



SHERYL W. LEICHENGER

PARTNER

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BAR ADMISSIONS

- California, 1992
- Supreme Court of California
- U.S. District Court Central District of California
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court Southern District of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit

EDUCATION

- Loyola Law School, J.D., 1992
- California State University, B.S., 1987
Major: Accounting

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

- CLM, Member
- American College of Coverage Counsel, Fellow
- American Bar Association
- AV Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell
- Super Lawyers, 2006-2023

Sheryl Leichenger is a Founding Partner and Co-Managing Partner of the firm. She also serves on the Executive Committee. With more than 30 years of experience, she is one of the authors of the LexisNexis *Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Insurance Coverage and Litigation*, and focuses her practice on representing insurers in complex coverage disputes and coverage litigation, including cases arising out of extracontractual matters, emphasizing third-party insurance coverage, construction and environmental matters, products liability, professional liability, food liability, and underwriting disputes. She has been named to *Super Lawyers' "Top 50 Women in Southern California"* nearly each year since 2007.

Sheryl advises her clients on business practices, underwriting and claims handling, and drafts policy forms and endorsements. Her experience also includes primary/excess issues, additional insured issues and OCIP/Wrap-Up Matters. Her clients include both local insurance companies and multi-national corporations.

Sheryl's training as a CPA paired with her extensive experience in insurance provides her a unique ability to evaluate complex coverage issues and focus on effective and strategic resolution strategies. She works closely with clients and strives to work collaboratively to address their business needs on a portfolio basis. Sheryl's practice focuses on defending insurers against declaratory relief and extracontractual suits, analyzing coverage for complex claims, and counseling insurers on claims handling and recovery.

Having acted as lead counsel in major litigation throughout California and in other states, Sheryl has extensive trial experience in both state and federal courts. Additionally, she has been involved with numerous appeals as lead appellate counsel, including the most recent successful appellate court representation of Everest National Insurance Company that resulted in the California Court of Appeal decision in *County of Sacramento v. Everest National Insurance Company* (2023), a decision which addressed the issues of California Insurance Code Section 533, which barred indemnity of the retaliation claims. Further, Sheryl successfully represented Gemini Insurance Company at trial and in the California Court of Appeal decision in *McMillin Management Services LP v. Gemini Insurance Company* (2023) wherein the Court of Appeal concluded that the trial court properly granted Gemini summary adjudication and that Gemini was entitled to an equitable offset and McMillin had no claim for prejudgment interest. The Court concluded that none of McMillin's arguments had merit. In 2022, Sheryl represented Aegis Security Insurance Company that resulted in the published California Court of Appeal decision in *Ghukasian v. Aegis Security Ins. Co.* (2022) 78 Cal.App.5th 270, a decision which addresses the key coverage issue of what is an "accident" for purposes of liability insurance coverage.

