

HILARY POTASHNER

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Experience

PARTNER

Larson LLP

Los Angeles, California

October 2019 – present

- Partner at a national boutique litigation firm specializing in appellate litigation, complex civil litigation, internal investigations, and white collar criminal defense.
- Defend individuals facing charges in both state and federal court in a wide range of matters, including conspiracy, wire fraud, bank fraud, healthcare fraud, bankruptcy fraud, and other white collar cases. Represent public and prominent figures and entities in pre-indictment investigations.
- Retained by Riverside County to conduct an investigation into allegations regarding the treatment of the 13 Turpin children while under the care of the County departments after being rescued from their abusive home in 2018, as well as into the care provided to all children and adults by the County departments.
- Successfully defended a college student against a Title IX accusation for which he was found not responsible, and after facing expulsion due to the allegation, he was able to graduate and start his career.
- Representing clients appealing a federal conviction in a multimillion-dollar healthcare fraud case.
- Representing defendants in a federal criminal case alleging a \$1.8 billion customs fraud as well as conspiracy, wire fraud, and international money laundering.
- Representing a corporation on appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in a federal trade secrets case as well as in superior court on breach of contract claims.
- Representing clients in an SEC action in federal court after securing reversal of a \$15.5 million disgorgement and penalties judgment against them.
- Representing a medical doctor facing multiple counts of healthcare fraud.
- Represented a Fortune 100 company in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, securing a reversal of the district court's grant of summary judgment and \$5.24 million judgment in a commercial contract dispute.

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Central District of California

June 2015 – September 2019

- Officially appointed to Federal Public Defender twice by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

ACTING FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Central District of California

September 2014 – June 2015

- Led the largest Federal Public Defender's Office in the country; managed more than 200 employees with the unifying mission of providing high-quality, client-centered representation.
- Personally represented clients in high-profile and significant cases; actively oversaw the litigation of all other serious matters in the office.
- Administered an annual budget of approximately \$40 million.
- Oversaw three offices in Los Angeles, Riverside, and Santa Ana; direct trial unit, appellate unit, non-capital habeas unit, and capital habeas unit.
- Reorganized the structure of the office to foster an environment that promotes core values of excellence, client-centered representation, integrity, respect, collaboration, and diversity.
- Implemented systems to improve internal management practices—such as hiring, annual review, performance improvement, and promotion processes—by explicitly tethering processes to mission and core values.
- Oversaw human resources, administrative, and IT initiatives.
- Advocated for financial resources through informal and formal communication with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
- Collaborated with the Court and other federal agency stakeholders in the continued development of interagency programs such as the FPDO/CJA panel mentorship program for the training of prospective CJA-appointed defense attorneys and the Central District's re-entry and diversionary courts. Negotiated and worked with the United States Attorney's Office, United States Probation and Pretrial Services, and United States Marshals Service on systemic policies and specific interagency issues that arise.
- Expanded the pipeline of highly qualified and diverse candidates for attorney and non-attorney positions through reimagined law student, MSW, and investigator internship programs. Increased the visibility and accessibility of the public defender program by personally volunteering and supporting an office volunteer program at local high schools within the community.
- Oversaw training programs for FPDO and CJA-appointed defense attorneys.
- Served on local, national, and Ninth Circuit committees such as the Attorney Advisory Committee to the CJA District Court Committee, the Defender Services Performance Measurement Working Group, the Judiciary

Data Working Group, and the Ninth Circuit's Jury Trial Improvement Committee.

- Represented the FPDO at bar events, court functions, and a wide range of other public forums.

CHIEF DEPUTY FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
Federal Public Defender's Office for the Central District of California

Los Angeles, California

February 2012 – September 2014

- Represented clients and advised on significant matters, including personally representing client charged with killing a TSA agent and wounding others at LAX.
- Advised Federal Public Defender regarding the administration of the FPDO's multi-million dollar budget. Evaluated and approved case-related funding requests.
- Represented the FPDO in the creation of interagency programs including the Conviction and Sentence Alternatives Courts ("CASA"), USAO/FPD Joint Training Sessions, and the FPDO/CJA Mentorship Program for prospective CJA appointed defense attorneys.
- Chaired the Attorney Advisory Committee to the United States District Court, CJA Committee. Served as FPDO liaison to United States Attorney's Office, Interpreters' Office, United States Probation Office, United States Pretrial Services Agency, District Court's Clerk's Office, and the Central District Community Outreach Committee.
- Supervised FPDO traditional unit, including trial and appellate units in Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and Riverside; IT and Litigation Support Units; and Administrative Unit. Chaired Hiring Committee and Ethics Committee. Conducted conflict analysis for traditional unit. Addressed and resolved complaints from the Court, other agencies and clients.
- Oversaw the staffing of death-eligible cases and consulted with the FPD regarding the appointment of learned counsel in non-FPDO capital cases.

