

**S. FRANK HARRELL**

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**PRACTICE AREAS:**

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

**EDUCATION:**

The University of North Carolina (B.A., 1982)  
Duke University and the University of North Carolina (J.D., 1985)

**HONOR SOCIETIES:**

Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina

**BAR ADMISSIONS:**

Supreme Court of California, 1988  
Supreme Court of Virginia, 1986  
The U.S. Supreme Court, 2006  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 1988  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, 1986  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, 1990  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, 1990  
U.S. District Court, Central District of California, 1988  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, 1990  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, 1988  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Virginia, 1988

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

American Board of Trial Advocates  
The Virginia Bar Association  
The California Bar Association  
Association of Southern California Defense Counsel  
The American Bar Association





#### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Managing Attorney of L&W's OC Office – 2005 to present

Managing Attorney of L&W – 2021 to present

Staff Assistant, Virginia Senator Wyatt B. Durrette, Richmond, Virginia (1985 – 1986)

Extern, North Carolina Congressman Walter B. Jones, Washington, D.C. (1979)

Extern, C-SPAN Congressional Cable Television Network, Washington, D.C. (1979)

#### EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Harrell has litigated over 25 cases to verdict in state and federal courts. All of Mr. Harrell's trials have been in defense of governmental clients, regarding a wide variety of allegations including constitutional issues, injunctive relief, California state torts, federal civil rights, police liability, employment and dangerous condition of public property. He has also successfully litigated scores of case dispositive motions which resulted in the dismissal of the case.

Mr. Harrell has worked on over 50 appeals in state and federal courts on behalf of public entities. He has obtained many published opinions favorable to governmental interests. For example, Mr. Harrell was the successful appellate advocate on behalf of the Orange County Sheriff's Department in Susag v. City of Lake Forest, et al., 94 Cal. App. 4th 1401 (2002). The Susag Court was the first California decision to restrict criminal convicts from suing their arresting officers under tort law principles. Id. at 1412. Mr. Harrell was also the successful appellate advocate in McCown v. City of Fontana, 565 F.3d 1097 (9th Cir. 2009). In McCown, the Ninth Circuit limited the plaintiff's counsel's ability to recover attorneys' fees in high multiples of what they recover on behalf of their client. Id.

Apart from the foregoing, in the past two years, Mr. Harrell has served as counsel on many high profile "civil rights" matters, including Holloway v. County of Orange (a 2023 police "excessive force" / "false arrest" trial involving widespread press coverage), Gillespie v. County of Orange (a 2023 "excessive force" defense verdict) and Barber v. County of Orange (a 2024 dismissal following trial motion in limine rulings).

Outside of work, Mr. Harrell enjoys boating and water sports (including waterskiing, and swimming).