PARTNER

Alana H. Rotter



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GMSR partner Alana Rotter is a go-to lawyer for appeals and writ petitions in many fields. Clients and trial lawyers seek her out for her clear writing, thorough research, and efficiency. Alana respects client relationships, and is adept at working hand-in-hand with trial lawyers. Her areas of substantive experience include issues facing public entities, personal injury defense, joint venture and alter ego liability, trusts and estates, and contract disputes.

Alana helps clients—both plaintiffs and defendants—defend victories and reverse adverse rulings in the California appellate courts and the Ninth Circuit. She excels at developing new legal arguments, drafting incisive briefs and writ petitions that resonate with appellate judges, and honing drafts prepared by trial counsel. Clients also hire Alana to provide guidance in the trial court, where she assists with formulating legal positions, preserving issues, and developing or responding to dispositive motions, including post-judgment motions. Such interventions by a leading appellate lawyer can be critical to appellate success.

Alana is a State Bar-certified appellate specialist, and Chambers USA ranks her among the top appellate litigators in California. She has an insider perspective on the appellate system, having clerked for Judge Kermit Lipez of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She received her law degree from Yale Law School, where she was an editor of the Yale Law Journal.







EDUCATION

J.D., Yale Law School (2004). Yale Law Journal (Editor), Yale Law and Policy Review (Notes Editor).

B.A., University of California at Berkeley (2000). Phi Beta Kappa.

BAR ADMISSIONS

California
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals: First, Ninth, and District of Columbia Circuits
U.S. District Courts: Central District of California

HONORS

Chambers USA ranks Alana among the top appellate litigators in California (Band 4)

- *California Lawyer* Attorneys of the Year (CLAY Award), conferred by *The Daily Journal/California Lawyer Magazine* (2025)
- Southern California Super Lawyers, Appellate (2018 – Present); Top 100: Southern California Super Lawyers (2023-present); Top 50: Women Southern California Super Lawyers (2023-present)
- Named in *The Best Lawyers in America®* (Appellate Law, Litigation – Trusts and Estates, Trusts and Estates) (2018 – Present)
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Patricia Phillips Outstanding Committee Service Award (LACBA State Appellate Judicial Evaluation Committee Chair) (2025)
- Public Counsel Appellate Law Program pro bono award (2013)

PUBLICATIONS

Jun 4, 2026	Navigating Post-Judgment Motions: A Guide Through the Thicket (ABTL Report)
Oct 12, 2022	Is Your Anti-SLAPP Ruling Appealable? An Overview of California and Ninth Circuit Rules
Sep 22, 2021	GMSR's Alana Rotter Authors Article On Appellate Stays
Jun 11, 2019	Counting the minutes... Calculating the deadline for requesting a statement of decision, Daily Journal (June 10, 2019)
Apr 2, 2019	GMSR's Alana Rotter reviews what juror affidavits can—and cannot—establish for post-trial motions
Mar 2, 2019	GMSR's Alana Rotter reviews what litigators can do at trial to strengthen an appeal in IMLA Municipal Lawyer
Feb 26, 2019	GMSR's Alana Rotter reviews the standards for getting writ relief in California and federal courts in the ABTL Report
Jan 25, 2019	Alana Rotter reviews the appellate benefits of obtaining a statement of decision after a bench trial, and the process for obtaining one.
Nov 13, 2017	When is your notice of appeal due? Alana Rotter explains a new U.S. Supreme Court decision on extensions for filing appeals in federal court.
Oct 26, 2017	Anti-SLAPP motions in probate? Alana Rotter explains a new decision applying the anti-SLAPP statute to petitions to enforce a no-contest clause.
Jun 13, 2017	Alana Rotter and Cindy Tobisman warn what lawyers should avoid when voluntarily dismissing claims to hasten appellate review
Jun 5, 2017	Alana Rotter offers tips on what defense lawyers need to know about anti-SLAPP appeals
Feb 27, 2017	Tips: Critical New Trial Motion Deadlines, Daily Journal (February 27, 2017)
Nov 30, 2016	Discovery Sanctions Appeals Can Be Tricky Business, Los Angeles Daily Journal (November 30, 2016)
Oct 6, 2016	No Reporter's Transcript? Here's What It Means For Your Appeal, Verdict Magazine (Vol. 2, 2016)
Jan 13, 2016	Timing Is Everything In Court, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 13, 2016)
Jul 27, 2015	One Bite of the Apple, Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 27, 2015)
Mar 25, 2015	Lessons from appeals of nonappealable 'judgments', Los Angeles Daily Journal (March 25, 2015)
Jan 5, 2015	Which Orders Regarding Arbitration Are Appealable?, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 5, 2015)

Sep 11, 2014	Maximize the Impact of Amicus Support, Los Angeles Daily Journal (September 11, 2014)
Apr 18, 2014	Ruling Provides Guidance on Notice of Appeal, Los Angeles Daily Journal (April 18, 2014)
Dec 31, 2013	Protecting Attorney Disqualification Orders from Reversal, Verdict Magazine (Volume 3, 2013)
Dec 12, 2013	Creating an Appealable Judgment, Los Angles Daily Journal (December 12, 2013)
Oct 22, 2013	Appeals, Writs and Summary Judgment, Los Angeles Daily Journal (October 22, 2013)
Jul 9, 2013	How Appellate Courts Review Attorney Disqualifications, Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 9, 2013)
Jun 11, 2013	Case Highlights Importance of Timely Post-trial Motions, Los Angeles Daily Journal (June 11, 2013)
May 9, 2013	9th Circuit Judges Call for an End to Anti-SLAPP in Federal Court, Los Angeles Daily Journal (May 9, 2013)
Feb 6, 2013	Circuit Clarifies Anti-SLAPP Appeal Rules, Los Angeles Daily Journal (February 6, 2013)
Jun 21, 2012	2nd Guessing Good Faith Settlement Determinations, Law 360 (June 2012)
Jan 1, 2012	Getting Appellate Review of a Good Faith Settlement Determination, Verdict Magazine (Volume 3, 2012)
Sep 3, 2011	Power to disagree: The authority of lower courts in new trial motions, Los Angeles Daily Journal (September 13, 2011)
Feb 15, 2011	Appealability of Anti-SLAPP Orders in California and the 9th Circuit, Los Angeles Daily Journal (February 15, 2011)
Jan 9, 2011	Have You Filed Your Appeal on Time?, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 9, 2011)
Dec 17, 2010	Circuit Split on Free Speech and Drug Prescription Data, Los Angeles Daily Journal (December 17, 2010)
Jul 28, 2009	Tipping the Scales, Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 28, 2009)
Jan 29, 2009	A Melting Pot of Rulings, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 29, 2009)
Sep 12, 2008	Proceed with Caution: Pitfalls in Preparing Jury Instructions, "Appellate Tips for Trial Lawyers" (a newsletter of the Los Angeles County Bar Association), Vol. 1, No. 9 (September 2008)
May 12, 2008	What a Relief? Los Angeles Daily Journal (May 12, 2008)
Apr 1, 2008	Trial: Technology in the Courtroom, "Appellate Tips for Trial Lawyers" (a newsletter of the Los Angeles County Bar Association), Vol. 1, No. 5 (April 2008)
Aug 6, 2007	Playbook Disqualification, L.A. Daily Journal (Aug. 6, 2007).
Nov 9, 2006	Appellate Law: Getting to the Substance (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (November 9, 2006)
Sep 8, 2006	10th Circuit at Center of Splits on Anti-Discrimination Laws (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (September 8, 2006)
Jul 24, 2006	3rd Circuit Splits From Other Courts on Fair Opportunity Doctrine (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 24, 2006)
Jun 14, 2006	Circuit Splits Affect Conflicts of Authority (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (June 14, 2006)
May 18, 2006	Splits Involve Issues Affecting Business, Government, Workers (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (May 18, 2006)
Apr 13, 2006	When Private Enterprise Hits Public Agencies, Splits Arise (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (April 13, 2006)

