

Dominique A. Pollara, Esq.

Dominique was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and raised in upstate New York. She has practiced law since 1984 and is a member of ABOTA. She has tried more than 38 cases to verdict in California, Nevada and New York. Dominique's practice focuses on medical malpractice defense and medical professional advocacy. When she is not working on improving her surfing, you can find her practicing yoga, skiing at Squaw Valley, cycling in the foothills around Sacramento, fly fishing, playing with her dogs or donating her time to Homeward Bound (a golden retriever rescue organization).



Professional History

- December 2014 to present - Pollara Law Group, Sacramento, CA
- 1994 to December, 2014 - Schuering Zimmerman & Doyle, LLP, Sacramento, CA, *Partner*
- 1989 to 1994 - Thuillez, Ford, Gold & Conolly, Albany, NY, *Partner*
- 1988 to 1989 - McGlynn, McLong & McDowell, San Francisco, CA, *Law Clerk*
- 1986 to 1988 - Gold & Symansky, Albany, NY, *Associate*
- 1984 to 1986 - Buchyn, O'Hare & Werner, Schenectady, NY, *Associate*

Education

- J.D. Cum Laude, Vermont School of Law, 1984
- B.S. Cum Laude (Animal Science), University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1981

Admissions

- New York, 1985
- Massachusetts (retired), 1985
- California, 1989
- Nevada, 1995
- Colorado, 1999
- United States District Court, District of Massachusetts (retired), 1990
- United States Court of Appeals, New York, 1993
- United States District Court, Eastern District of California, 1995
- United States District Court, Northern District of California, 1995
- United States District Court, District of Nevada, 1995
- United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, 2012

Honors and Memberships

California Academy of Attorneys for Health Care Professionals, 2013

International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Fellow 2013

American Board of Trial Advocates

American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys, Board Certified in Medical Malpractice, 2012
Member, Board of Governors, 2013

Martindale-Hubbell rating: AV

The Best Lawyers in America: 2010

Northern California Super Lawyers: 2008 - Present

State Bar of California

State Bar of Nevada

State Bar of New York

State Bar of Colorado

Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada

Sacramento County Bar Association

Publications

Birth Plans: Finding Common Ground through Improved Communication

Optimal Review, Winter 2011, Volume 8, Issue 3

Reducing Morbidity & Mortality Associated With Maternal Hemorrhage

Optima Healthcare, Optimal Review, Summer 2009

Preventing Birth Injuries

Jacobs, M., Pollara, D.A., Schuering, Jr., L.H. Norcal Mutual Insurance Company Continuing Medical Education, 2004

Shoulder Dystocia: Preparation is Strong Medicine for this Obstetric Emergency

Norcal Mutual Insurance Company, Special Edition May 2004. Content Advisor: Dominique Pollara, Esq.

Representation in New York: Weighing Counsel Effectiveness

The Defender, July/August 1983

Defense on Trial

The Defender, September/October 1982

Presentations

Speaker for a presentation entitled "Licensing Boards for Medical Professionals" at the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys Annual Meeting on May 20, 2016.

Participant in a panel presentation entitled "Growing Your Practice" at the Sacramento County Bar Association on April 19, 2016.

Presenter on hot topic issues in obstetrics including hypertensive emergencies, postpartum hemorrhage and shoulder dystocia. The two presentations were entitled "Labor and Delivery in Litigation" and "11 on the 10 Pain Scale." Fresno, February 15 and 16, 2016.

Speaker at a conference on the care of transgender patients. The presentation was entitled "Legal Issues in the Care Of Transgender Patients." Modesto, January 23, 2016.

Participant in a panel presentation entitled "Electronic Medical Records - The New Healthcare Landscape" at the Association of Defense Counsel Annual Meeting in San Francisco, on December 10, 2015.

Speaker for a presentation entitled "Ounce of Prevention: Hospitalist Risk Reduction & Quality Improvement Strategies," given to the East Bay Physician Medical Group. Berkeley, CA, on June 18, 2014.

Speaker for a presentation entitled "Pain Management and Opioid Prescribing: Managing the Risks," given to Sutter Gould Medical Group. Modesto, CA, on June 16, 2014.

Speaker for a presentation entitled "Informed Consent and Informed Refusal" in conjunction with Norcal Mutual Insurance, given to Sutter Medical Group at the Stockton Golf and Country Club in Stockton, CA, November 6, 2013.

Speaker for a webinar presentation entitled "Why 'Never Events' Still Happen" for California Healthcare Risk Management on October 10, 2013.

