

Hilary Potashner

PARTNER

TEL 213.205.2750
FAX 213.623.2000
EMAIL hpotashner@larsonllp.com

OFFICE Los Angeles

The former Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California and a Fellow in the prestigious [American College of Trial Lawyers](#), Hilary Potashner is highly regarded by the bench and bar alike. As underscored by [Chambers USA](#), “she is held in particularly high regard for her excellent courtroom skills.”

Recognized by judges and peers for her “**unwavering commitment to high-quality, client-centered representation**,” Hilary applies this full-service approach by listening attentively, developing a strong working relationship with each client, and ensuring their perspective is clearly depicted through every stage of litigation. She uses a strategic blend of tenacity and creativity to excel at negotiation and prevail at trial. Having built her reputation as a skilled courtroom advocate, Hilary was honored by the [Los Angeles County Bar Association Criminal Justice Section](#) as the 2020 “Defense Attorney of the Year.”

Notable Experience and Results

Throughout more than 25 years of practice, Hilary has tried dozens of cases to verdict and has argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She has developed a deep familiarity and impressive credibility with state, federal, and appellate courts, and her wealth of experience serves the advantage of her clients. Hilary successfully defends 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. She also represents public and prominent figures and entities in pre-indictment investigations.

In her [civil](#) practice, Hilary represents individuals and entities in high-stakes [commercial litigation](#) and [appeals](#). Her experience includes representing both plaintiffs and defendants in [intellectual property](#) and contract disputes, civil forfeiture, misrepresentation, negligence, civil theft, and garnishment cases. Her appellate victories include the *SEC v. Yang et al.* decision in which she [secured the reversal of a \\$15.5 million judgment](#) in favor of her clients and [reduced their final judgment by millions](#), and the *KST Data, Inc. v. DXC Technology Co. et al.* decision in which she [secured the reversal of a summary judgment and a \\$5.24 million judgment](#) in a commercial contract dispute.



EDUCATION

- University of California, Hastings College of Law, J.D.
- Duke University, A.B.

ADMISSIONS

- California
- New York
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S.D.C. Central District of California
- U.S.D.C. Southern District of California
- U.S.D.C. Eastern District of New York
- U.S.D.C. Southern District of New York

PRACTICE AREAS

- Appellate Litigation

Professional Impact

Hilary's impact on the law extends outside her practice to her involvement in committees and professional organizations. Based on her system-building experience and acumen, Hilary was selected to serve on the United States Courts, Defender Services Offices Performance Measurement Working Group; the Ninth Circuit Jury Trial Improvement Committee; the Systems Builders Committee of the [National Association for Public Defense](#); and the Local Rules Advisory Committee of the Central District of California. In these current and former roles throughout her career, as well as through her role as a member of the Board of Directors for and the former president of the [Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association](#) and as a member of [The Chancery Club of Los Angeles](#), Hilary collaborates with judges and other influential lawyers to effect systemic change in the law. She also serves on the Steering Committee of [Just the Beginning—A Pipeline Organization](#), a nonprofit dedicated to promoting the advancement of young adults from underrepresented backgrounds in the legal profession.

- Complex Civil Litigation
- Antitrust and Competition Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Intellectual Property and Patent Litigation
- Trusts, Probate, and Estate Litigation
- Internal Investigations and Compliance
- White Collar Defense and Government Investigations

Prior Experience

Hilary joined Larson after years of public service, having started her career in the state court as deputy defender for the County of San Diego and then serving in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Central District of California for nearly two decades. She was twice appointed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as the Federal Defender for the Central District and was responsible for leading the largest defender's office in the country, with more than 200 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$40 million. As the chief defender, Hilary oversaw the representation of thousands of individuals facing federal charges in magistrate and district court.

Additionally, Hilary was instrumental in creating one of the first federal diversionary courts in the country, the Central District's Court Conviction and Sentence Alternatives (CASA) program. This program successfully launched due in part to her effective collaboration with the Central District Court, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services. As described at the time by U.S. Circuit Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw, who chairs the Ninth Circuit's Standing Committee on Federal Public Defenders, **"as the Federal Public Defender, Hilary has led by personal example, maintaining high morale within the office during the government shutdown, creating a non-capital habeas unit, working effectively with our courts and other stakeholders, and contributing on a national level. She has set a very high bar for anyone to follow."**

Hilary's Representative Matters

- 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 obtained a non-prosecution agreement for a high-level private school administrator being investigated for violation of California's mandatory reporting requirements.
- 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 the owner of a dive boat company in connection with a civil wrongful death action related to a multi-fatality fire.
- Representing the plaintiff in a pending case asserting claims of negligence, conversion, and civil theft, and aiding and abetting conversion and civil theft.
- 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 multiple corporate entities in related civil forfeiture actions.
- 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.

Significant Prior Representations:

- Obtained a complete dismissal for a tax professional charged with dozens of counts of tax fraud.
- Obtained a complete dismissal for a doctor charged with extensive healthcare fraud.
- Obtained pretrial diversion for a person charged with theft of government property.
- Secured a favorable disposition for a client charged with multiple conspiracies to commit mortgage and bank fraud case for properties in California and New York with allegations of loss in excess of \$13 million dollars.
- Secured a favorable disposition for a former Major League Baseball Player charged with bankruptcy fraud, concealment of assets, and money laundering with allegations of loss of over \$200,000.
- Obtained bail pending appeal after representing a client charged with a sexual assault at trial.
- Prevailed at trial for a client charged with international smuggling of goods into the U.S. and making a false statement, obtaining an acquittal on the smuggling count and a time-served sentence for the false statement.

Hilary's 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*

Hilary's Awards & Recognitions

- [Chambers USA](#), "Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations" Ranking, 2022
- [Daily Journal](#), Top Women Lawyers, 2022
- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), for Commercial Litigation and Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2022-2023
- [Benchmark Litigation](#), Litigation Star, 2022-2023
- [Los Angeles Country Bar Association](#), Defense Attorney of the Year, 2020
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Women of Influence: Attorneys, 2022
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Leaders of Influence - Litigators & Trial Attorneys, 2021
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Women of Influence - Attorneys, 2021
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers, 2020
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Top Women Attorneys in Los Angeles, 2020