

Joel A. Osman
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Joel A. Osman is Partner/General Counsel at Parker Shaffie LLP¹. He concentrates his practice on litigation and trials. Prior to joining Parker Mills in 2014, Mr. Osman was principal of Osman & Associates a private law firm in South Pasadena. Prior to setting up his private practice, he managed a similarly named entity which was part of staff counsel to Travelers Indemnity Company. For Travelers, he was responsible for all aspects of managing its Southern California liability practice, its multi-million dollar budget and 54 employees engaged in defense of Travelers insureds in all manner of general liability, auto, fire and subrogation matters.

Previously, Mr. Osman was a senior partner at Anderson, McPharlin & Connors LLP in Los Angeles. In his career, he has represented clients in cases involving professional liability, general liability, product liability, construction defect and commercial litigation, trying numerous jury trials to verdict. He has focused much of his interest on the defense of lawyers and legal ethics.

His current professional activities include membership in the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Professional Responsibility and Ethics Committee (where he was the chairperson for the 2008-2009 year). He served on the State Bar's Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct from 2015 through 2018.

BAR MEMBERSHIP

Admitted to practice in California, 1982. Also admitted to practice before the United States District Courts for Central, Northern and Southern Districts of California and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctor awarded 1981

¹ Formerly Parker Mills LLP.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in history awarded magna cum laude 1978.

WORK EXPERIENCE

PARKER SHAFFIE LLP, Los Angeles, CA

Partner/General Counsel, January 1, 2024 to present

Senior Counsel and General Counsel to the Firm, April 1, 2017 to January 1, 2024

Senior Counsel, March 1, 2014 - March 31, 2017.

OSMAN & ASSOCIATES, South Pasadena, CA

Private Practice May 8, 2013 - February 28, 2014.

OSMAN & ASSOCIATES, Staff Counsel to Travelers Indemnity Company, Diamond Bar, California

Managing Counsel, March 1, 2006 - May 8, 2013

Responsible for all aspects of managing Travelers' Staff Counsel Southern California Liability practice throughout Southern California. Responsible for operation of five offices (Diamond Bar, Glendale, Redlands, Orange, and San Diego), multi-million-dollar budget and 54 employees engaged in defense of Travelers insureds in all manner of GL, auto, fire and subrogation matters. Additional responsibilities included development and delivery of presentations and programs (training and others) for internal and external use. Served in several national roles including founding member and Chair of Staff Counsel Standing Committee on Ethics.

ANDERSON, McPHARLIN & CONNERS LLP, Los Angeles

Senior Associate/Partner/Senior Partner, February 28, 1985 - February 28, 2006

Joined firm as senior associate in 1985. Became a partner in the firm in 1988 and then became senior partner. For more than two decades worked effectively both as a solo case handler and as a member of a team in the areas of general liability litigation, professional liability litigation (medical and legal), construction defect litigation, employment and wrongful termination litigation and business torts. Tried many cases, including personal injury and legal malpractice cases, to verdict. Served for many years on the Firm's Lateral Hiring and Technology committees. Significant experience supervising and mentoring junior lawyers.

LAW OFFICES OF HUNSUCKER & SABO, Pasadena

Associate, December 1, 1983 – January 30, 1985

Joined this now defunct firm at the request of the two partners who were both alum of prior employer, Schell & Delamer (see below). First associate employed by firm. Had personal responsibility for individual case load of general liability cases including conduct of first two jury trials and first court trial (an uncontested matter).

LAW OFFICES OF SCHELL & DELAMER, Los Angeles

Law Clerk, March 1, 1979 – December 2, 1982

Associate, December 3, 1982 – November 30, 1983

Commenced employment as a law clerk during spring semester of first year of law school. Benefited from mentoring of numerous experienced trial lawyers in the full range of tasks associated with management of casualty defense and professional liability defense cases. On admission to the Bar, had immediate responsibility for large personal case load.

AFFILIATIONS AND HONORS

Los Angeles County Bar Association (Member and former Chair of Professional Responsibility and Ethics Committee).

Member State Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC) 2015 to 2018.

