
RAQUEL M. BUSANI, ESQ.

Attorney at Law

SUMMARY

Third year associate at ERISA Law Center with over 12 years' experience in the legal field.

As a citizen of and property owner living within the City of Fresno's Metropolitan area, I am interested in actively participating in the decision-making processes that have an impact in the city's growth, development, and infrastructure.

CONTACT

EDUCATION

San Joaquin College of Law Juris

Doctorate, Law – 2018

Salutatorian (Class Rank #2 of 37)

Graduated with Distinction.

Accolades: See linked in profile.

UC Santa Barbara

B.A., Psychology and Political Science, Emphasis in International Relations - 2005

Accolades: See linked in profile.

RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE- ERISA LAW CENTER

DEC. 2018- PRESENT

My practice focuses on helping individuals obtain the benefits they are entitled to under their employer-sponsored plans. Proficient in legal research and writing, negotiations, and mediation. I have received judgment in my client's favor in two of my cases, and settled all other cases, with favorable results to my clients.

Supervise and train staff of five. Led firm's transition to cloud-based practice management software.

JUDICIAL EXTERN- USDC, EASTERN DISTRICT OF CA (UNPAID)

JAN. 2016- MAY 2016

Judicial extern to the Hon. Magistrate Judge Erica Grosjean. Researched and drafted legal memoranda and judicial opinions in civil rights prisoner actions, under the supervision of the Judge and her law clerks.

PARALEGAL/LEGAL ASSISTANT

THORNTON DAVIDSON & ASSOCIATES/ERISA LAW GROUP, LLP/ERISA LAW CENTER

2011 – DEC 2018

Started working with lead attorney at Thornton Davidson & Associates, eventually firm formed new partnership, and was renamed.

Researched legal issues and drafted administrative appeals and litigation pleadings in ERISA and bad faith disability insurance actions. Prepared pleadings, legal memoranda for various other civil litigation matters. Administrative duties.

COMMUNITY

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE/PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE - REEL PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL

2016– 2018/PRESENT

Assist in execution of various tasks necessary to present a successful film festival, including vetting films, communicating with members and ticket-holders via emails, and testing technology.

CO-FOUNDER/BOARD MEMBER- LAW STUDENTS FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

JAN 2020 – PRESENT

In 2016 Co-Founded Law Students for Community Advancement at San Joaquin College of Law. Served as Vice President from 2016-2017, and President from 2017-2018.

Continue to advise current board as needed.

Co-fund three scholarships in the organizations name.

As board member, forged long term partnerships with various community and legal organizations, and spearheaded the organization of various events, programs, and activities, including:

- * Attorney - Law Student Mentor Program
- * POV Film and Speaker Series- Explored various legal and social issues, including DACA and Syrian Refugee Crisis
- * Coordinated volunteer opportunities related to themes of Film/Speaker Series
- * Co-wrote letters to community representatives, including letter to Mayor Lee Brand on climate change and the Paris Climate Accord.
- * Created website: <https://lsca-board.wixsite.com/studentsforcommunity>

COMMUNITY CONT.

SET AND PRODUCTION DESIGNER- WOODWARD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL/ ARTIST'S REPERTORY THEATRE

SEP. 2013 – JULY 2014

With directors, conceptualized aesthetics, and designed specialty props and sets for various theatre productions, including: 2014 productions of Macbeth and The Tempest, 2012 productions of Merry Wives of Windsor; Tennessee William's, Street Car Named Desire; 2013 production of A Midsummer Night's Dream; 2014 productions of William's Saroyan's "Hello Out There."

ARTS / CULTURAL NIGHTS COORDINATOR WOODWARD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

2006 – 2012

Organized preshow events, including exhibitions by various local artists, crafters, and artisans, and musical performances by local musicians.

REFERENCES

Ashley Werner, Attorney- Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability

Contact:

Hon. Ana de Alba – Fresno Superior Court Judge

Contact:

Robert J. Rosati, Attorney – ERISA Law Center

Contact: