



Curriculum Vitae

Practicing with honesty and integrity in furtherance of advancing the honorable reputation of the legal profession, educating lawyer membership, promoting compliance with the ethical rules governing lawyers with passion as an expert in fiduciary duties, legal ethics, and State Bar matters.



ETHICS COUNSEL – Professional Responsibility, Legal Malpractice Defense, Attorney Ethics, Expert Consulting, Commission on Judicial Performance Issues, MCLE Trainings, Admissions, Reinstatements, and State Bar Discipline
Cha Law Ethics APC

October 2020 – Present
Orange, CA

ETHICS COUNSEL – Ethics, Admissions, Legal Malpractice & Professional Responsibility
Pansky Markle Attorneys at Law

November 2019 – October 2020
South Pasadena, CA

SENIOR COUNSEL – Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Team
Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP

June 2018 – November 2019
Los Angeles, CA

ETHICS ATTORNEY – Civil Litigation and State Bar Matters
Law Office of Jean Cha

July 2017 – November 2019
Orange County, CA

DEPUTY TRIAL COUNSEL – Prosecution in all Office of Chief Trial Counsel Aspects
The State Bar of California

August 2004 – June 2017
Los Angeles, CA

KEY SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

EXPERTISE

Ethicist: Attorney Ethics Expert Consulting, Legal Malpractice Defense, State Bar Discipline Defense, Admissions and Moral Character Applications, Petitions for Reinstatement, Professional Responsibility Advisor, Continuing Legal Education Curator, and State Bar Complaints

Senior Counsel: Focus on Legal Malpractice matters and assigned to the professional liability and professional license defense team in civil litigation, Office of Administrative Hearings, and State Bar Court.

Expert Witness: Analyze and Assess Exposure for Professional Liability considerations, Rules of Professional Conduct and State Bar Act violations, standard of care, fiduciary duties, ethics compliance, and risk management for individuals and law firms.

Contract Attorney: Areas of practice include Intellectual Property such as licensing, commercialization, trademark defense, cybersecurity, Employment Law such as FLSA compliance and employment contracts, Business Litigation such as fiduciary duty, Contract Law, and Corporate Law.

Discipline Defense Counsel: Counsel for State Bar lawyer members facing allegations of Business and Professions Code or State Bar Act violations through all stages of discipline defense, intake, investigation, trial, appeal, reinstatement, criminal conviction referrals, moral character and admissions, law practice management, legal ethics advice, consulting, counseling, continuing education, professional liability and legal malpractice defense and prosecution, attorney fee and partnership disputes, business litigation, disqualifications, marketing, advertising and solicitation, and conflicts advice. Counsel to Applicants for Admission and Reinstatement.

State Bar Investigations: Served as Acting Senior Trial Counsel, Team Lead, and Legal Advisor to the Office of Intake and Investigations. Maintained statistics, status reports and supervision of subordinate team members while managing a caseload of over 275 investigative matters and processed over 2600 intake matters annually. Liaised between management and executives. Contributed to and revised Policy Handbooks. Encouraged mentorship relations, provided volunteer opportunities, and organized inter-departmental trainings and CLE. Managed collaborative round tables, worked with executive team members to enhance transparency and designed a professional development program to improve departmental efficiency. Heavy focus on statutory compliance and attorney regulation.

State Bar Disciplinary Prosecution: Litigated at Trial and Review Level regarding California Rules of Professional Conduct and State Bar Act violations with expertise in ethics as it pertains to numerous practice areas in relation to admissions, disciplinary prosecution, moral character, reinstatement and disbarment matters before the State Bar Court Hearing Department and Review Department of the State Bar Court in appellate matters. Greatest focus on pushing the boundaries of developing case law and educating membership regarding best practices and responding to stakeholder and court concerns.

PRO BONO, MEMBERSHIP, AND VOLUNTARISM

The State Bar of California, (2020-Present), Volunteer of the State Bar Board of Trustees Working Group on Closing the Justice Gap (CTJG Working Group)

The State Bar Court of the State Bar of California, Panel Member Attorney as Court-Appointed Counsel in pro bono State Bar matters (2018-Present)

The State Bar of California Mandatory Fee Arbitration Program Mediator (2022-Present)

Association of Discipline Defense Counsel, President (2022), 1st Vice President (2021); 2nd Vice President (2018-2020) – The Association of Discipline Defense Counsel is the bar association for lawyers who represent lawyers and others in disciplinary, admissions, and regulatory proceedings before the State Bar of California and California Supreme Court.

ADDC, (2023) Bench Bar Committee, a collaborative collective organized by the State Bar Court to include robust discussions between the Court, Office of Chief Trial Counsel and the ADDC.

ADDC, (2020) Liaison for the State Bar Court Bench Bar Committee Pro Bono Clinic Initiative to provide pro bono services to attorneys in need.

ADDC, (2018-Present) Membership Chair and Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers (APRL), Membership Chair (2020-2023); Member (2018-Present).

American Bar Association (ABA), Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belong, Committee, Member (2022-Present)

American Bar Association (ABA), LP Ethics & Professionalism Committee, Member (2021-Present)

American Bar Association (ABA), Pro Bono & Public Service Committee, Member (2021-Present)

Served on *Committee to Evaluate Changes to Standards for Attorney Sanctions* with the State Bar of California, (2018-2019)

National Organization of Bar Counsel, Member (2005-2017)

Christian Legal Society, Member and Mentor Program, Mentor

Christian Legal Aid Los Angeles, Pro Bono Clinic Volunteer

California Law Academies Volunteer Coordinator (2012-2017), Volunteer (2017-Present). The California Law Academies benefit high school students and builds a diversity pipeline into the law.