Awarded personal AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

LA Lawyers Philharmonic-Big Band of Barristers, Bass Trombonist, 2014 to present.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

I Cannot Tell a Lie-Attorneys and Rules Regarding Truth Telling (with Mark A. Graf) Los Angeles County Bar Association, County Bar Update 2019

Legal Ethics in Everyday Practice, State Bar of California Online MCLE Self Study published October 2017

Attorneys and the Rule of Law: Navigating the Gaps between Ethics and Moral Conviction Los Angeles County Bar Association, County Bar Update 2017

Legal Ethics in Everyday Practice, State Bar of California Online MCLE Self Study published 2017

Legal Ethics—Not Just for Ethicists, State Bar of California Online MCLE Self Study published October 2016

What Rights Does an Insurer Have Against Cumis Counsel (with Melissa M. Kurata), LACBA County Bar Update, February 2016

Is a Prospective Client Entitled to Attorney Work Product Developed in the Course of Deciding Whether to Accept the Engagement? Los Angeles County Bar Association, County Bar Update 2014

Ethical Hazards and the Recordkeeping of Client Trust Accounts—Details Count! Los Angeles County Bar Association, County Bar Update 2008

The Ethics Behind the Use of Staff Counsel Los Angeles County Bar Association, County Bar Update 2007

The Question of the Sophisticated Client Los Angeles County Bar Association, County Bar Update 2006

Technology and the Challenge of Maintaining Client Confidences Los Angeles County Bar Association, County Bar Update 2005

Risk Management for Lawyers—Good Beginnings Make for Happy Endings Anderson, McPharlin & Connors, LLP 2001

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Ethics of AI: The Implications of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Law & Entertainment, a panel Discussion jointly sponsored by Sheppard Mullin and the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel's Emerging Leaders Board, 2023

Ethics Upended: The Unique Framework for Class Action Ethics, Annual Class Action Forum 2023

Zen and the Art of Compliance with the California State Bar's New CTAPP Mandate, LACBA Family Law Section 2023

Onboarding New Clients and the Fundamentals of Conflicts of Interests, Westlake Village Law Affinity Group 2023

Ethical Considerations in the Attorney-Client Relationship for Construction Attorneys, The Seminar Group 9th Annual California Construction Law Seminar 2023

Ethics in the Attorney Client Relationship for Real Estate Attorneys, Beverly Hills Bar Association 2023

Ethics 101-A Review and Refresher, LACBA PREC Ethics Symposium 2023

Don't Get Caught Flat Footed When It Comes to IOLTA Accounts, Co-Sponsored by Alameda County Bar Association, CLA Litigation Section and CLA Immigration Section 2022

Ethics in Attorney-Client Relationship, MyLawCLE 2022

Onboarding New Clients and Fundamentals of Conflicts of Interest—A Refresher, Beverly Hills Bar Association 2022

Movin' on—Ethical Considerations Relating to Attorney Mobility, Los Angeles County Bar Association 2021

Ethics-All You Need to Know, Los Angeles County Bar Association 2021

Ethics-All You Need to Know, Los Angeles County Bar Association 2020

Ethics of Media Relations for Lawyers, Beverley Hills Bar Association 2020

Attorney Fees & Ethics: It Pays to Be Reasonable, National Association of Legal Fee Analysis Online MCLE 2019

Ensuring Your Retainer Agreement Protects Your Firm and Complies with New Ethics Rules, Beverly Hills Bar Association 2019

Ethics-All You Need to Know, Los Angeles County Bar Association 2019

New Rules of Professional Conduct, Los Angeles County Bar Association 2018

Best Practices: Strategies for Fee Sharing for Small Firms and Solo Practitioners, Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association MCLE 2018

Civility in Civil Litigation, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Litigation Inn of Court March Meeting: Civility Program 2017

Prohibited Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession, 22nd Annual Ethics Symposium of the State Bar of California, April 2018

You Can't Go Wrong! Ethics+Competence+Elimination of Bias, presented to American Immigration Lawyers Association, Southern California Chapter and LACBA Immigration Section February 2017

Let's Make a Deal: The Ethics of Negotiation, State Bar of California Solo & Small Firm Summit 2016

It Takes All Kinds-The Ethics of Dealing with Difficult Personalities, State Bar of California Solo & Small Firm Summit 2016

It Takes All Kinds-The Ethics of Dealing with Difficult Personalities, State Bar of California Annual Meeting, October 1, 2016

Huffing, Puffing and Bluffing, State Bar of California Annual Meeting, October 1, 2016

Facebookeeping: When an Your Blog, Tweet or Snapchat Violate Ethics Rules, Beverly Hills Bar Association MCLE 2016

Los Angeles County Bar Association Ethics All You Need to Know 2016: Working with Difficult Clients, January 2016

2015 Legal Ethics Update for Immigration Lawyers presented to American Immigration Lawyers Association Southern California Chapter.

Ethical Issues in a Digital World Ethics-All You Need to Know 2014

Really Scary Stuff About Conflicts of Interest Ethics-All You Need to Know 2010

Ethics-Keeping Current in a World of Change Ethics-All You Need to Know 2007

Bound by the Oath-Limits on the Right of Self Defense Ethics-All You Need to Know 2006

Conflicts Past and Present with Clients Ethics 2005-Keeping Current in a World of Change 2005

REFERENCES

Available on request