SUPERVISING DEPUTY FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
Federal Public Defender's Office for the Central District of California

Los Angeles, California

2007 – 2012

- Supervised six to eight trial attorneys. Met weekly with supervisees for case analysis. Reviewed supervisees' pleadings and trial preparation. Prepared written annual reviews of supervisees. Served as FPDO representative in the creation of the Substance Abuse and Reentry Court ("STAR"). Conducted in-house, local, and national training sessions. Represented clients, including a death-eligible client in a complex, multi-defendant RICO case, and conducted a three-week *Atkins* hearing in a capital habeas matter.

DEPUTY FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
Federal Public Defender's Office for the Central District of California
Los Angeles, California
2001 – 2007

- Represented clients in federal criminal and habeas corpus proceedings. Conducted legal research and writing, negotiated plea agreements, conducted jury trials and evidentiary hearings, and prepared and litigated sentencing issues.

DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER
San Diego County Public Defender's Office
San Diego, California
1993 – 2000

- Represented clients charged with a full range of felonies and misdemeanors in California Superior Court.

Associations

American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow
Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Board Member and Former President
Litigation Section Executive Committee for the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Member
American Inns of Court Los Angeles Chapter, Member
The Chancery Club of Los Angeles, Member
National Association for Public Defense, Systems Builders Committee Member
Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization, Steering Committee Member
U.S.D.C. Central District of California, Local Rules Advisory Committee Member
Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, Jury Trial Improvement Committee Member
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, Capital Case Seminar Planning Committee
California Courts of Appeal, Proposal 66 Regional Committee Member
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Former Lawyer Representative
U.S. Courts, Defender Services Offices Performance Measurement Working Group, Former Member

2017-2022
Presentations

Panelist, "Dealing With Sensitive Issues in Jury Selection," U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's Jury Summit, Phoenix, Arizona

Speaker, "Women and the Law," Annual Federal Criminal Defense Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii

Panelist, "Today's Challenges, Trends, and Opportunities in Law Enforcement," Community Policing in Los Angeles County: A Vision for the Future, Los Angeles, California

Instructor, "Deposition Skills," NITA, Los Angeles, California

Instructor, “Building Trial Skills,” NITA, San Diego, California

Instructor, Habeas Institute, NITA, Los Angeles, California

Speaker, “Know Your Rights in the Criminal Justice System,” Los Angeles Law Library, Los Angeles, California

Panelist, “Police Body Camera Video Evidence: Recommendations for Use in Criminal and Civil Rights Proceedings,” Policing Los Angeles Forum, Los Angeles, California,

Panelist, “Death Penalty Funding and CA Proposition 66,” Ninth Circuit FPD Standing Committee and Defender Workshop, Tucson, Arizona

Speaker, “Opening Remarks on the State of the FPDO,” 11th Annual Fidler Institute on Criminal Justice, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, California

Panelist, “Unprofessional Conduct Toward Women Attorneys,” Annual CJA Panel Training, Los Angeles, California

Panelist, “Managing Your Case Weights While Keeping True to the Mission,” Federal Defender Supervisory Leadership Training, Las Vegas, Nevada

Speaker, “Women and the Law,” 7th Annual AKACDL All Stars Conference, Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Anchorage, Alaska

Speaker, “What is a Zealous Advocate to do?” 7th Annual AKACDL All Stars Conference, Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Anchorage, Alaska

Speaker, “Lessons Learned from United States v. Paul Ciancia,” 2017 Annual Western All-Star Conference and Confabulation, Federal Defender Services of Idaho and the Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Boise, Idaho

Moderator, “White Collar Crime Today: What Are the Investigation and Enforcement Priorities?” Sixth Annual London White Collar Crime Institute, American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, London, England

Speaker, “Lessons Learned from United States v. Paul Ciancia,” Federal Defender Office for the District of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada

Panelist, “Perspectives from Women in Leadership in the Central District of California,” Los Angeles, California

Speaker, “Opening Remarks on the State of the FPDO,” 12th Annual Fidler Institute on Criminal Justice, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, California

Panelist, “Teambuilding Through Structural Change,” 2019 Federal Defender

Supervisory Leadership Training, Los Angeles, California

Speaker, “What is a Zealous Advocate to Do?” Montana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Federal Defenders of Montana 2019 Annual Seminar, Pray, Montana

Awards

Chambers USA, Ranked for “Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations”
Daily Journal, “Top Women Lawyers”
Benchmark Litigation, “Litigation Star”
Los Angeles County Bar Association, “2020 Defense Attorney of the Year”
Los Angeles Business Journal, “Top Women Attorneys in Los Angeles”
Los Angeles Business Journal, “Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers”
The Best Lawyers in America®, Ranked for Commercial Litigation

Education

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW
San Francisco, California
Juris Doctor, 1993

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Durham, North Carolina
Bachelor of Arts – Dual Majors, Philosophy and Psychology, 1989

Bar

Admissions

State Bars of California and New York
United States District Court, Central District of California
United States District Court, Southern District of California
United States District Court, Eastern District of New York
United States District Court, Southern District of New York
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
United States Supreme Court