



## Renée Welze Livingston

Managing Shareholder

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As the Founding Member of Livingston Law Firm, Renée had the vision and resolve to build a preeminent civil trial firm in the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 2000, the firm attracts top lawyers dedicated to serving an elite and discriminating national client base and increasing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Renée served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF) from 2003-2012 and takes an active role in mentoring women lawyers on the challenges and opportunities of being a woman attorney and business owner. An accomplished trial lawyer and member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Renée is often engaged to handle complex legal matters in state and federal court that require thoughtful evaluation, creative resolution strategy and effective trial presentation. She handles catastrophic injury, wrongful death and other high-exposure cases primarily in the areas of product liability, trucking and transportation, premises liability and aggravated sexual assault. She brings legal excellence, genuine enthusiasm, unending dedication and the utmost professionalism to each engagement. Renée served as the President of the the Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada in 2020 and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Contra Costa County Bar Association from 2012-2018. She is an active member of the Women in the Law Committee of the Defense Research Institute, and in 2019 was invited to join the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC) and International Society of Barristers (ISOB). Renée is a proud graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara with high honors and the University of San Francisco School of Law with honors. She is AV-rated (5.0) by Martindale-Hubbell and a multi-year Northern California Super Lawyer.

### EMPLOYMENT

SHAREHOLDER

**Livingston Law Firm**

**A Professional Corporation**

PARTNER

**Livingston Tate LLP**

General civil litigation and trial practice with emphasis on representation of corporate and individual clients in complex personal injury and wrongful death matters. Served as regional counsel for national beverage bottling and distributing company and national pet supply company, and as California counsel for national wholesale distributor of grocery and food service industry products and equipment.

PARTNER

ASSOCIATE

**Bledsoe, Cathcart, Diestel, Livingston & Pedersen LLP**

General partner in defense trial practice and litigation firm.

AUGUST 2000-PRESENT

*Walnut Creek, California*

JANUARY 1992-AUGUST 2000

SEPTEMBER 1986-DECEMBER 1991

*San Francisco, California*

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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### **American Board of Trial Advocates, ABOTA Foundation, Featured Speaker:**

- *Masters in Trial, A trial demonstration from voir dire through jury deliberation, San Francisco, CA (October 2017)*

### **American Conference Institute, Faculty:**

- *5th National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation: Preparing and Presenting Your Witnesses: A Focus on Medical Experts, Drivers, and Company Representatives, Chicago, IL (March 2015)*
- *4th National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation: Settlement Negotiations and ADR Strategies in Trucking Litigation, Chicago, IL (March 2014)*
- *3rd National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation: Preparing and Presenting Company Representatives and Truck Drivers for Depositions: How to Ensure that Testimony Does Not Inadvertently Sink Your Case, Atlanta, GA (November 2012)*
- *2nd National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation: Valuing a Claim, Determining Damage Reserves and Defending Against Plaintiffs' Damages Claims, Including Punitive Damages, Orlando, FL (December 2011)*
- *National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation: Accident Reconstruction and the Use of Biomechanical and Human Factors Experts, Chicago, IL (March 2011)*
- *Workshop on Trucking Litigation: Litigation of a Catastrophic Trucking Suit from Start to Finish, Chicago, IL (March 2011)*

### **Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, Panelist:**

- *Owning and Operating a Law Firm from a Woman's Perspective, Summer Seminar, Squaw Valley, CA (August 2018)*
- *Mediations and Settlement Conferences – Get Ready, Get Set, GO – a Primer for Newer Lawyers, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (December 2017)*
- *Effective Report Writing: How to Make Your Point Clearly, Concisely and Correctly, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (December 2016)*
- *Basic Training: Series XIX, The Price Is Right: How to Value a Claim, Sacramento, CA (September 2014)*
- *Trucking Litigation from Accident to Resolution: Investigating Catastrophic Accidents and Preserving Evidence, Stockton, CA (June 2013)*

### **California Continuing Education of the Bar, Featured Panelist:**

- *Preparing and Examining Expert Witnesses: Reports, Depositions and Cross-Examination (May 2009)*
- *Maximizing the Use of Experts (May 2006)*
- *Preparing & Examining Expert Witnesses (August 2004)*
- *Getting the Most Out of Your Expert Witnesses (August 2003)*
- *Preparing a Case for Trial: The Last 100 Days before Trial (February 2001)*
- *Preparing for and Conducting Expert Witness Depositions (November 2000)*

### **California Law, Featured Panelist:**

- *The Recorder Roundtable Series (November 2006 and October 2008)*

### **Contra Costa County Bar Association, Featured Panelist:**

- *Women's Section, Navigating Gender Bias: Tales & Tips from Seasoned Practitioners (June 2018)*
- *Law Practice Management Series, This is Not Your Parents' Law Firm (October 2015)*
- *Law Practice Management Series, Managing Financial and Business Relationships with Clients: Best Practices and Simple Solutions (July 2014)*
- *17th Annual MCLE Spectacular, Navigating Gender Bias: Empowering Women to Overcome Barriers Above and Below the Glass Ceiling on the Road to Success (November 2011)*

