



## Crystal L. Van Der Putten

Shareholder

[cvanderputten@livingstonlawyers.com](mailto:cvanderputten@livingstonlawyers.com)

1600 South Main Street, Suite 280  
Walnut Creek, California 94596  
(925) 952-9880

Crystal left Big Law in 2007 and joined Livingston Law Firm upon the recommendation of her trusted former law school professor, C. Delos Putz (who also taught LLF's founder and managing shareholder, Renée Welze Livingston). She began as an associate and became a shareholder in 2012. She is the firm's go-to attorney to unravel complex and unusual factual and legal scenarios. With over 20 years' experience defending commercial litigation, product liability, including pharmaceutical and medical devices, premises liability and general liability matters in state and federal courts throughout California, Crystal recognizes litigation is stressful and not a usual part of her clients' everyday life. She puts 100% effort into each of her cases in hopes of resolving litigation as early and as efficiently as possible. Crystal's clients appreciate her responsiveness, candor and attention to detail. Crystal is an AV- Preeminent rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell and has been selected multiple years as a Northern California Super Lawyer and as a Rising Star. In addition to her law practice, Crystal teaches law and motion to law students.

### EMPLOYMENT

SHAREHOLDER

OCTOBER 2012 - PRESENT

ASSOCIATE

OCTOBER 2007 - SEPTEMBER 2012

**Livingston Law Firm**

*Walnut Creek, California*

**A Professional Corporation**

General civil trial practice with emphasis on products, premises, and general liability and commercial litigation matters. Has drafted numerous successful summary judgment motions and played a key role in directing cases towards resolution. Serves as local counsel in medical device and pharmaceutical matters. Provides contract evaluation and analysis.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

MAY 2015 - PRESENT

**JFK School of Law at National University**

**(formerly John F. Kennedy University College of Law)**

*Pleasant Hill, California*

Courses currently involve teaching students the basics of law and motion, including preparing and opposing various types of motions and preparing for hearings.

ASSOCIATE  
**Bingham McCutchen**  
**San Francisco, California**

OCTOBER 2003 - OCTOBER 2007  
*Walnut Creek, California*

General civil litigation defense practice with emphasis on representation of corporate clients, including major financial institutions, in business litigation and contract matters, including breach of contract, unfair competition, and class actions. Advised clients regarding land use entitlements and performed land use/environmental due diligence for private entities.

LEGAL EXTERN FALL 2002  
**California Supreme Court**

Legal extern for California Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard during fall semester of 2002. Responsibilities included analysis of cases for potential review and summary of cases at weekly staff meetings, legal research, editing and cite checking draft opinions, and preparing first drafts of opinion.

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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- United States Supreme Court - 2018
- State Bar of California - 2003
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit - 2015
- U.S. District Court
  - Northern District CA - 2004
  - Eastern District CA - 2005
  - Southern District CA - 2018

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada; Contra Costa County Bar Association; National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF)

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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2020-present, Board of Directors, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, 2015 Member, Contra Costa County Bar Association Law Practice Management Task Force, 2015-2016, 2018-2022 Member-at-Large, Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section, 2014 President, Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section, 2013 Vice President, Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section, 2012 Treasurer, Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section, 2011 Secretary, Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- *Past President Highlight: Dennis F. Moriarty*, ADC Defense Comment, Fall 2021
- *Past President Highlight: Julia A. Molander*, ADC Defense Comment, Spring 2020
- *Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes: Strategies for Successfully Moving to Change Venue Based on Inconvenience*, (Co-author Craig A. Livingston), ADC Defense Comment, Summer 2017
- *Thirty Years and Going Strong* – The CCCBA Women's Section, Contra Costa Lawyer, February 2015
- *Five Things New/Junior Associates Should Know*, Contra Costa Lawyer, December 2014
- *Litigation Sub-Law Newsflash: Supreme Court Finds Primary Assumption of Risk Doctrine Applies to "Nonsport" Recreational Activities*, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, January 2013
- *To Offer or Not to Offer – That is the Question: Considerations in Making a C.C.P. § 998 Offer of Compromise*, ADC Defense Comment, Summer 2009

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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- *Bird's-Eye View: Inception and Litigation of a New File*, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, Basic Training Series XXIV, San Francisco, CA (September 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- *There's No Place Like Home...Or Is There?*, Contra Costa County Legal Professionals Association, Walnut Creek, CA (October 2019)
- *Encore Performance: Puttin' on the Writs: Putting Your Best Foot Forward to a Successful Writ Petition*, Contra Costa County Bar Association, Concord, CA (February 2019)
- *Puttin' on the Writs: Putting Your Best Foot Forward to a Successful Writ Petition*, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (December 2018)
- *Technology? Not Billable...Not for Me: Technology Proficiency: An Ethical Obligation to your Client*, National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (September 2018)
- *Trending Employment Law and Diversity Issues for Silicon Valley, Mock Trial Demonstration*, National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, Regional Conference, San Jose, CA (August 2018)
- *Pretrial Preparation and Submissions*, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, Basic Training Series XXII, San Francisco, CA (October 2017)
- *Paths to Partnership: One Size Does Not Fit All*, Contra Costa County Bar Association Women's Section, Walnut Creek, CA (January 2016)
- *Preparing for the Uncommon Battle*, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada Basic Training Series XX, San Francisco, CA (October 2015)

## PUBLISHED DECISIONS

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*Teixeira v. County of Alameda* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2017) 873 F.3d 670

*Delana v. CED Sales, Inc. dba Odessa Gun & Pawn, et al.* (2016) 486 S.W.3d 316

*Jankey v. Lee* (2012) 55 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 1038, cert. den. (2013) 133 S.Ct. 1810

## EDUCATION

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JURIS DOCTOR, MAGNA CUM LAUDE

JUNE 2003

**University of San Francisco School of Law**

San Francisco, California

*McAuliffe Honor Society; University of San Francisco Law Review, Senior Staff Member; USF Maritime Law Journal, Survey Writer; CALI Award recipient in Criminal Law, Contracts II, Legal Research, Writing and Analysis II, Remedies, and Corporations; Dean's Scholarship and Faculty Scholarship recipient.*

BACHELOR OF ARTS, PSYCHOLOGY, CUM LAUDE

AUGUST 1997

**Pepperdine University**

Malibu, California

*Golden Key Honor Society*

## PERSONAL

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Crystal enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons, especially on family game night (even more so when she wins). She is an avid reader and movie watcher.