

# Catherine Denevi

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California State Bar No. 222539

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## LITIGATION / TRIAL ATTORNEY

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OVER 30 TRIALS (BENCH/JURY) (STATE & FED) CIVIL, FAMILY, CRIMINAL, BANKRUPTCY  
Versatile trial attorney with a solid track record of litigation success and experience in various facets of the law including personal injury/property damage, criminal, elder, business, contract, animal, and family law. Motivated, tenacious, and articulate professional who thrives in a courtroom setting, excels at client rapport, discovery, and deposition. Deftly manages cases from inception to trial. Good physical appearance/health.

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## UNIQUE AREA OF TALENT AND EXPERTISE

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Exceptional skill in identifying constitutional as well as evidentiary issues, as demonstrated with great successes at post judgment and verdict Motions, Writs, and Appellant Work in both Criminal and Civil cases. Because of a diversified business, professional, and cultural background, able to relate to a wide audience of jurors with uncanny ease, wit, and rapport that exudes genuine honesty.

**Professional** **SIMON & DENEVI ATTORNEYS AT LAW**, Vista and Los Angeles, CA

- Handle Family Law Trials, Long/Short Cause Hearings, Restraining Order and Contempt Hearings, criminal defense cases, civil plaintiff and defense cases, administrative hearings/trials, and transactional matters
- Develop client base as major rainmaker for all areas of litigation
- Manage firm finances, administration, relocations, hiring and firing
- Member *CA INNS OF COURT* for 9 years; former Chairperson Civil Litigation Section North County Bar of San Diego & Member Long Beach County Bar
- Member *ITALIAN AMERICAN LAWYER ASSOCIATION*

### *Family Law /Juvenile Court Highlights*

- Successfully petitioned Juvenile Court to terminate biological father's parental rights to facilitate a Step-Parent Adoption
- Won 4 day trial proving breach of fiduciary duty (\$34K) 2006 – client became irrational when selling remaining real property – 7 years later defended RFO against him regarding final distribution of sales proceeds, by filing reciprocal RFO for FC 271 Sanctions against her, attorney fees, interest on judgment from 2006, prevailed despite irrational client in obtaining an additional \$30K in 271 Sanctions - all of remaining proceeds (then had to sue client for attorney fees)
- Successfully argued RFOs, Restraining Orders, Contempt Motions, Motions to Compel
- Enforced Out of State Orders for Support, Visitation, Property issues
- Prevailed on UCCJEA Motions for Jurisdiction disputes between States (lost on Motion for Inconvenient Forum) – one related to criminal kidnapping charges in Idaho
- Successfully defended and asserted child molestation and abuse accusations
- Praised by countless judges, on the record and in chambers, for my conduct during trials (Family & Civil)
- Appeared Ex Parte to restrain mother from leaving US with cremated remains of son
- Argued cases in Probate Court (Conservatorships &Guardianships)

### **Civil Litigation Experience Highlights**

- Prevailed in trial for property damage in dog-related case by establishing intervening and superseding event defense; awarded \$24,375.55 for fees and costs (week long bench trial)
- Settled \$1.6 Million Wrongful Foreclosure (Comm/Res) day of Opening Statements
- Successfully argued Motions for Preference in Legal Malpractice & Elder Abuse Cases
- Successfully defended Fraud allegations in Bankruptcy 3 day trial
- Researched and retained expert witnesses for veterinary/medical malpractice trials
- Settled at least 10 Personal Injury Claims/Suits (some government claims)-Defended Summary Judgments
- Succeeded in Administrative *Writ of Mandamus*, and Private *Writs of Possession*
- Argued Venue Motion in Tulare County against Assistant City Attorney of Oakland
- Defended Taco Bell, several bars, restaurants and veterinary offices in ADA litigation
- Settled two major tort cases for NIED (based on a mental disease), Assault, Battery, Trespass, neighbor dispute cases involving defamation of character *per se*
- Assisted in multi-million \$ Breach of Contract/Fraud Jury Trial against Intern'l Corp.
- Independently drafted and filed over 35 complaints including contract & business claims, elder law (six figure settlements), emotional distress, fraud, negligence, strict liability, dog law, real estate (constructive trusts and equitable liens), employment law
- Appeared before California Veterinary Board in hearing for reinstatement of license
- Drafted, filed and argued Motions, Orders to Show Cause, Orders to Set Aside, Demurrers, Motions for Priority, Bifurcated Disposition Regarding Financial Issues, Sanctions,
- Transactional Experience:Drafted Shareholder Agreement, General Releases, Contracts and Addenda, UCC Filings, Promissory Notes, Demand Letters, Wills & Trusts, Domestic/International Settlement Agreements, Governmental Demands for Tort Litigation, Memoranda, and summations to clients

