



Karen M. Johnson

Of Counsel

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San Francisco, CA – 415.625.9280

Karen Johnson defends businesses and individuals sued in cases involving personal injury (general and catastrophic), wrongful death, and property damage. Karen has successfully defended cases involving product liability, premises liability, professional liability, intentional tort, sexual assault, toxic tort, construction site injury, property damage, and landlord-tenant warranty of habitability.

Toxic Tort

In the toxic tort arena, Karen has successfully defended lung cancer, and mesothelioma cases involving product manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers involving toxic exposure claims during military service, construction work, automotive repair, industrial, refinery, and other commercial work, in addition to personal product use.

Education

- Southwestern Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1997)
 - Law Review Associate Editor and Member
 - CALI Excellence for the Future Award, Real Estate Transactions
 - American Jurisprudence Book Award, Constitutional Criminal Procedure
 - Dean's Merit Scholarship
 - Criminal Law Society Vice President
 - Animal Law Forum Vice President
- California State University, Fullerton (B.A. Criminal Justice, 1994)
 - Dean's List

Services

- Asbestos & Talc
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Toxic Tort

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

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

Clerkships

Los Angeles County Superior Court, Central District, Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Judge J.D. Smith, extern (death penalty court) Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, extern Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Project LEAD Volunteer

Professional Affiliations

Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)

Awards & Honors

Daily Journal Top Verdicts, 2015

Representative Matters

Tried a multi-tenant habitability case ending in a defense judgment with reverse statutory cost & fee recovery in San Diego County.

Granted summary judgment for a sliding door repair vendor sued in a catastrophic injury case in Los Angeles County.

Won non-suit for a talc distributor in a mesothelioma case in Santa Clara County.

Secured a defense verdict in a subsurface trespass case after a two-month jury trial in Kern County.

Granted summary judgment under the Privette doctrine for a premises owner sued by an oil well service worker rendered a paraplegic after falling from a work-over rig in Kern County.

Publications

February 10, 2026

Daily Journal Features Johnson Article Examining Genomic Testing and Causation

in Mesothelioma Litigation

Daily Journal