



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 substantive experience includes trusts and probate, profit participation and other contract disputes, employment claims, and issues facing public entities.

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 dispositive motions and issue preservation. Such early 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.

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 (2023-2026); Top 50: Women Southern California Super Lawyers (2023-2025)

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)

Bar Admissions

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

Speaking and Involvement

Post-Judgment Motions: Appellate Lawyers' Perspectives, Beverly Hills Bar Association

2025

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

2024

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

2023

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

2022

Anti-SLAPP Motions in Probate Litigation, LACBA Trusts and Estates Symposium

2021

No-Contest Clauses and the Anti-SLAPP Statute: Traps for the Unwary, University of Southern California Trusts & Estates Conference

2020

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

2019

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

2018

Stop the Appeal: Strategies and Practices for Seeking and Opposing Dismissal of Appeals, Kendall Brill Kelly

2016

How to Use Amicus Support Effectively, Beverly Hills Bar Association

2014

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

2012

Volunteer Instructor, Constitutional Rights Foundation (Appellate Court Experience)

2011

Professional Associations

California Academy of Appellate Lawyers (2017 - Present)

Los Angeles County Bar Association: State Appellate Judicial Evaluation Committee: Chair (2019 - present); Member (2012 - 2018)

USC Trusts and Estates Conference Planning Committee

International Municipal Lawyers Association

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

Abelar v. Providence Health System-Southern California (Dec. 13, 2024, B321885) 2024 WL 5114409

Dec 13, 2024

Anderson v. Perez (9th Cir. Oct. 11, 2024, No. 23-2790) 2024 WL 4471306

Oct 11, 2024

Rattagan v. Uber Technologies, Inc. (2024) 17 Cal.5th 1

Aug 22, 2024

Riversiders Against Increased Taxes v. City of Riverside (2024) 104 Cal.App.5th 250

Jul 25, 2024

JPV I, L.P. v. Koetting (2023) 304 Cal.App.5th 550

Feb 07, 2023

Dhital v. Nissan North America, Inc. (2022) 84 Cal.App.5th 828

Oct 26, 2022

Foxcroft Productions, Inc. v. Universal City Studios, LLC (2022) 76 Cal.App.5th 1119

Apr 26, 2022

Ferra v. Gilmore (Aug. 20, 2021, B303592) 2021 WL 3700420

Aug 20, 2021

Law Finance Group, LLC v. Key (2021) 67 Cal.App.5th 307

Jul 30, 2021

Quincy Jones v. MJJ Productions, Inc. (May 5, 2020, B285986) 2020 WL 2140759

May 05, 2020

Estate of Jackson (May 16, 2019, B282375) 2019 WL 2136114

May 16, 2019

Pacific Western Bank v. Far Out Productions, Inc. v. Audio Visual Entertainment, Inc. (Dec. 31, 2018, B278076, B278122) 2018 WL 6839451

Jan 10, 2019

Wind Dancer Production Group v. Walt Disney Pictures (2017) 10 Cal.App.5th 56

Mar 24, 2017

Breeden v. Superior Court (Oct. 10, 2014, E061553) 2014 WL 5090571

Oct 10, 2014

Celador Internat., Inc. v. American Broadcasting Cos., Inc. (9th Cir. 2012) 499 Fed.Appx. 721

Dec 03, 2012

Publications

Is Your Anti-SLAPP Ruling Appealable? An Overview of California and Ninth Circuit Rules

Oct 12, 2022

GMSR's Alana Rotter Authors Article On Appellate Stays

Sep 22, 2021

Counting the minutes... Calculating the deadline for requesting a statement of decision, Daily Journal (June 10, 2019)

Jun 11, 2019

GMSR's Alana Rotter reviews what juror affidavits can—and cannot—establish for post-trial motions

Apr 02, 2019

GMSR's Alana Rotter reviews what litigators can do at trial to strengthen an appeal in IMLA Municipal Lawyer

Mar 02, 2019

GMSR's Alana Rotter reviews the standards for getting writ relief in California and federal courts in the ABTL Report

Feb 26, 2019

Alana Rotter reviews the appellate benefits of obtaining a statement of decision after a bench trial, and the process for obtaining one.

