

AMY R. MARGOLIES

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PRACTICE AREAS:

Appellate Practice
Labor and Employment
Police Liability Defense
Public Entity Defense
Employment Practices Liability

EDUCATION:

San Diego State University, San Diego (B.A. 2007)
University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego (J.D. 2011)

BAR ADMISSIONS:

State of California
United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit
United States District Court for the Central District of California
United States District Court for the Southern District of California

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

San Diego Bar Association

SEMINARS:

Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) De-escalation Training seminar, 2020
Force Science Institute Certification course, 2018

AWARDS:

Pro Bono Legal Service Award, 2011

First Place, American Association for Justice Trial Competition, 2009
SCHOLARSHIPS:
Academic Merit Scholarship Recipient, University of San Diego School of Law. 2008-2011

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) Panel Attorney, 2012-2021
San Diego Inn of Court Trial Advocacy, 2014
Community and Diversity Outreach Mentor, University of San Diego, 2009-2011
Dean's Advisory Council, University of San Diego School of Law, 2008-2011
Human Trafficking and the Law, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, 2010





EXPERIENCE:

Ms. Margolies graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and Women's Studies from San Diego State University. She went on to attend the University of San Diego School of Law on an academic scholarship and received her Juris Doctorate with a concentration in Criminal Litigation.

Prior to her commitment to police liability defense, Ms. Margolies interned in the San Diego County District Attorney's Office in their Sex Crimes and Stalking, and Family Protection divisions. She provided pro bono services to the Legal Aid Society assisting with translation services for Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence. Ms. Margolies also interned with the San Diego County Public Defender's Office working on all levels of criminal cases in both the Central Misdemeanor Unit and the Major Crimes Division, where she second chaired a felony-murder trial.

Ms. Margolies has spent her career defending peace officers and public entities throughout California. Her practice areas have included all aspects of representation of law enforcement, including officer-involved shooting incidents, in-custody deaths, Internal Affairs investigations, criminal defense, and administrative defense of disciplinary actions. For nearly a decade, Ms. Margolies served as a PORAC panel attorney, defending local, state, and federal officers in discipline proceedings, arbitrations, and administrative hearings. Ms. Margolies has also provided training seminars, including legal updates, best practices on investigations, and advisal on the Procedural Safety Officers Bill of Rights to local agencies.

Additionally, Ms. Margolies has served as lead counsel on several oral arguments and briefings in Superior Court and has argued successfully several times before the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District.

Ms. Margolies' current practice encompasses all aspects of civil litigation relating to the defense of California public entities, including wrongful death, civil rights, police liability, and appellate practice. She has experience in all phases of litigation, including responding to written discovery, drafting and arguing dispositive motions in court, taking and defending depositions, mediations, and settlement negotiations, examining witnesses in trial and preparing post-trial motions and appellate briefing. Ms. Margolies has had exceptional success disposing of cases by way of pre-trial motions and has unique experience with issues related to public entity defense. Most recently, Ms. Margolies sat second chair at trial in Los Angeles on a federal civil rights case against her law enforcement clients and obtained a full defense verdict.

When not working, Ms. Margolies spends her time exploring cities and beaches, making memories with her family.