

Agenda

Understanding California Personal Injury Law

P. Turnage

The development of personal injury law in California
Statutes and regulations that affect liability law
An overview of liability law in different types of personal injury cases

- Automobile accident
- Medical malpractice
- Slip-and-fall
- Product liability

The law of damages
Recent developments and anticipated changes in California law

Investigating and Evaluating a Personal Injury Claim

D. Ellsworth

Obtaining information from/about the plaintiff
Using and not using investigators
Identifying and locating parties and witnesses
Investigating/documenting the incident
Interviewing witnesses
Obtaining information on damages
Identifying and obtaining other relevant information
Helpful resources

Negotiating, Mediating, and Settling Personal Injury Cases

J. Klopfenstein

Creating comprehensive and effective settlement demands
Preparing for and assisting with the negotiation process
Preparing for and assisting with mediation

Litigating Personal Injury Cases

M. Sigala

Drafting, filing and serving initial pleadings
Participating in the discovery process

- Drafting admissions, interrogatories, and requests for production of documents
- Responding to discovery requests

Deposition practice: preparing for, attending and reviewing
Working with expert witnesses
Preparing for and assisting at trial

Handling Ethical Issues in Personal Injury Practice

J. Suits II

Maintaining client confidentiality
Avoiding conflicts of interest
Avoiding the unauthorized practice of law
Communicating with clients, the court and opposing counsel

California Personal Injury Practice for Paralegals

San Jose, CA - Thursday, May 14, 2020



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Learning Objectives

You'll be able to:

Understand recent developments and anticipated changes in California personal injury law.

Obtain and **evaluate** information from/about plaintiffs.

Prepare for and assist with negotiation, mediation, and settlement of personal injury cases.

Participate in the discovery process, including drafting admissions, interrogatories, and requests for production of documents.

Avoid conflicts of interest and the unauthorized practice of law.



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Receive an overview of liability law in different types of personal injury cases

Assist with negotiating, mediating, and settling cases

Assist in the litigation process

Investigate and evaluate personal injury claims

Explore ethical issues in personal injury practice

Continuing Education Credits

This seminar offers 6.5 CLE hours, including 1.0 ethics hour, to California paralegals.

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Faculty

Patricia A. Turnage, Esq., CPCU, is the founding attorney of the Law Offices of Patricia Turnage. She attended Golden Gate Law School where she actively participated in Law Review and served as Managing Editor. Upon graduation, she became an active litigator, primarily in the area of personal injury defense. Prior to opening her law office in early 1999, she worked for large, prestigious law firms in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Turnage was selected to participate in a five-year program in which she studied all aspects of insurance and insurance claims. Upon completion of that program in 1994, she earned a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation (“CPCU”). This designation has proved to be a valuable asset to her clients in settling personal injury claims, construction defect claims, and insurance bad faith claims. Ms. Turnage has been a licensed member of the State Bar of California for more than 20 years, and she is active in local bar organizations. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Alameda County Bar Association. She is also past president of the Eastern Alameda County Bar Association and is president-elect of the Earl Warren American Inn of Court for 2011-2012. Ms. Turnage has served as a Judge Pro Tem for the Alameda Courts since 1998.

Dayna Ellsworth is an attorney at Harris Personal Injury Lawyers, Inc. She is passionate about victim advocacy and believes in providing a voice for those who have experienced an injustice or injury. She has years of training and experience in victim advocacy, which includes building client trust while compassionately managing emotional and sensitive information. Ms. Ellsworth earned her Juris Doctor degree from California Western and graduated with multiple degrees from the University of Utah. In law school, she received several awards for her trial skills and was nationally ranked as a student trial advocate. She also received the prestigious M. Eugenia Lopez scholarship for exemplifying dedication in the community, practicing with integrity, and demonstrating leadership in the legal profession.

John F. Klopfenstein, the founder of the Law Office of John Klopfenstein, received his law degree from San Diego’s Thomas Jefferson School of Law and has been practicing in California since 1993. During his 20 plus years practicing law, and more than 10,000 cases, he has shown incredible success getting his clients lesser charges and abbreviated prison terms. Mr. Klopfenstein has a

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diverse background when it comes to the law. In the mid-1990’s, he had his own practice in Beverly Hills, litigating personal injury cases on behalf of other attorneys. After acquiring valuable experience in civil court, he went on to work as a public defender for 15 years between 1997 and 2012, serving the California counties of Yolo and Monterey for ten and five years. In 2007, Mr. Klopfenstein was asked to teach Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure at Parma, the oldest and most prestigious University in all of Italy. During this time he also worked with Italy’s most famous law professor Mr. Cadopi, as commissioned by the Italian Government to rewrite the Italian Penal Code basing it on American Law from New York and California. This experience, as well as his many years as an award-winning public defender, allowed Mr. Klopfenstein to gain a great deal of crucial insight into the workings of the California criminal justice system.

Mark A. Sigala has been with Corsiglia McMahon & Allard, L.L.P., since its inception. Mr. Sigala prides himself with helping individuals who have been seriously injured and families whose loved ones have been tragically killed by the wrongdoing of others. He has been instrumental in securing several multi-million dollar settlements and jury verdicts for the firm. Mr. Sigala has been chosen by his peers as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers of Northern California several times. He is the past president of the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association and past member of their Board of Governors. He is a member of Law Raza Lawyers of Santa Clara County, Santa Clara County Bar Association, San Francisco County Trial Lawyers and Consumer Attorneys of California. Mr. Sigala gained extensive experience working as a personal injury paralegal and investigator for many years with several nationally recognized personal injury firms. Having been raised in San Jose, Mr. Sigala is active in the local community.

James C. Suits II is a personal injury attorney practicing in San Jose, California. He founded the Law Office of James C. Suits II and has 15 years of litigation experience. Mr. Suits represents individuals in a wide variety of personal injury cases, including motor vehicle collisions, elder abuse and neglect, medical malpractice, assault and battery, and premises liability.

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