Jan 25, 2019

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.

Nov 13, 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.

Oct 26, 2017

Alana Rotter and Cindy Tobisman warn what lawyers should avoid when voluntarily dismissing claims to hasten appellate review

Jun 13, 2017

Alana Rotter offers tips on what defense lawyers need to know about anti-SLAPP appeals

Jun 05, 2017

Tips: Critical New Trial Motion Deadlines, Daily Journal (February 27, 2017)

Feb 27, 2017

Discovery Sanctions Appeals Can Be Tricky Business, Los Angeles Daily Journal (November 30, 2016)

Nov 30, 2016

No Reporter's Transcript? Here's What It Means For Your Appeal, Verdict Magazine (Vol. 2, 2016)

Oct 06, 2016

Timing Is Everything In Court, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 13, 2016)

Jan 13, 2016

One Bite of the Apple, Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 27, 2015)

Jul 27, 2015

Lessons from appeals of nonappealable 'judgments', Los Angeles Daily Journal (March 25, 2015)

Mar 25, 2015

Which Orders Regarding Arbitration Are Appealable?, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 5, 2015)

Jan 05, 2015

Maximize the Impact of Amicus Support, Los Angeles Daily Journal (September 11, 2014)

Sep 11, 2014

Ruling Provides Guidance on Notice of Appeal, Los Angeles Daily Journal (April 18, 2014)

Apr 18, 2014

Protecting Attorney Disqualification Orders from Reversal, Verdict Magazine (Volume 3, 2013)

Dec 31, 2013

Creating an Appealable Judgment, Los Angeles Daily Journal (December 12, 2013)

Dec 12, 2013

Appeals, Writs and Summary Judgment, Los Angeles Daily Journal (October 22, 2013)

Oct 22, 2013

How Appellate Courts Review Attorney Disqualifications, Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 9, 2013)

Jul 09, 2013

Case Highlights Importance of Timely Post-trial Motions, Los Angeles Daily Journal (June 11, 2013)

Jun 11, 2013

9th Circuit Judges Call for an End to Anti-SLAPP in Federal Court, Los Angeles Daily Journal (May 9, 2013)

May 09, 2013

Circuit Clarifies Anti-SLAPP Appeal Rules, Los Angeles Daily Journal (February 6, 2013)

Feb 06, 2013

2nd Guessing Good Faith Settlement Determinations, Law 360 (June 2012)

Jun 21, 2012

Getting Appellate Review of a Good Faith Settlement Determination, Verdict Magazine (Volume 3, 2012)

Jan 01, 2012

Power to disagree: The authority of lower courts in new trial motions, Los Angeles Daily Journal (September 13, 2011)

Sep 03, 2011

Appealability of Anti-SLAPP Orders in California and the 9th Circuit, Los Angeles Daily Journal (February 15, 2011)

Feb 15, 2011

Have You Filed Your Appeal on Time?, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 9, 2011)

Jan 09, 2011

Circuit Split on Free Speech and Drug Prescription Data, Los Angeles Daily Journal (December 17, 2010)

Dec 17, 2010

Tipping the Scales, Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 28, 2009)

Jul 28, 2009

A Melting Pot of Rulings, Los Angeles Daily Journal (January 29, 2009)

Jan 29, 2009

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)

Sep 12, 2008

What a Relief? Los Angeles Daily Journal (May 12, 2008)

May 12, 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)

Apr 01, 2008

Playbook Disqualification, L.A. Daily Journal (Aug. 6, 2007).

Aug 06, 2007

Appellate Law: Getting to the Substance (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (November 9, 2006)

Nov 09, 2006

10th Circuit at Center of Splits on Anti-Discrimination Laws (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (September 8, 2006)

Sep 08, 2006

3rd Circuit Splits From Other Courts on Fair Opportunity Doctrine (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (July 24, 2006)

Jul 24, 2006

Circuit Splits Affect Conflicts of Authority (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (June 14, 2006)

Jun 14, 2006

Splits Involve Issues Affecting Business, Government, Workers (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (May 18, 2006)

May 18, 2006

When Private Enterprise Hits Public Agencies, Splits Arise (co-author), Los Angeles Daily Journal (April 13, 2006)

Apr 13, 2006