**Defense Research Institute, Faculty:**

- Litigation Skills Committee, Trial Skills and Damages, *The Essentials of Psych Reports and Strategy for Cross-Examining Psych Doctors*, Las Vegas, NV (March 2019)
- Women in the Law, Partnering with Our Clients for Success, *Trouble at Trial: How to Know You're Getting into It - and How to Get out of It*, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (February 2015)
- Trucking Law Seminar, Road Warriors 2012 – Reshaping Trucking Litigation, *Defending the Driver's History: When the Focus Is on the Driver and Not the Accident*, Scottsdale, AZ (January 2012)

**Hispanic National Bar Association, Corporate Counsel Conference, Panelist:**

- Women as Rainmakers, Miami Beach, FL (March 2014)

**Mt. Diablo Legal Professionals Association**

- *Lessons Learned from Trial: Tips on Being an Asset to the Trial Team* (November 2015)

**National Association of Subrogation Professionals, Northern California Chapter, Featured Speaker:**

- *Commercial Vehicle Liability – Auto Claims*, Concord, CA (February 2013)

**National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms:**

- Panelist, Emerging Leaders Initiative, *The Art of Effective Client Communication & Avoiding Communication Crises*, Driving Diversity & Leadership Conference, New Orleans, LA (February 2019)
- Co-Moderator, *Law Firm Cross-Marketing Session: Help Me, Help You... The Key to Building Relationships and Business Referrals is Trust*, Annual Meeting, New York, NY (September 2017)
- Moderator, *Law Firm Cross-Marketing Session: Using the NAMWOLF Law Firm Network to Effectively Bridge the Gap between National and Local Counsel*, Business Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (February 2017)
- Moderator, *Law Firm Cross-Marketing Session: Dating for Dollars, Part 2*, Annual Meeting, Houston, TX (September 2016)
- Moderator, *PETCO and the NAMWOLF Outside Counsel Relationship: A Model for In-House and Law Firm Members*, Business Meeting, San Antonio, TX (January 2015)
- Moderator, *Law Firm Cross-Marketing Session: Dating for Dollars*, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (September 2014)
- Moderator, *Tips, Tricks and Marketing Tools for Your Next Annual Meeting*, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (October 2012)
- Moderator, *Trial Strategies: Demystifying the Corporate Client*, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (October 2009)
- Featured Panelist, *Law Firm Membership and Corporate/Public Entity Partnership*, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (October 2005)

**National Business Institute, Faculty:**

- *Tips for Handling the Personal Injury Case* (September 2008)
- *Trying the Wrongful Death Case in California: Strategies in Preparation and Valuation* (January 2003)

**Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance Companies**

- Diversity Certification Workshop, *Introduction to the Resources of the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms*, Stockton, CA (November 2016)

**PUBLISHED DECISIONS**

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*Jankey v. Lee* (2012) 55 Cal.4th 1038, cert. denied (U.S. April 15, 2013)

*Calvillo-Silva v. Home Grocery* (1998) 19 Cal.4th 714

*Bakanauskas v. Urdan* (1988) 206 Cal.App.3d 621

*Becker v. State Farm Fire and Casualty Co.* (N.D. Cal. 1987) 664 F.Supp. 460

## PUBLICATIONS

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- *How Methodical Investigation Can Cast Doubt on a Psychological Expert's Competence and Methodology*, DRI For The Defense, January 2020
- *Overcoming the Challenges of Starting and Growing a Woman-Owned Law Firm*, ADC Defense Comment, Vol. 19, No. 2/Summer 2004; *Contra Costa Lawyer*, October 2003

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA); Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC); International Society of Barristers (ISOB); Defense Research Institute (DRI), Product Liability, Trucking Law, Diversity and Women in the Law Committees; Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada (ADCNC); Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (ASCDC); San Francisco, Los Angeles and Contra Costa County Bar Associations; National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF); Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM); Queen's Bench.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Arbitrator and Settlement Mentor, San Francisco and Contra Costa County Superior Courts; Mentor, USF Women Lawyers Committee; Officer and Director, UCSB Alumni Association Board of Directors, 1991-1997; Member, UCSB Bay Area Leadership Forum, 1998-2006; Member, UCSB Northern California Campaign Committee, 2004-2016; Member, UCSB Bay Area Leadership Committee, 2016-present; Director, National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, 2003- 2012; Officer and Director, Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, 2012-present; Director, Contra Costa County Bar Association, 2012-2018; NAMWOLF Annual Meeting Chair, 2006; NAMWOLF Cross-Marketing Committee Co-Chair, 2008-2018; DRI Women in the Law, Annual Meeting Committee Co-Chair, 2017; DRI Women in the Law, Annual Meeting Chair, 2018.

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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- State Bar of California - 1986
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit - 1986
- U.S. District Court
  - Northern District CA - 1986
  - Eastern District CA - 1998
  - Central District CA - 2005
  - Southern District CA - 2008

## EDUCATION

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JURIS DOCTOR, HONORS	MAY 1986
<b><i>University of San Francisco School of Law</i></b>	<i>San Francisco, California</i>
BACHELOR OF ARTS, LIBERAL STUDIES, HIGH HONORS	JUNE 1982
<b><i>University of California, Santa Barbara</i></b>	<i>Santa Barbara, California</i>

## PERSONAL

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East Bay native. San Leandro High School, Class of 1978. Married, three children. Enjoys antique shopping in Brimfield, wine-tasting in central California, the beaches on Kauai and traveling anywhere. Walked 60 miles in San Diego in 2007 and raised \$6,000 for the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk Benefitting Susan G. Komen for the Cure.