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TOP PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWYERS 2026

SHAWN SHAFFIE

PARKER SHAFFIE LLP

LOS ANGELES

Shawn Shaffie has built a practice centered on high-stakes litigation where professional liability, breach of fiduciary duty and complex fee disputes intersect. What distinguishes his work is that he handles both the defense of professionals and the prosecution of malpractice claims.

On the defense side, Shaffie represents attorneys, accountants and other business professionals against allegations of negligence or misconduct. On the plaintiff side, he represents individuals and entities who have been harmed by professional failures, particularly within the entertainment and music industries.

"By consistently immersing ourselves in the strategies used by both sides of the 'v,' our firm is able to provide a 360-degree perspective that is often missing in single-track firms," Shaffie said.

This dual-lens expertise is shared by his partners and the rest of the team at Parker Shaffie LLP, forming the foundation of the firm's reputation as "The Firm Other Firms Call." When the legal community faces a malpractice or ethics crisis, they rely on the firm for an understanding of how the opposition will likely frame and pursue the case.

Shaffie joined the firm in 2016 and credits his partner, David Parker, as his primary mentor. Parker taught him the importance of a "straight line" case selection process. Because the firm works both sides of the street, Shaffie scrutinizes every plaintiff's case with rigor. The firm declines at least 80% of the potential plaintiff professional liability representations that come through its doors.

"We view ourselves as gatekeepers, and we are not in the business of simply making things difficult for our colleagues or pursuing cases for the sake of dollars and cents," Shaffie said. "Instead, we only move forward when there is a clear, undeniable breach of duty."

The landscape has expanded with higher demand for professional liability representation than ever before. Shaffie said the most significant trend he is observing is the surge in lawsuits brought by insurance carriers against their own former panel defense counsel. "This trend signals a fundamental shift in the tripartite relationship, moving away from what was historically viewed as a long-term partnership, with carriers now more likely to audit defense files with an eye toward subrogation or direct malpractice claims if a settlement or verdict exceeds their expectations," Shaffie said.

Institutional clients, including insurers, are demanding counsel who can offer proactive risk mitigation and an understanding of litigation management. The firm is also seeing a surge in accounting malpractice claims, particularly against growing, major U.S. accounting firms.

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