013 Reversal in the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Broken bone 300(e) case UNPUBLISHED, court ruled reversal to prevent a "substantial injustice".
Expert Cross Examination Experience and work with in the following fields:
Medical Doctors, Laboratory Experts, Children Therapists, Lie Detector Examiners, Child Sex Abuse Experts, Shaken Baby Experts, SART Examination Nurses, Forensic Pathology Experts, Forensic Neuro-Pathology Experts, Infectious Disease Experts, Police Experts, Burn expert cross-examination Forensic Interview Techniques studies and work with experts as well as cross examination of experts in many of the fields above.

I have mentored several new lawyers and law students.
I have sat Pro-Tem in Juvenile Court on several occasions.
I am currently writing a book on Dependency in California to help families.