SPEAKING AND INVOLVEMENT

2026	Laying the Foundation for Appeal: Persuasive Legal Writing and Issue Preservation, at Kendall Brill & Kelly
2025	Advanced Legal Writing for Litigators, at Glancy, Prongay & Murray
2025	Post-Judgment Motions: Appellate Lawyers' Perspectives, Beverly Hills Bar Association
2024	Winning After Trial: Setting Up For Success in Federal Civil Post-Trial and Ninth Circuit Practice, Federal Bar Association
2024	Ways to Avoid Dooming Your Appeal Before You Even Get There, Beverly Hills Bar Association
2024	Municipal Tort and Civil Rights Litigation Update, City Attorneys Spring Conference
2023	Laying The Foundation For Appellate Success: Tips for Litigators, Riverside County Bar Association Civil Litigation Section
2023	Municipal Tort and Civil Rights Litigation Update – League of California Cities; City Attorneys Spring Conference
2022	Getting It Right: Best Practices in Responding to Government Claims – League of California Cities; Annual Conference and Expo
2022	Laying the Foundation for Appellate Success: Tips and Trust and Probate Litigators – Ventura County Bar Association
2022	Laying the Foundations for Appellate Success – Tips for T&E Litigators, Beverly Hills Bar Association Trusts and Estates Committee
2021	Anti-SLAPP Motions in Probate Litigation, LACBA Trusts and Estates Symposium
2020	No-Contest Clauses and the Anti-SLAPP Statute: Traps for the Unwary, University of Southern California Trusts & Estates Conference
2019	How To Make Your Appeal More Appealing, Beverly Hills Bar Association
2019	Appeal Killers, San Mateo County Counsel
2019	The Appeal Killers – Avoiding Reptile Tactics And Other Traps That Can Doom Your Appeal Before It Begins, County Counsels' Association Civil Law & Litigation Conference
2018	Persuasive Legal Writing, Glancy Prongay & Murray LLP
2018	The Appeal Killers – Avoiding The Traps That Can Doom Your Appeal Before It Begins, International Municipal Lawyers Association's 83rd Annual Conference
2016	Stop the Appeal: Strategies and Practices for Seeking and Opposing Dismissal of Appeals, Kendall Brill Kelly
2014	How to Use Amicus Support Effectively, Beverly Hills Bar Association
2012	What Trial Lawyers Need To Know About Appeals, Beverly Hills Bar Association
2012	What Trial Lawyers Need To Know About Appeals, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of California chapter
2011	Volunteer Instructor, Constitutional Rights Foundation (Appellate Court Experience)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- California Academy of Appellate Lawyers (2017 - Present)
- Los Angeles County Bar Association: State Appellate Judicial Evaluation Committee: Chair (2019 - 2026); Member (2012 - 2018)
- Los Angeles County Bar Association: Amicus Committee (2013 - present)
- USC Trusts and Estates Conference Planning Committee
- Beth Am Lawyers: Founder/Coordinator
- California Supreme Court Historical Society, Boardmember (2018 - 2021)
- Beverly Hills Bar Association: Amicus Committee Co-Chair (2011 - 2016)

NOTABLE WINS

Aug 28, 2026	Muldrow v. Ladera Crest Homeowners Association, Inc., et al. (Aug. 28, 2026, B338036) 2026 WL 2546202
Dec 13, 2024	Abelar v. Providence Health System-Southern California (Dec. 13, 2024, B321885) 2024 WL 5114409
Oct 11, 2024	Anderson v. Perez (9th Cir. Oct. 11, 2024, No. 23-2790) 2024 WL 4471306
Aug 22, 2024	Rattagan v. Uber Technologies, Inc. (2024) 17 Cal.5th 1
Jul 25, 2024	Riversiders Against Increased Taxes v. City of Riverside (2024) 104 Cal.App.5th 250
May 31, 2023	Orcutt v. Pelletier, et al. (9th Cir. May 31, 2023, No. 22-55494) 2023 WL 3735584
Feb 7, 2023	JPV I, L.P. v. Koetting (2023) 88 Cal.App.5th 172
Oct 26, 2022	Dhital v. Nissan North America, Inc. (2022) 84 Cal.App.5th 828
Apr 26, 2022	Foxcroft Productions, Inc. v. Universal City Studios, LLC (2022) 76 Cal.App.5th 1119
Aug 20, 2021	Ferra v. Gilmore (Aug. 20, 2021, B303592) 2021 WL 3700420
Jul 30, 2021	Law Finance Group, LLC v. Key (2021) 67 Cal.App.5th 307
May 5, 2020	Quincy Jones v. MJJ Productions, Inc. (May 5, 2020, B285986) 2020 WL 2140759
May 16, 2019	Estate of Jackson (May 16, 2019, B282375) 2019 WL 2136114
Jan 10, 2019	Pacific Western Bank v. Far Out Productions, Inc. v. Audio Visual Entertainment, Inc. (Dec. 31, 2018, B278076, B278122) 2018 WL 6839451
Mar 24, 2017	Wind Dancer Production Group v. Walt Disney Pictures (2017) 10 Cal.App.5th 56
Oct 10, 2014	Breeden v. Superior Court (Oct. 10, 2014, E061553) 2014 WL 5090571
Dec 3, 2012	Celador Internat., Inc. v. American Broadcasting Cos., Inc. (9th Cir. 2012) 499 Fed.Appx. 721