



HERNÁN D. VERA

PRINCIPAL

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, J.D.,
1994

Stanford University, A.B., *with distinction*, 1991

OVERVIEW

Hernán is a widely-recognized civil litigator with over twenty years of broad experience in insurance defense, product liability, financial services and intellectual property. Hernán's specific expertise is in the area of consumer law and class actions, with a particular emphasis on consumer lending and foreclosure-related litigation.

Unlike many other practitioners, Hernán's unique class action expertise is informed by his substantial experience representing both plaintiffs and institutional defendants. He has spent many years at an international law firm successfully defending state and federal class actions on behalf of insurers, auto manufacturers, hotels, and pharmaceutical companies, but has also worked for over a decade on the plaintiffs' side filing and settling dozens of class and representative actions on behalf of consumers, homeowners, tenants, foster children, students, workers, and community residents.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Hernán served as the President & CEO of Public Counsel, the nation's largest *pro bono* law firm. After a nationwide search, he was selected and served as the first Latino chief executive in the 45-year history of the organization. During his tenure, Hernán more than doubled the size of Public Counsel's staff, opened offices in the Bay Area and New York, and launched an innovative national impact litigation project.

Hernán is well known in the broader Latino community for his work on civil rights, consumer, housing, and financial services issues. He speaks regularly at national conferences and makes frequent media appearances. Hernán also gained national prominence for his work filing and litigating the first series of cases highlighting the issue of "homeless patient dumping" by hospitals.

In 2009, President Obama appointed Hernán to the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute. In 2013, the California Supreme Court appointed Hernán to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California. And, in 2016, Hernán was appointed as a Commissioner to the Civilian Oversight Commission of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

EXPERIENCE

Defended various life insurance companies in a lengthy series of nationwide class actions alleging fraud in the sale of so-called “vanishing premium” policies.

Defended international hotel chains sued in nationwide class actions alleging improper “resort” fees.

Defended various auto manufacturers in nationwide class actions involving alleged product defects.

Defended auto manufacturer in representative action alleging lemon law claims.

Defended national pharmaceutical company in federal class action involving alleged false advertising.

Defended major property and casualty insurer in international disputes with policyholders in Liberia.

Defended large municipality in commercial dispute with the State of California involving the Port of Los Angeles.

Represented homeowners in a series of class actions involving allegedly improper loan modifications.

Represented consumers in a series of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code Section 17200 actions against various auto dealerships.

Represented patients in a series of actions against hospitals for “patient dumping.”

Represented consumers in a representative action against a large supermarket for improper labeling and false advertising.

Represented California schoolchildren in several class actions against the State of California challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 187.

Represented California parents in a CEQA action involving the expansion of the 710 Freeway.

Represented California farmworkers in an action against the State of California demanding greater enforcement of heat, water, and shade regulations.

HONORS & AWARDS

National Hispanic Heritage Month Honoree, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, 2018

Top 100 Lawyers in California, *Daily Journal*, 2012

Alumnus of the Year, UCLA La Raza Law Students Association, 2012

Top 20 Under 40, *Daily Journal*, 2004

AFFILIATIONS

Commissioner, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Civilian Oversight Commission, 2017-present (appointed by Supervisor Hilda Solis)

Board of Trustees, State Bar of California, 2013-2016 (appointed by California Supreme Court)

Board of Directors, State Justice Institute, 2010-present (nominated by President Obama & confirmed by U.S. Senate)

Member, Transition Team for City Attorney Mike Feuer, July 2013

Lawyer Representative, Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, 2009-12

Member, Transition Team for City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, 2009

Member, Mexican American Bar Association

Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association

Member, Beverly Hills Bar Association

PUBLICATIONS

Author, "People Living at the Poverty Line Need a MY\$23K Campaign," *Huffington Post*, December 31, 2012

Author, "Who's Watching Out for Farm Workers Left Out in the Heat?" *Huffington Post*, July 3, 2012

Author, "Hablemos de sus dudas sobre Acción Diferida," *Huffington Post*, September 13, 2012

Author, "The Silent Casualties of Immigration Scams," *Huffington Post*, May 18, 2012

Author, "The Education Revolution," *Huffington Post*, May 5, 2012

Author, "Fighting Against Cuts to Child Care Funding," *Daily Journal*, November 8, 2010

Author, "Operation Iraqi Freedom Is Not Over for Veterans," *Daily Journal*, September 8, 2010

Author, "Punishing the Pro Bonos," *Daily Journal*, July 16, 2010

Author, "Riffing Our Children's Future," *Daily Journal*, June 11, 2010

Author, "Letter to a Young Public Interest Attorney," *Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal*, Vol. I, 2009

EVENTS

Speaker, International Academy of Trial Lawyers' Annual Meeting, March 18, 2015

Guest Interviewee, KPCC 89.3 Southern California Public Radio Discussion on establishing LA County Sheriff's oversight committee, January 13, 2015

Guest Speaker, KRLA, KFWB Champions of Justice Radio Show Discussion on latest legal headline challenges, March 2, 2013

FORMER POSITIONS

President & CEO, Public Counsel, 2008-2014

Counsel, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, 1997-2002

Associate, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, 1994-1995

Law Clerk to the Hon. Consuelo B. Marshall, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, 1995-1996

ADMISSIONS

California, 1994