Association of Junior Leagues International and Junior League of Orange County Volunteer and Sustaining Member (2010-Present)

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Litigation Funding, ABA, TBD 2024

MCLE Presenter: Private Event, Private Law Firm, slated for January 2024

Risk Management for the State Bar practitioner, Association of Discipline Defense Counsel (ADDC), LA, slated for December 2023

MCLE Presenter: Private Event, Private Law Firm, slated for November 2023

Civility Matters, Le Verne Law School, October 2023

Civility Matters, Desert Bar Association, ABOTA, September 2023

Lawyers Behaving Badly, American Bar Association, August 2023

Thoughts on Batson and Harada: Implicit Bias and Jury Selection, SBR-ABOTA, July 2023

Implicit Bias: Cultural Humility, Agism, and Power, Association of Discipline Defense Counsel (ADDC), Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, July 2023

CTAPP: What If The Answer Is "No"? Strategies For Addressing Client Trust Accounting Issues In The New Age of CTAPP, Virtual Solo and Small Firm Summit, California Lawyers Association, June 2023

MCLE Presenter: Is Civility An Ethical Obligation, Labor & Employment Annual Retreat, Los Angeles County Bar Association, April 2023

Oh No! I've been sued: Malpractice, PR, and Ethics: Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA), April 2023

MCLE Presenter: CTAPP: New and Revised Rules, San Bernardino County Bar Association, April 2023

MCLE Presenter: From Ethical Violations to Criminal Convictions: United States v. Avenatti, Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), January 2023

Respondent's Round Table: Time to Share War Stories and Brainstorm Defense Strategies, Association of Discipline Defense Counsel (ADDC), December 2022

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Tools to Implement in 2023, Association of Discipline Defense Counsel (ADDC), December 2022

Ethics Tune-Up: The (Un-)Common Sources of Ethical Mistakes in Today's Immigration Practice - and how to avoid them, Los Angeles County Bar Association, November 2022

Outside Counsel Guidelines, New York State Bar Association, November 2022

Unauthorized Practice of Law, Los Angeles Paralegal Association, October 2022

Legal Technology Practice and Competence, Alameda County Bar Association, March 2022

Managing Conflicts of Interest in an Immigration Law Practice, Los Angeles County Bar Association, January 20, 2022

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Implementation of Tools in 2022, Association of Discipline Defense Counsel, Annual Meeting, December 2021

The Future of Law Firms and Beyond, Chicago, Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers Annual Meeting, October 2021

Ethical Considerations in Joint Representation, L&E Symposium, Alameda County Bar Association, August 2021

Practicing Law: The State Bar Perspective, Trinity Law School, July 2021

The Ethics of Virtual Depositions & Trials, Private Firm, May 2021

Crisis Fatigue & Fiduciary Duties, Private Firm, April 2021

Legal Malpractice Risk Management Conference Panelist, Private Firm, March 2021

Legal Ethics in Estate Planning in Light of New Changes, Affinity Group, February 2021

State Bar Review Department Decisions: A Year in Review, Association of Discipline Defense Counsel, January 2021

Civility Matters Panelist, CA American Board of Trial Advocates (CAL-ABOTA), December 2020

Ethical Considerations in Intake and Beyond: Engagement & Conflicts of Interest, Private Firm, November 2020

Thriving in Volatile Times and Growing Your Practice, Orange County Bar Association, November 2020

Getting the Business: Retooling with New Practice Areas, Competency and Mentoring, California Lawyers Association, November 2020

Ethics Dos and Don'ts for Lawyer Marketing & Advertising in 2020, Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, October 2020

General Principles in Ethics, Orange County Bar Association, October 2020

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Toolkit, Private Firm, July 2020

Billing Compliance: Billing Techniques for Carrier Matters, Private Firm, May 2020

Honest to Greatness: The Value of Honesty and Power of Ethics, Westlake Village Lawyers Affinity Group, January 2020

Ethics of Billing: Tips and Tricks, Guest Speaker, The Los Angeles Paralegal Association, October 2019

Supervision and the Unauthorized Practice of Law, Private Firm, June 2019

Caution: Hard Hat Area, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Concerns, Fitness to Practice Law, Private Firm, January 2019

State Bar Court Decisions: A Year in Review, Lessons Learned from the Defense, January 2019

CA State Bar New Rules of Professional Conduct: Deep Dive into the Rules, January 2019

The Amended California Rules of Professional Responsibility and What You Should Know, November 2018

Professional Responsibility and the State Bar Act, Guest Speaker Loyola Law School, 2012-2016
Various Confidential MCLE Trainings for *Internal Use at the State Bar of California*, 2009-2014

State Bar Public Outreach Speaker and Mentor Training Program, 2008-2016

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

NITA Certifications: 2011 NITA: The Articulate Advocate, 2008 NITA: Trial Techniques for the Discipline Bar, 2007 NITA: Discovery Workshop, 2007 NITA: Advanced Legal Writing & Editing, 2006 NITA: Building Trial Skills.

Los Angeles District Attorney Training Seminars: Covering various litigation, prosecutorial and law enforcement topics.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, Syracuse, NY
Certificate: Law, Technology & Management

J.D., 2002

Technology Commercialization Law Program

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, Austin, TX
Certificate: Business Foundations Program
Government/Political Science Double Major

B.A., 1999

STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

December 2003

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

November 2017

STATE BAR OF WASHINGTON

June 2019