

# Katharine L. Spaniac

### **PROFILE**

- Licensed attorney in private practice since 1983
- Trials have covered a wide range of personal injury issues including construction, contract and indemnity, breach
  of security, foster family agency liability, premises, alleged toxic mold exposure, habitability and
  landlord/tenant, and catastrophic injury
- Judge Pro Tempore, San Bernardino Superior Court (1997)

#### **EDUCATION**

Juris Doctor

McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific Top 15%, Phi Delta Phi American Jurisprudence Award in Agency Staff Member/Writer for the Pacific Law Journal 1983

Bachelor of Arts

Pomona College, Pomona, California - Cum Laude Major: Political Science 1979

Post-Graduate

Pepperdine University, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Malibu, California

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- Admitted to the California State Bar
- Admitted to the Supreme Court of California
- Admitted to the United States Court of Appeal, Ninth Circuit
- Admitted to the United States District Court, Central, Eastern and Southern Districts of California
- Member, California Dispute Resolution Council
- Member, Southern California Mediation Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, San Bernardino County Bar Association
- · Member, Defense Research Institute
- Member, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- Member, Temecula Valley Paint Horse Association
- Member, American Paint Horse Association

#### SIGNIFICANT CASES

## **Significant Jury Trials:**

Tapparo v. Turner

Jury Trial

San Bernardino Superior Court

Case No. SCV 259419

Case involved plaintiff claiming personal injury consequent to pushing a ventilator across allegedly puckered carpet installed by Ms. Spaniac's construction client. Injuries were catastrophic and included three back surgeries, plus significant residual injury. Defense verdict unanimous, after one half hour of deliberation.

- Defense Verdict, 12/0

Espinosa v. Hill

Jury Trial

Victorville Superior Court

Case No. VCV15097

Wrongful death of two minor children and Dillon v. Legg claim of mother plaintiff. Alleged malfunction in a travel trailer's propane-fueled wall heater causing a fire, with the travel trailer owned by Ms. Spaniac's clients.

- Defense Verdict, 11/1

Steward v. Herrera

Jury Trial

Pomona Superior Court

Case No. EAC58185

Represented an off duty LAPD officer accused of assaulting 4 plaintiffs, with the case being shaded by racial overtones. This police liability case was tried to a Los Angeles jury when the Rodney King case was a lead issue in the media.

- Defense Verdict, 12/0

Garcia v. Concept 7

Jury Trial

San Bernardino Superior Court

Case No. SCVSS 089987

Case involved fracture injuries to 6 month old foster child and included allegations of child abuse. Ms. Spaniac represented the foster family agency that placed the child with the foster parents accused of child abuse, and which was being accused of alleged negligent placement and supervision.

- Defense Verdict, 11/1

Davis v. Hollywood a Go Go

Jury Trial

Los Angeles Central Superior Court

Case No. C576404

Auto injury case involving issues of agency and course and scope. As a result of proof problems with plaintiff's case in chief, a non-suit was granted to Ms. Spaniac's clients.

- Nonsuit

Martinez v. Aull

Jury Trial

Los Angeles Central Superior Court

Case No. C681689

Ms. Spaniac represented an anesthesiologist in an auto v. pedestrian injury case. Plaintiff sustained significant knee and back injuries when hit in a crosswalk by the physician, who was insured by an auto policy with a \$50,000.00 policy limit. Plaintiff was awarded a net recovery of \$34,000.00 by the jury.

Krejcik v. Yucaipa Square Apartments

**Court Trial** 

San Bernardino Superior Court

Case No. SCVSS 086949

Case involved significant fracture injuries sustained by plaintiff as result of a fall down stairs. Ms. Spaniac represented the defendant property owner who allegedly maintained the dangerous property condition

-Defense verdict following 5-day court trial

Fraga v. Super Centers Concepts

Jury Trial

Pomona Superior Court

Case No. KC 052843

Fall injury involving significant injury, inclusive of lung pulmonary emboli. Ms. Spaniac represented a beverage distributing company who was accused of leaving a foreign substance on the floor which allegedly caused plaintiff's injuries.

-Defense Verdict, 11/1

## SIGNIFICANT CASES (CONTINUED)

Albert v. Satellite Management

Jury and Court Trial Case No. RIC 376035

Riverside Superior Court

Auto accident involving a plaintiff who was a practicing attorney, and who alleged significant vision injuries precluding her from driving a vehicle. Case was first tried in 2006, resulting in a 1.8 million dollar award. Verdict was overturned on appeal due to juror misconduct and judicial error. Case retried in 2011, with retrial resulting in a defense verdict. Retrial included use of live video feed technology from key impeachment witness located in Australia.

# **Significant Court of Appeal Decisions:**

Jon Lewis v. Columbia Pictures	(4 <sup>th</sup> App. Dist. 1993) 4 Civil E011948	
Davis v. Wagner	(2 <sup>nd</sup> App. Dist. 1991) 2 Civil B048179	
Forsyth v. Jones	(4th App. Dist. 1997) 57 Cal. App. 4th 776	
Wicker v. Oosten	(4th App. Dist. 1995) 37 Cal. App. 4th 331	
Galardi v. Seahorse Riding Club	(2 <sup>nd</sup> App. Dist. 1993) 16 Cal. App. 4 <sup>th</sup> 817	
Cory v. Villa Properties	(2 <sup>nd</sup> App. Dist. 1986) 180 Cal. App. 3d 592	
Garcia v. County of Riverside, et al	(4th App. Dist 2010) 186 Cal. App. 4th 1038	

## **WORK HISTORY**

• Sharehole	der ClouseSpaniac Attorneys Rancho Cucamonga, California	2019-Current
• Founding	Partner ClouseSpaniac Attorneys Rancho Cucamonga, California	2016-2018
• Partner	Cihigoyenetche, Grossberg & Clouse Rancho Cucamonga, California	1999-2016
• Partner	Hagenbaugh & Murphy Los Angeles, California	1989-1999
• Associa	ite Hagenbaugh & Murphy Los Angeles, California	1984-1989