

Snell & Wilmer



Deborah A. Gubernick

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Main Bio

Deborah Gubernick is a partner in the firm's intellectual property and commercial litigation groups. She helps small and large clients protect and defend their brands and business in the U.S. and abroad. She has litigated cases in state and federal courts and has handled over 100 matters before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Debbie routinely litigates trademark, copyright and trade secret cases, as well as cases involving false advertising, breach of contract, unfair competition and more. She has negotiated assignments, settlements, trademark co-existence agreements and licenses involving household brand names, high-end retailers, famous clothing brands, national sports leagues and more. Debbie has provided IP diligence support on multi-million dollar and billion-dollar transactions and routinely provides strategic counseling and assistance for her clients' global trademark portfolios.

Representative Experience

- Represented multiple nationally recognized brand-owners in over 100 opposition/cancellation matter before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB)
- Represented multiple high-end retail store Defendants and brand owner in trademark infringement case
- Represented Plaintiff, a family-owned addiction recovery, behavioral health, and therapeutic transitional living business in protecting its key trademark and trade name
- Represented Plaintiff Company in trademark litigation against former founder and co-owner
- Defended specialty grocery store chain in infringement action
- Represented Plaintiff in highly contested and emotional trademark, copyright infringement and trade secrets misappropriation case
- Represented nationally recognized gas service station company in branding dispute with franchisee
- Defended well-known apparel and accessories brand licensee in breach of contract dispute involving its worldwide licensor
- Represented Plaintiff in trade secret misappropriation case
- Litigated breach of contract case related to highly technical software license on behalf of Plaintiff before the American Arbitration Association
- Represented privately held, well known hotel chain in IP diligence aspects of multi-billion dollar leveraged buy-out and assumed debt transaction
- Represented purchaser in trademark assignment aspects of multi-million-dollar transaction and asset

purchase

- Represented seller in multi-million-dollar sale of luxury golf apparel brand
- Assisted multiple companies in the worldwide assignment/recordal of assignment of intellectual property rights

Education

- University of San Diego School of Law
 - Research Editor - San Diego Law Review; Member - San Diego Law Review
 - Externship - Hon. Judge Gary L. Taylor (Ret.) - United States District Court - Central District
- Brigham Young University (B.A., English)
 - Language Lab Assistant - Spanish emphasis

Professional Memberships & Activities

- International Trademark Association, Member (2005-Present)
- Orange County Bar Association, Member (2005-Present)
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society (2005-Present)

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "Privacy Primer: Evolving Concepts, the GDPR and Data Breaches CLE," Presenter (July 2018)
- "Diligence in Building or Buying a Brand," Author, Orange County Business Journal (October 16, 2017)
- "Gender Bias: What Can Be Done to Overcome It?" Presenter, JRCLS WIL Conference (September 2015)
- "Decisions You Need to Know: Key Trademark Cases from 2014," Presenter, INTA (January 2015)
- "New Business Issues for Retailers," Author, California Fashion Association (Summer 2012)
- "Apparel Legal Basics," Presenter, Fashion Business Incorporated (FBA) Webinar (Summer 2011)
- "UCLA IP Fiat Lux Seminar," Guest Lecturer (Fall 2009, Fall 2010)
- "The United States Patent and Trademark Office Amends Rules Governing Inter Partes Proceedings Before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board," Author, Client Alert (February 6, 2008)
- "When Consumers Get Confused," Author, Trademark World (April 1, 2010)
- "Intellectual Property," Presenter, Volcom's Annual MBA Academy (2011)
- "Post-Trial Motions," "Trademarks 101," "Elimination of Bias," CLE Presenter

Professional Recognition & Awards

- Southern California Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition - Top Women Attorneys of Southern California, Business Litigation (2014, 2016)
- Southern California Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Edition, Intellectual Property and Technology (2013-2015)
- Women of Outstanding Leadership, The International Women's Leadership Association (2014)

Other Professional Experience

- Call & Jensen, Shareholder, Associate (2011-2019)
- Latham & Watkins, Litigation Associate (2006-2011)

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- United States District Court, Central District of California
- United States District Court, Northern District of California
- United States District Court, Southern District of California
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit