

Susan K. Alexander

Email: suzialexander@effectiveequity.org Phone: 415-271-0256

Attorney and community builder with 35+ years of experience in advocacy, strategic thinking, and creative solutions. A highly effective leader who excels at identifying the essence of an issue, crafting a narrative, and leading a team toward ultimate desired outcomes. Driven by fundamental beliefs in justice, equity, and the crucial significance of amplifying unheard voices.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, San Francisco, CA 2000 – present

Twenty+-year career leading strategy for national securities fraud class action practice, first-chairing legal teams from multiple law firms in appeals in circuit courts and the Supreme Court to create actual cost to corporate insiders who defraud institutional investors, primarily labor unions and pension funds

Of Counsel

- Continue to support former partners in ongoing securities fraud litigation.

Partner

- Drove positive results, yielding hundreds of millions of dollars in recovery for defrauded investors;
- Assessed cases in the context of developing legal issues nationally; positioned cases and framed issues to bring success in both the instant case as well as for broader legal progress;
- Briefed and argued cases in federal appeals courts throughout the country;
- Briefed cases in the United States Supreme Court;
- Negotiated and collaborated with Securities Exchange Commission and Solicitor General's office.

Special Counsel

- Initially joined practice part-time while raising three children; transitioned to full-time partner.

Landels, Ripley & Diamond LLP, San Francisco, CA 1999 – 2000

Defended companies and individuals in civil litigation

Associate

- Researched and litigated employment and First Amendment issues.

Death Penalty Appeals, San Francisco, CA 1990 – 1999

Ten years defending individuals sentenced to death without adequate due process

Consultant

- Litigated and consulted on direct and collateral appeals on behalf of individuals sentenced to death.

California Appellate Project, Attorney

- Strategized, developed, and wrote appeals and petitions for writs of habeas corpus on behalf of individuals sentenced to death;
- Supervised private court-appointed attorneys in appeals and habeas writs.

Bronson, Bronson & McKinnon LLP, San Francisco, CA 1986 – 1990

Defended companies and individuals in civil litigation

Associate

- Litigated professional malpractice and product liability cases on behalf of attorneys, doctors, and automobile manufacturers;
- Obtained defense verdicts in two jury trials.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Larkin Street Youth Services

2013 – 2022

- Board Chair, 2019-2022, Board of 26-29 Directors, supporting Agency that provides housing, employment, education, and behavioral health services to 12- to 24-year olds experiencing homelessness;
- Partnered extensively with Executive Director on implementing Strategic Plan initiatives, pivoting services during global COVID pandemic and Bay Area wildfires, and collaborating with City of San Francisco to end youth homelessness;
- Centered diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts as priority for the Board of Directors;
- Chaired Development Committee and Board Recruitment and Governance Committee.

Bay Area Black-Jewish Unity Group

2020 – 2021

- Member of social justice community collaboration, engaged in civic action.

Tzedek Council, Temple Emanu-el

2015 - present

- Working with team of congregants and clergy to envision and effect social justice efforts for congregation and broader community;
- Actively engaged in current working group to outline racial equity and anti-bias work for congregation.

Federal Bar Association, Northern California

2012 – present

- Past-President;
- Continue to serve on Executive Committee of organization that connects federal practitioners with the judiciary to provide educational, social, and community-building events.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Pro Bono Program

2010 – present

- District Coordinator for 400+ attorney program that provides pro bono representation to individuals as requested by the Court.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Rules Committee

2013 - 2018

- Asked by Court to Chair committee of judges and lawyers to review, revise, and improve Court rules.

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference

2010 - 2013

- Selected by the Court to inaugural group of 18 appellate attorney representatives to judicial conference for Circuit that spans nine states and two territories, focused on improving the administration of justice.

HONORS

American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, elected by peers following review by judges, opposing counsel
California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, elected by peers based on extensive experience

EDUCATION

UCLA Law School, JD, graduated 1986

Stanford University, BA with honors, Political Science, graduated 1983