Speaker for a presentation entitled "Part III: Anatomy of a Lawsuit: Dissection of Professional Liability Claims in Anesthesia" to CASE Anesthesia Group at the Zinfandel Grill in Sacramento, CA, on September 19, 2013.

Appearance in the Medical Professional Liability News ReSource ReCaps in an article entitled "Physician Preparedness Essential in Winning Malpractice Cases" which featured a recent case in which Dominique obtained a defense verdict for her client. A video released by The Doctors Company showcases that trial and discusses how, with the support of his insurer, attorney and claims specialist, the physician prevailed. You can see the video at: http://www.youtube.com/embed/BEUU_X1e5HM.

Speaker for a presentation entitled "The Time is Now: Ethics and Civility in Medical Malpractice Litigation," at the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 25, 2013.

Speaker for a presentation entitled "The EHR: Improving Patient Safety and Reducing Risk," at the CSAC Excess Insurance Authority Annual Medical Malpractice Conference, Hilton Hotel, Sacramento, CA, April 24, 2013.

Speaker for a presentation entitled "Professional Liability in Anesthesiology Practice," given at the UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA, February 11, 2013

Co-speaker for a talk entitled "The EHR: Trials & Tribulations - Strategies for Avoiding Legal and Patient Safety Risks," given at the 52nd Annual Convention of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, San Diego, CA, February 9, 2013.

Co-speaker for a talk entitled "Ounce of Prevention: Hospitalist Risk Reduction and Quality Improvement Strategies," Sacramento, CA, November 2, 2012 and Ripon, California, January 29, 2013.

Litigation Education Retreat 2012. The Doctors Company, Napa, CA, May 12, 2013.

Co-speaker for a talk entitled "The EHR: Trials & Tribulations - Strategies for Avoiding Legal and Patient Safety Risks." The Doubletree in Modesto, CA, March 29, 2012, and the Stockton Country Club, Stockton, CA, April 5, 2012.

Nursing on the Front Lines: From the Floor to the Courtroom. Carson Tahoe Regional Hospital, Carson City, NV, November 9, 2011.

Anatomy of a Lawsuit: Dissection of Professional Liability Claims in Anesthesia. Sacramento Area Anesthesiologists, Sacramento, CA, November 2011.

Labor and Litigation: An 11 Out of 10 on a Pain Scale. UC Davis Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Sacramento, CA, December 1, 2010.

Medical Legal Issues in Mental Health Care. Sacramento County Mental Health. Sacramento, CA, November 10, 2010.

The Electronic Medical Record in the Emergency Department. MedAmerica Mutual Risk Retention Group. Nevada City, CA, November 3, 2010.

An Ounce of Prevention: Improving Quality and Reducing Risk with an EMR. Sutter Independent Physicians IMR User Group Conference. Sacramento, CA, October 28, 2010.

Clinical Forum. American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA, October 17, 2010.

Learning from Lawsuits: Strategies and Resources for Reducing Risk. Yuba Sutter Colusa Medical Society. Yuba City, CA, October 12, 2010.

Learning from Lawsuits: Strategies and Resources for Reducing Risk. Placer-Nevada Medical Society. Roseville, CA, October 13, 2010.

Medical - Legal Aspects of Treating Suicidal Patients. UC Davis Department of Psychiatry, Sacramento, CA, September 1, 2010.

Litigation Education Retreat 2010. The Doctors Company. Napa, CA, May 8, 2010; October 9, 2010.

Learning from Lawsuits: Strategies and Resources for Reducing Risk. Sutter Davis Medical Center. Davis, CA, May 3, 2010.

Anatomy of a Lawsuit: Dissection of Professional Liability Cases in Anesthesia. Norcal Mutual Insurance Company. San Francisco, CA, January 6, 2010.

Current Issues and Strategies in Medical Malpractice Defense. Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada. San Francisco, CA, December 10, 2009.

Masters in Cross-Examination. Chairperson. Sacramento Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Sacramento, CA, November 20, 2009.

Clinical Forum. American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana, October 17, 2009.

The Emotional Side of Litigation: Through Our Own Eyes. A Retreat for and by Women Physicians. Mt. Madonna, CA, September 28, 2009.

Anatomy of a Lawsuit: Dissection of Professional Liability Cases in Anesthesia. Sponsored jointly by Norcal Mutual Insurance Company and Case Anesthesia Services Exchange. Sacramento, CA, September 20, 2009.

