

Poliquin & DeGrave LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Douglas M. DeGrave

(949) 421-1168 — ddegrave@pdattorneys.com

Douglas M. DeGrave is a founding partner of Poliquin & DeGrave LLP, a merger of two well regarded, AV rated trial attorneys in Orange County. Mr. DeGrave has tried more than 100 cases to verdict or judgment and he is frequently asked to substitute into difficult cases at the last minute for trial.

He specializes in the defense of personal and catastrophic injury cases, wrongful death, truck and bus accidents, insurance litigation, insurance bad faith claims, and construction cases. He has served as an arbitrator and mediator, privately and for the courts. Mr. DeGrave is a frequent lecturer on insurance bad faith, trial practice, and ethics and is a former adjunct professor at Western State University College of Law.

Bar Admissions

- California State Bar, 1981
- United States District Court, Central District of California, 1982
- United States District Court, Southern District of California, 1985
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 1986
- Supreme Court of the United States, 1987

Associations

- American Board of Trial Advocates (President, Orange County Chapter, 2008; President, CAL-ABOTA, 2013; National Board of Directors, 2010 to present; Trustee,

ABOTA Foundation, 2017 to present; Member, Executive Committee of the Foundation, 2017 to present, Vice President of the ABOTA Foundation 2020)

- National Board of Trial Advocates
- International Society of Barristers
- Senior Fellow-Litigation Counsel of America
- Barrister in the Order of Centurions
- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- California Defense Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- California Bar Association
- Orange County Bar Association

Certifications

- State Bar Certified Civil Trial Advocate
- State Bar Certified Civil Pretrial Practice Advocate

Education

- University of Hawaii-Associate of Arts Degree in Administration of Justice, 1976
- California State University at Long Beach – Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, 1978
- Loyola Law School, Los Angeles – Juris Doctor Degree, 1981

Honors and Awards

- AV rating with Martindale-Hubbell
- 2011 Trial Lawyer of the Year, American Board of Trial Advocates, Orange County Chapter

- 2014 President’s Award, “Champion of Civility”, California Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates
- 2016 Trial Lawyer of the Year, California Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates
- Fellow of the International Society of Barristers
- Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America
- Super Lawyers List, L.A. Magazine, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020
- Top Lawyers in Orange County, Orange Coast Magazine, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, & 2020
- Top 50 Lawyers in Orange County, 2018, 2019, & 2020
- Top 100 Civil Defense Litigators in California, 2018, 2019, & 2020

Articles

- Flow Chart – Analysis of a Fraudulent Claim, *Forum* (March 1983);
- Constitutionality of the Family Exclusion Clause – A Settled Issue? *Forum* (July 1983)

Presentations

- “The Future of Bad Faith Claims in California,” Orange County Adjusters Association (August 1987)
- “How to Handle a Bad Faith Claim,” Crum and Forster Insurance Company (June 1989);
- “Bad Faith Cases After Moradi Shalal,” Allstate Insurance Company (May 1990)
- “How to Cross Examine a Police Officer,” Trial Attorney Project, Los Angeles County Bar Association (March 1995)
- “Anatomy of an Insurance Policy,” Allstate Insurance Company (July 1998)
- “Legal Professionalism and Ethics”, Orange County Bar Association (December 2002)

- “Professionalism, Ethics, and Integrity in the Practice of Law,” Chapman University School of Law (June 2002)
- “Masters in Trial,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Orange County Chapter (September 2002)
- “Professionalism, Ethics, and Integrity in the Practice of Law,” Chapman University School of Law (February 2004)
- “Masters in Trial-Defense Coordinator,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Orange County Chapter (June 2004)
- “Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Coverage,” The General Insurance Co. (August 18, 2005)
- “Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Coverage,” Mercury Insurance Group (October 10, 2005)
- “The Definitive Guide to Settling Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Claims in California,” National Business Institute (January 27, 2006)
- “How to Become a Dangerous Expert Witness,” Expert Witness Summit-Forensic Expert Witness Association Annual summit (April 1, 2006)
- “Masters in Trial-Defense Coordinator,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Orange County Chapter (April 7, 2006)
- “The Definitive Guide to Settling Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Claims in California,” National Business Institute (May 15, 2006)
- “The Definitive Guide to Settling Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Claims in California,” National Business Institute (January 10, 2007)
- “Preparing for the First Day of Trial,” Legion Lex Inn of Court (March 12, 2008);
- “The Definitive Guide to Settling Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Claims in California,” National Business Institute (December 3, 2010);
- “The History & Current Status of the 7th Amendment Right to Trial by Jury,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Teachers’ Law School (June 9, 2012)
- “Jury Trials-Reality and TV,” Santa Ana Kiwanis Club (November 21, 2012)

- “Masters in Jury Selection,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Orange County Chapter (January 18, 2013)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-UCI School of Law (April 4, 2013)
- “Closing Argument-A Demonstration,” Orange County College of Trial Advocates-Chapman Law School (May 2, 2013)
- “Bad Faith-Breach of Contract vs. Extra Contractual Liability,” Reliant General Claims Service (October 24, 2013)
- “Top Mistakes Attorneys make in Civil Litigation-As Judges See It,” (Moderator of panel of judges) National Business Institute (December 2, 2013)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Chapman School of Law (January 30, 2014)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Whittier Law School (August 12, 2014)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Chapman School of Law (September 4, 2014)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Western State College of Law (September 10, 2014)
- “Defending Damages-After Howell,” Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (September 20, 2014)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Western State College of Law (November 14, 2014)
- “The Art of Voir Dire,” Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (February 26, 2015)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson & Ashmore LLP Retreat (April 10, 2015)
- “Closing Argument-A Demonstration,” Orange County College of Trial Advocates-Chapman Law School (May 14, 2015)

- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Whittier Law School (August 13, 2015)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Chapman School of Law (September 3, 2015);
- “Jury Selection,” Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles-Wynn, Las Vegas (September 4, 2015)
- “Masters in Trial-Defense Team,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-California Coast Chapter (October 16, 2015)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Western State College of Law: Group 1 (November 17, 2015)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Western-State College of Law: Group 2 (November 17, 2015)
- “Masters in Trial-Defense Team,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-San Diego Chapter (November 17, 2015)
- “Masters in Trial-Defense Team,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Orange County Chapter (January 22, 2016)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Whittier Law School (August 9, 2016)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Chapman Law School (September 1, 2016)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-Western State College of Law (September 22, 2016)
- “Civility Matters-Beyond Kim v. Westmoore Partners,” Association of Southern California Defense Counsel-56th Annual Seminar (February 24, 2017)
- “Verdict Values: Plaintiff Keeps them Up; Defendant Drives Them Down,” Combined Claims Conference, Hyatt Regency Orange County (March 7, 2017)
- “Closing Argument-A Demonstration,” Orange County College of Trial Advocates-Chapman Law School (May 10, 2017)

- “37th Annual California Mock Trial Finals,” (Speaker) Constitutional Rights Foundation-Double Tree Hotel (March 18, 2018)
- “VoiR Dire-A Demonstration and Discussion” Riverside County Bar Association New Attorney Academy-Riverside Historic Courthouse (April 13, 2018)
- “Civility Matters Now More than Ever” 12th Annual National Wild Land Fire Conference (April 28, 2018)
- “Civility Matters” Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates-UCI Law School (August 16, 2019)