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# **RITA MANISFELD**

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## **QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY**

Skilled litigation attorney with extensive experience in state and federal courts and expertise in diverse areas of the law, including products liability, insurance coverage, false claims, legal malpractice, real estate, and construction. Extensive experience in litigation, including large, complex, high profile cases. Excellent writing skills have led to high level of success in winning cases on summary judgment or by way of dismissal based on substantive arguments. Proven ability to organize huge document productions (up to 2.4 million in one case) into electronic format to make them easily accessible when needed. Licensed in California since 1987.

## **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Successfully prosecuted the L.A. County MTA's complex products liability, breach of contract, fraud and false claims case against manufacturer that provided 694 defective buses, resulting in multi-million-dollar settlement. Organized 2.4 million documents into searchable computer format, prevailed on all discovery motions, and participated in settlement negotiations.
- Conducted vigorous discovery on L.A. County's false claim against construction contractor, who demanded payment for alleged extra work on the County's Emergency Operations Center; prompted contractor to abandon its \$11.9-million damage claim and to forego bidding on LA County projects for 20 years.
- Prompted the California Insurance Guarantee Association to pay \$80,000 to settle claim it had previously denied (even though CIGA is immune to "bad faith" actions) as a result of effective case preparation.
- Established that a bankruptcy claim had been a Redevelopment Agency's only source of recovery, which led insurer to agree to pay the Agency a six-figure settlement, where the Agency's former eminent domain counsel had allowed the Agency's \$1-million environmental remediation claim against a gasoline station owner to be discharged in bankruptcy.
- Drafted and argued summary judgment motions, which: (1) convinced Superior Court to dismiss claim for title to commercial property where option owner failed to properly exercise option and (2) persuaded Federal Court to dismiss claim that City violated plaintiff's First Amendment rights by refusing to place plaintiff's proffered message on City's marquee.
- Drafted and argued motions to dismiss, which: (1) prompted Federal Court to dismiss claim that City violated resident's civil rights through discriminatory application of zoning laws and (2) convinced Federal Court to dismiss claim for breach of lease against Salvadoran Consulate and its Consul General based on defenses of sovereign immunity and lack of jurisdiction.

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

<b>Partner – Mason, Billings, Latherton, &amp; Besemus</b> , Los Angeles, CA	1999 to 2004
<b>Principal Attorney – Law Office of Rita Manisfeld</b> , Los Angeles, CA	1996 to 1999
<b>Partner – Gumpert &amp; Kalen</b> , Los Angeles, CA	1995 to 1996
<b>Senior Litigation Associate – Letusim &amp; Associates</b> , Los Angeles, CA	1991 to 1995
<b>Litigation Associate – Vasserton &amp; Michaelson</b> , Los Angeles, CA	1990 to 1991
<b>Litigation Associate – Mudforth Brown, Farthington Gold</b> , Los Angeles, CA	1988 to 1990
<b>Litigation Associate – Deltington &amp; Jameson</b> , San Diego, CA	1986 to 1988

## **EDUCATION**

**Juris Doctor – University of Northern California Law School**, Nottingham, CA  
**Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish, cum laude – University of Baskington**, Baskington, CA