### **Criminal Law Highlights**

- Obtained Not Guilty Verdict in a *Major Violator's* Case, partial acquittal in a 7 Count Robbery, Burglary, with special enhancements and allegations, media-high profile case (two week trial/3 days deliberation)
- Trombetta motion resulted in 12 year prison offer reduced to no time/Res Rehab
- Assisted in Murder 2 Trial-my idea of Defense of Third Party resulted in Not Guilty
- Successfully drafted and argued *Pitches* Motion resulting in time served in 5 Count Sales involving 31 grams of cocaine, scale, thousands \$\$ cash
- Represented both defendant brothers in a 4 Count Assault with Deadly Weapon, Battery with Great Bodily Injury special allegations and other enhancements; resulted in misdemeanor pleas for both, no time, no probation and probation violation of previous offenses waived and deemed completed and terminated after presenting only one witness at preliminary hearing
- Battery w/Serious Injury dismissed day before trial
- Took over Forcible Rape case post guilty verdict and during Motion for New Trial obtained admission of facts from Prosecution supportive of Appeal resulting in Appellant Bail being granted; filed Writ of Mandamus supporting Appeal
- Other successful outcomes prior to trial for cases charging Murder, Attempted Murder, Solicitation of Murder, Kidnapping, Carjacking, Armed Robbery, Burglary, Terrorist

Threats, Stalking, Restraining Orders and Violation of Restraining Orders, Repeat  
DUIs reduced to Reckless (Dry & Wet), Drunk in Public, dismissed in the entirety

**LAW OFFICE OF HELANE SIMON**, Los Angeles, CA  
*Legal Assistant*, 2000-2002

**LA FOLLETTE, JOHNSON, DE HAAS, FESLER, & AMES**, Los Angeles, CA  
*Legal Extern*, 1998

**Education**

**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, Los Angeles, CA  
*Juris Doctor*, 1998 – SCALE Program (2-year ABA Accredited program)  
*Staff Member*, Southwestern Journal of Law & Trade in The Americas  
*Intramural finalist*, Moot Court  
*Recipient*, Mary Wilson Richards Academic Scholarship  
*Member*, Native American Law Student Association; Italian American Lawyer Association,  
A+ in Corporations & Securities Law

**UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA IRVINE**, Irvine, CA  
*Bachelor of Arts*, History, 1992  
*State Finalist*, Surf Team  
*Recipient*, Academic Scholarships, 1988-1992

**Additional  
Experience**

**ABRUZZI'S RESTAURANT**, Bellflower, CA  
*General Manager*, 1995-1996  
Responsible for Operations, Bookkeeping, Personnel, and Training  
Total restaurant experience 15 + yrs - often working two jobs

**SORRENTO ASSOCIATES**, San Diego, CA  
*Temporary Receptionist/Administrative Assistant*, 1999-2000  
Front Office receptionist to large and intense Capital Venture firm with high volume of  
calls, very demanding officers and investors, initial review of submitted for consideration  
Business Plans, light to medium clerical duties, research of prospective new business  
investors.  
Type 45- 55 wpm, knowledge of many computer programs

**PAISA, INCORPORATED**, West Covina, CA  
*Executive Assistant to CEO*, 1994-1996  
Troubleshooter for *Purfect* Auto Service Franchise of over 85 shops: investigated customer  
complaints-especially those implicating legal actions; Conducted surprise location checks of  
units delinquent in franchise fees; Evaluated units performing under standard; Assisted in  
sales of new franchise units by communicating with and investigating prospective buyers;  
conducted franchisee training meetings.

**ROADWAY PACKAGE SYSTEMS**, Los Angeles, CA  
*Dock Coordinator*, 1994  
Supervised 21 package handlers

**MERCHANT BANKING SERVICES, INC.**, Laguna Hills, CA  
*Securities Broker, Administrator, and Executive Assistant*, 1992-1994  
Licensed Securities Broker, Series 6, 22, & 63; Pitched Limited Partnerships, Bonds, and  
Mutual Funds; Established Office Procedures for new company; responsible for public  
relations and effective management of Operations and Administration Depts.

**Languages**

Conversational Spanish, Basic Italian

**Interests**

Former Competitive Gymnast (started coaching at age 11 years, working ever since), former Competitive Surfer, now free Surfer, Show Boxer Dogs Internationally, Outdoor Sports/Activities of all kinds