

# RITA MANISFELD

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*Licensed in California since 1987.*

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## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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- Partner – Mason, Billings, Latherton, & Besemus, Los Angeles, CA** **1999 to 2004**
- Successfully prosecuted L.A. County MTA's complex products liability, breach of contract, fraud and false claims case against manufacturer and provided 694 defective buses, resulting in multi-million dollar settlement.
  - Organized 2.4 million documents into searchable computer format, prevailed on all discovery motions, & participated in settlement negotiations.
- Principal Attorney – Law Office of Rita Manisfeld, Los Angeles, CA** **1996 to 1999**
- 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 \$11,900,000 damage claim and to forego bidding on LA County projects for 20 years.
- Partner – Gumpert & Kalen, Los Angeles, CA** **1995 to 1996**
- Prompted California Insurance Guarantee Association to pay \$80,000 to settle claim it had previously denied as a result of effective case preparation.
- Senior Litigation Associate – Letusim & Associates, Los Angeles, CA** **1991 to 1995**
- Established 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 \$1,000,000 environmental remediation claim against a gasoline station owner to be discharged in bankruptcy.
- Litigation Associate – Vasserton & Michaelson, Los Angeles, CA** **1990 to 1991**
- Drafted and argued summary judgment motions, which convinced Superior Court to dismiss claim for title to commercial property where option owner failed to properly exercise option.
  - 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.
- Litigation Associate – Mudforth Brown, Farthington Gold, Los Angeles, CA** **1988 to 1990**
- Drafted and argued motions to dismiss, which prompted Federal Court to dismiss claim that City violated resident's civil rights through discriminatory application of zoning laws.
  - 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.
- Litigation Associate – Deltington & Jameson, San Diego, CA** **1986 to 1988**

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## EDUCATION

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