

LYNBERG & WATKINS

SHANNON L. GUSTAFSON

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PRACTICE AREAS:

Appellate Practice
Civil Rights
Labor and Employment
General Torts
Police Liability Defense
Premises Liability
Public Entity Defense

EDUCATION:

University of California, San Diego (B.A. 2000, Magna Cum Laude)
University of California, Los Angeles (J.D. 2003)

BAR ADMISSIONS:

California, 2003
United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit, 2003
United States District Court for the Central District California, 2003
United States District Court for the Southern District of California, 2003
United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, 2003

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Association of Southern California Defense Counsel

EXPERIENCE:

Ms. Gustafson has spent her entire career defending public entities in a variety of areas, including general torts, civil rights, police liability, employment matters and dangerous conditions of public property in both the state and federal courts in California. Ms. Gustafson served as a Deputy County Counsel for the County of San Bernardino from June 2019 until March of 2020 when she returned to private practice.

She has been co-counsel in several cases that have gone to verdict. Most recently, Ms. Gustafson was co-chair in the *Landaverde v. City of Fontana*, Case No. CIVDS 1208532, trial which involved a wrongful death claim arising out of an automobile accident occurring while a police officer was responding to an emergency call. Despite Plaintiffs' request for \$20 million, the jury returned a defense verdict. Ms. Gustafson also served as co-counsel in the high profile matter of *Drakodaidis v. County of Orange*, Case No. 30- 2014-00720698 arising out of allegations by the former Assistant Deputy CEO of the County of Orange that she was wrongfully terminated due to her gender and whistleblower status. The jury rendered a defense verdict.



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She has also worked on numerous other cases that have been dismissed either through a Motion to Dismiss or Summary Judgment. Most recently, Ms. Gustafson was successful in obtaining a dismissal in the matter of *Leal v. County of San Bernardino*, Case No. 19-cv-01736 involving the in custody death of an inmate and *Shelton v. County of San Bernardino*, Case No. 18-cv-02167 involving allegations of wrongful entry and excessive force.

Ms. Gustafson has worked on several appellate briefs and has argued several times before both the California Courts of Appeal and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Gustafson argued before the 9th Circuit in the matter of *Cooper v. County of San Bernardino*, Case No. 11-57144 where the 9th Circuit panel unanimously affirmed the dismissal of Plaintiffs entire case in a published opinion. See, *Cooper v. Ramos*, 704 F. 3d 772 (9th Cir. 2012). Specifically, the Court found that the claims of a death row inmate for additional DNA testing were barred by the Rooker-Feldman doctrine. Ms. Gustafson also successfully argued the matter of *Hernandez v. West Covina*, Case No.

CV 10-03703 JAK (FFMx) in the 9th Circuit, a case involving allegations that a police officer violated the substantive due process rights of Plaintiff by arresting him so he could have an affair with the Plaintiffs wife.

In addition to trial work and appellate practice, Ms. Gustafson also has extensive experience mediating and negotiating settlements where appropriate.

Ms. Gustafson has provided training seminars for the Orange County Sheriffs Department on Fourth Amendment Search and Seizure issues and for the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department regarding Procedural Safety Officers Bill of Rights issues (POBRA).