



## Karen M. Sullivan

### PARTNER

San Diego

619.230.7472

ksullivan@grsm.com

---

### RELATED SERVICES

- Environmental & Toxic Tort
- Product Liability
- Appellate
- Class Action Defense
- Construction

### OFFICES

- San Diego

### OVERVIEW

Karen M. Sullivan has dedicated more than 20 years to defending and managing high stakes litigation in California and the western states, including appearing and arguing in the vast majority of California state courthouses and federal courts throughout California. Karen's defense of products liability litigation ranges from complex products liability and class actions to commercial, environmental, toxic tort, construction, employment, dietary supplement (MDL), food-related, Prop 65, and consumer products litigation.

Throughout her career, Karen has successfully managed and represented companies and businesses, including Fortune 500 companies, securing favorable rulings on complex dispositive and discovery motions, including numerous demurrers, discovery motions, and motions for summary judgment/adjudication. She has also achieved dismissals through creative defense strategies and negotiations during mediations and MSCs. Karen's extensive experience in law and motion includes appellate and writ work. Karen's practice includes lead on discovery, depositions (taking more than 100 depositions of

parties, witnesses, experts, and PMKs), trial prep, and trial motions in complex litigation. Her thorough understanding of complex scientific and medical epidemiology defenses and issues has contributed to her success in mediation and trial.

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Summary judgment granted in 2022 in a breach of contract case pending in San Mateo Superior Court involving allegations of a waterproofing product failure (Case No. 20-CIV-01182) (see article in the Daily Journal, dated January 21, 2022).
- Summary judgment granted in 2019 in a toxic tort case pending in Los Angeles Superior Court on grounds of corporate/successor liability.
- Summary judgment granted in 2017 a construction case pending in San Diego Superior Court involving allegations of waterproofing product failure in complex high rise construction matter (Case No. 37-2013-00049168).
- Defense verdict in 6-week jury trial in 2013 in an environmental case pending in Fresno Superior Court involving allegations of exposure to carbon monoxide and diesel exhaust emissions (Case No. 09CEGG04550 (see Daily Journal as one of the top defense verdicts of the year).
- Summary judgment granted in 2013 on FHSA preemption grounds in products warning case involving allegations of brain injury pending in Los Angeles Superior Court (Case No. GC 048491).
- Summary judgment granted in 2013 in a products liability toxic tort matter on the grounds on lack of evidence of a causal connection pending in Orange County Superior Court (Case No. 30-2007-00031378).
- Summary adjudication granted in 2011 in a products liability toxic tort matter on the causes of action for breach of warranty, warnings, and punitive damages pending in Los Angeles Superior Court (Case No. BC416990).
- Summary judgment granted in 2009 in a products liability printing industry toxic tort matter on the grounds on lack of evidence of a causal connection pending in Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Granting of numerous demurrers, motions to strike and discovery motions in products liability case, including discovery motions in the ephedra litigation and demurrers in the products liability toxic tort litigation.

## PRESENTATIONS

- Speaker, Environmental Litigation and Products Liability, CPCU, 2023
- Speaker, Environmental Litigation, Brain Injury, and Products Liability, CPCU 2022
- Speaker, Litigation Involving the Use of Hair Straighteners, Harris Martin National Conference, 2015

## CREDENTIALS

### Admissions

- California (2002)
- New Mexico (2001)
- U.S. District Court, Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Central Districts of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

### Memberships

- American Bar Association

### Education

- J.D., University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, 2001
  - Trial Advocacy Concentration
  - Traynor Honor Society
  - Honors Mock trial team
  - Moot court finalist
  - American Jurisprudence Award for highest grade in Civil Procedure
  - Witkins Award for highest grade in Community Property
  - Dean's list
  - Volunteered at the Community Legal Services
  - Academic scholarship
- B.A., Political Science and Government, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1997
  - Sorority involvement in Panhellenic Delegate/Executive Committee for 2 years
  - Intern for US Senator and US Congresswoman