Litigation Education Retreat 2009. The Doctors Company. Napa, CA, June 27, 2009.

Litigation Stress & Education Retreat 2009. MedAmerica Mutual Risk Retention Group, Inc. Emeryville, CA, May 29, 2009.

The Emotional Side of Litigation. UC Davis Medical Center. Sacramento, CA, May 15, 2009.

Professional Liability in Anesthesia Practice. UC Davis Department of Anesthesiology. Sacramento, CA, January 12, 2009.

Clinical Forum: Professional Liability - How to Protect Yourself and Your Colleagues. American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting. Orlando, FL, October 18, 2008.

MedAmerica Mutual Risk Management Seminar. Barton Memorial Hospital. South Lake Tahoe, CA, October 7, 2008.

Masters in Trial. Denver Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Denver, CO, October 3, 2008.

Will These Ruby Slippers Protect You? Nursing Preceptor Conference. UC Davis Medical Center. Sacramento, CA, September 19, 2008

MedAmerica Mutual Risk Management Seminar. Sutter Roseville Medical Center. Roseville, CA, September 17, 2008.

Risk Management Update 2008: Are You at Risk? University of California Davis Health Systems. Sacramento, CA, April 17, 2008.

Thrombolytics for Acute Strokes, The Medico-Legal Quagmire. Co-presenter. Physician Insurers Association of America. Vancouver, BC, November 7, 2007.

Clinical Forum: Professional Liability. American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, October 13, 2007.

Defining and Applying the Standard of Care in Nursing Malpractice Cases. University of California Davis Health Systems, Nursing Peer Review Board Training. Sacramento, CA, September 26, 2007.

Medical Mistakes: How and When to Apologize; Coping with Litigation Stress. Through Our Own Eyes: A Retreat by and for Women Physicians. Big Sur, CA, September 17, 2007.

Masters in Trial. Defense Coordinator Sacramento Valley Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Sacramento, CA, November 17, 2006.

Labor and Litigation: Ten out of Ten on the Pain Scale. Fresno Community Hospital. Fresno, CA, September 25 and 26, 2006.

Documentation: Do It Right! Legal Issues in Nursing. University of California, Davis Health Systems. Sacramento, CA, March 29, 2006.

Masters California Ultimate Trial Notebook, Opening Statements. The American Board of Trial Advocates. Sacramento, CA, December 9, 2005.

How to Stay Out of Trouble* (and be an effective witness at deposition). Medical Clinic of Sacramento. Sacramento, CA, October 18, 2005.

Common Themes in Medical Malpractice Cases & How to Avoid Them. Kaiser Permanente. Sacramento, CA, February 2004.

Elder Abuse. Norcal Mutual Insurance Company 2001 Defense Counsel Seminar. San Francisco, CA, October 13, 2001.

How to Present and Attack Documentary and Demonstrative Evidence. Continuing Education of the Bar - California. Sacramento, CA, March 24, 2001.

What Happens When My Injured Patient Gets a Lawyer. American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, October 6, 2000.

Legal Consequences of Medical Record Documentation. Saratoga Hospital. Saratoga, NY, March 18, 1993 and March 25, 1993.

No Fault Update. New York State Bar Association Recent Developments in Personal Injury Litigation and Insurance Law. New York, NY, May 10, 1991.

New York State No Fault Serious Injury Update. Government Employees Insurance Company, Long Island, NY, February 19, 1991.

Practicing Preventative Medicine - Veterinary Malpractice and Professional Misconduct. Capital District Veterinary Society, Glen Sanders Mission. Scotia, NY, February 20, 1991.

Medical Malpractice Update - 1990. New York State Bar Association - Developments in Personal Injury Litigation and Insurance Law. New York, NY, June 8, 1990.

Effective Representation of Physicians During Hearings. 30th Anniversary Conference - Legal Medicine of The American College of Legal Medicine. Orlando, FL, March 17, 1990.

Confidentiality of Information Pertaining to Impaired Health Care Professionals. New York State Nurses Association Task Force on Impaired Nurses. Troy, NY, May 10, 1988.

Security and Confidentiality of Peer Review Functions. New York State Association Medical Staff Services. Albany, NY, May 14, 1987.

Confidentiality of Quality Assurance Information and Access to Medical Records Under Current New York State Law. The New York Association of Quality and Assurance Professionals, Inc. New York, NY, May 1, 1987.

Personal Interests

Horseback riding

Cycling

Skiing

Surfing

Dogs

Fly fishing

Travel

Art