



## Danielle C. Rivera

Associate

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Danielle Rivera represents established businesses and individuals in all aspects of civil litigation including numerous prominent owners and operators in the ski industry. Her practice focuses on the defense of claims related to general liability, automobile liability, premises liability and personal injury. Danielle also handles the legal aspects of maritime claims, bodily injury and death at sea, and marine product liability. She is adept at managing mass tort litigation related to her areas of practice.

In law school, Danielle served as a law clerk for a civil defense firm where she worked closely with partners and mastered practices related to insurance defense and personal injury litigation. She also clerked at the Orange County District Attorney's Office, where she worked on major cases involving insurance fraud, and later clerked at the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office where she gained courtroom experience conducting or preparing more than 50 preliminary hearings in three months. Danielle began her legal career at a plaintiffs' firm where she gained insights into the strategies she would later counter as a defense attorney; in that role she managed a litigation caseload and second-chaired her first trial in less than a year of being licensed.

Prior to law school, Danielle had a career in the insurance industry where she successfully resolved property damage and personal injury claims filed with her company, and eventually moved on to handle major coverage issues working closely with in-house counsel and the underwriting department on investigations for potential policy rescissions.

### Education

- Loyola Law School (J.D., 2021)
  - Byrne Trial Advocacy Scholarship Recipient; Byrne Exhibition Trial Champion (2021); International Academy for Trial Lawyers Award recipient (2021); CourtCall Scholarship recipient (2021)

### Services

- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Professional Liability & Services
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Admiralty & Marine

- William Paterson University (B.A. Philosophy, 2012)
  - National Panhellenic Counsel, Vice President (2011–2012)

## **Bar Admissions**

- California

## **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court, Central District of California

## **Professional Affiliations**

- American Association for Justice
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority, 2010–present

# **Client Wins**

## **Lee and Rivera Prevail on Summary Judgment for Ski Resort in Wrongful Death Action**

Gregory Lee (Partner-Los Angeles, CA) and Danielle Rivera (Associate-Los Angeles, CA) secured summary judgment on behalf of a ski resort in a high-exposure wrongful death lawsuit arising from a fatal chairlift accident. The decedent, an expert snowboarder, was riding alone on a chairlift when he fell 40 feet to the ground below and died from blunt force trauma. The subject chairlift was the only one at the resort not equipped with a restraint bar. The plaintiffs alleged that the fall resulted from the ski resort's grossly negligent installation, maintenance, and operation of the chairlift.

Greg and Danielle moved for summary judgment based on the defense of express assumption of risk. In opposing the motion, the plaintiffs challenged the admissibility and enforceability of the decedent's liability releases. Additionally, their expert testified that industry standards required the chairlift to be equipped with a restraint bar, and that the installation would have prevented the decedent from falling. The San Bernardino Superior Court agreed with Greg and Danielle, finding that one of the decedent's liability releases was admissible and enforceable and that the testimony of the plaintiffs' expert was insufficient to overcome the defense of express assumption of risk.

## **Struck and Rivera Prevail in Defense of City in Slip-and-Fall Case**

Bert Struck (Of Counsel-Orange County, CA) and Danielle Rivera (Associate-Los Angeles, CA) represented a city government where it was alleged the plaintiff slipped and fell on a greasy pizza box left on public property. After the second demurrer on the grounds that the plaintiff had not sufficiently alleged a dangerous condition to hold a governmental entity liable, the judge in the Superior Court of the County of Riverside ordered the demurrer sustained without leave to amend. The plaintiff has filed the dismissal with

prejudice as to our client.