



Contact

**Susan L. Gutierrez**

**Partner**

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Susan L. Gutierrez is a trial lawyer specializing in high-stakes matters and complex disputes across industries. Susan has served as litigator and advisor for many Fortune 500 companies in consumer products, pharmaceutical, media, entertainment and sports industries, including Johnson & Johnson, Gilead Sciences, Mattel/Fisher-Price, Sientra, Creative Artists Agency and the National Basketball Association.

An experienced trial lawyer, Susan has tried multiple high-profile cases to verdict in state and federal courts throughout the country. She also has significant experience coordinating and managing large, complex actions from the pleading stage through discovery and trial, including cross-jurisdiction matters involving multiple parties, counsel, and case issues.

Susan was recognized as one of *LABJ's* 2021 Minority Leaders of Influence. In 2019, *Law360* named Susan a Rising Star in Trials. *Law360's* Rising Star list recognizes attorneys nationwide under 40 whose legal accomplishments transcend their age. Susan was also named to the *Daily Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 in California, and Rising Star (Litigation: Trial Lawyer) by *Euromoney Americas* in 2019.

## **Matters**

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## Notable representations and victories include:

- *Echeverria v. Johnson & Johnson, et al.*: Trial counsel to Johnson & Johnson (J&J) in the first-ever California product liability trial relating to the company's talc-based Baby Powder and Shower to Shower products and their alleged link to ovarian cancer. After trial, the Court entered judgment notwithstanding the jury verdict for the J&J defendants, and, in the alternative, granted J&J's motion for a new trial.
- *Daniels v. Johnson & Johnson, et al.*: Trial counsel to J&J in a similar product liability trial related to J&J's talc-based products in St. Louis. The jury returned a complete defense verdict on all claims and awarded zero damages.
- *Ruben v. Creative Artists Agency LLC (CAA)*: class action dismissed in exchange for our client's relatively small donation to non-profit organization, while 22 related class actions against other entertainment industry entities (non-clients) settled for more than \$74 million.
- *Baylor v. National Basketball Association et al.*: dismissal at trial obtained in favor of NBA.
- *Mintz v. Bartelstein & Assocs. Inc.*: summary judgment granted as to our client's affirmative claims for invasion of privacy and violation of Cal. Penal Code § 502 (Computer Fraud and Abuse Act), as well as to counterclaims for violation of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, breach of contract, conversion, defamation and related tort claims.
- *Mentor Worldwide LLC v. Sientra, Inc. et al.*: verdict in favor of our clients following an eight-week jury trial on claims for misappropriation of trade secrets, intentional interference with prospective economic advantage and related tort claims. Verdict also returned in favor of our clients in a bench trial of unfair competition claims.

## Practices

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Trial Strategies, Litigation, Product Liability & Consumer Litigation, Employment Litigation & Arbitration, White Collar Defense & Investigations, Copyright, Non-Compete & Trade Secrets

## Industries

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Entertainment

## Education

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University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, J.D., 2010

Co-Director, Board of Advocates (moot court)

Staff editor, *Berkeley Business Law Journal*

University of California, San Diego, B.A., 2007

## Admissions & Qualifications

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California

## Memberships

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Association of Business Trial Lawyers (Los Angeles), Member

Mexican-American Bar Foundation, Board of Trustees

Education Through Music, Associate Board

## Awards & Recognition

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Los Angeles Business Journal Minority Leaders of Influence 2021

Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars 2015-2018

Euromoney Americas Rising Stars (Litigation: Trial Lawyer), 2018-2019

The Legal 500 United States: General Commercial Disputes: Next Generation

Lawyer 2019-2020

Daily Journal Top 40 Under 40 Lawyers 2019

Minority Corporate Counsel Association Rising Star 2019

Law360 Rising Star (Trials) 2019