

## Attorney Bio

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Sheila focuses her practice on employment, construction, professional liability and toxic tort litigation. Bringing a powerful combination of experience as a partner at WSHB and a former active duty Judge Advocate in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, Sheila has tried over 75 cases, including 20 jury trials. In the construction arena, she has successfully tried cases involving public works projects, residential construction, and landslide and subsidence claims. Sheila also counsels owners, builders and contractors on risk management issues in all phases of the construction process and assists them with drafting of contracts, securing approval of subdivision documents, and complying with right to repair laws.

As part of her employment litigation and consultation practice, she provides workplace training on risk management, as well as discrimination and harassment awareness initiatives. Bringing her Navy background to the table, she has experience in conducting compliance audits and overseeing internal investigations, as well as drafts, negotiates, and provides advice to clients on service and non-competition agreements. Her litigation practice includes defense of sensitive discrimination, harassment and wage claims for her clients. In this arena, Sheila frequently litigates disputed claims under Title VII, the ADA, FLSA, FMLA, FDCPA, FCRA and associated state and local laws.

A Captain (O-6) in the Navy Reserve JAG Corps, she serves in two key senior leadership roles in the Reserve Law Program. Sheila acts as the Reserve Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Judge Advocate General Inspector General, and as Special Assistant for Public Affairs to the Reserve Deputy Judge Advocate General. Previously, she served as the Deputy Force Judge Advocate (legal advisor) to Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command; the Staff Judge Advocate for the Navy Region Southwest Reserve Component Command, the Commanding Officer for two units comprised of attorneys and paralegals, and the Staff Judge Advocate for the First Naval Construction Division (Forward). As part of her service and practice, she has been recognized for many awards, including:

- Judge Advocate's Association, 2016 Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney, Navy Reserve
- The Gilbert Cup for the Best Navy Reserve Law Unit for her tenure as Commanding Officer
- The Rear Admiral Hugh H. Howell Award for Best Junior Officer, West Coast
- The San Diego Navy League Military Woman of Achievement

## Sheila E. Fix

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### Partner



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## Education

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Southern Methodist University School of Law (J.D., 1987)

Bowdoin College (B.A., 1984)

## Licensed to Practice in:

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California, Texas

## Practice Areas

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### ***ADA Compliance and Defense***

### ***Admiralty and Maritime***

### ***Appellate***

- *Pinnacle Museum Tower Assn. v. Pinnacle Market Development* S186149.
- *Promenade at Playa Vista Homeowners Association v. Western Pacific Housing, Inc.*, 2012 Cal.App. Unpub. WL 6052034.

### ***Business Transactions***

- Negotiation and drafting of construction contracts.
- Preparation of disclosure statements and notices for real estate transactions and residential leases.
- Development of risk-management protocols for all aspects of construction processes (including pre- and post-construction phases).

### ***Construction***

- Extensive experience in defense of complex multi-party construction claims relating to multi-family, high rise and single family residential developments, commercial properties, and public works projects.
- Representation of contractors and owners in construction disputes involving breach of contract, delay, bid protest, default, termination and project abandonment claims.
- Litigation on behalf of contractors regarding prevailing wage, fringe benefits, payment, lien, surety bond and stop notice claims.
- Representation of public entities in all aspects of litigation, including construction claims and disputes, inverse condemnation, landslide and subsidence litigation, bodily injury actions, and occupational exposure claims
- Negotiation and drafting of construction contracts and development of risk management protocol for all aspects of the construction process (including pre- and post-construction phases).  
Preparation of real estate documents, including purchase and sale documents, CC&R's and compliance documents for SB 800, and leases.

## **Cybersecurity and Data Privacy**

### **Disaster Litigation**

#### **Employment**

- Defend property owners and businesses against American with Disabilities Act (ADA) claims and advise companies regarding accessibility issues.
- Defense of wrongful discharge, retaliation, harassment, discrimination, wage and hour compliance, and FMLA claims.

#### **Environmental**

- Defense of entities in groundwater contamination cases.
- Representation of owners, developers and contractors regarding claims of exposure to hazardous materials and habitability.

#### **Hospitality**

#### **Product Liability**

#### **Professional Liability**

- Professional liability defense for directors and officers, real estate brokers and agents, design professionals, healthcare professionals and insurance agents and brokers.
- Defense of property owners and businesses against American with Disabilities Act (ADA) claims.
- Advise companies regarding ADA compliance, including architectural barriers and accessibility issues

#### **Public Entity Defense**

- Representation of public entities in all aspects of litigation, including construction claims and disputes, inverse condemnation, bodily injury, and occupational exposure claims and disputes.

#### **Toxic Tort and Occupational Exposure**

- Defense of personal injury claims alleging exposure to mold, lead and asbestos in single-family homes, condominiums, apartment buildings, and commercial developments.
- Risk-management consultation in developing protocols to avoid and minimize microbial contamination claims.

## **Trial & Appellate Results**

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- Pinnacle Museum Tower Assn. v. Pinnacle Market Development S186149.
- Promenade at Playa Vista Homeowners Association v. Western Pacific Housing, Inc., 2012 Cal.App. Unpub. WL 6052034.
- [VICTORY: WSH&B Wins a Landmark Construction Defect Case!](#)

## Awards & Accomplishments

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- AV Preeminent Lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell
- The Judge Advocates Association's U.S. Navy Reserve Outstanding Career Judge Advocate Award, 2016
- Named as a Top Attorney by Pasadena Magazine, 2013 - 2017
- Rear Admiral Hugh H. Howell, Jr., Award of Excellence, Junior Officer, West Coast
- National Merit Scholar
- Navy League Military Woman of Achievement

## Publications

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- [\*Changing Demographics Drive Jury Verdicts and Impact Claims Analysis In California's Central Valley\*](#)

## Seminars, Events & Presentations

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- CLM New York Conference, Peace, Joy & Happiness: The Zen of Mediating Difficult Positions and Issues with Emotional Parties, December 12, 2018
- CLM Construction Insurance Conference, Look Out: Impact of the Labor Crisis on Construction Claims and the Right to Repair, September 26, 2018
- 2009 International Builders Show, Green Building Products - Can They Perform as Promised?, January 20-23, 2009
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Meeting the Challenge of the Construction Defect Claim: A Pro-Active Risk Management Strategy, October 28, 2008
- West Coast Casualty Construction Defect Seminar, Going Green: Is the Grass Greener on the Other Side?, May 5, 2008
- National Association of Homebuilders International Builders Show, Meeting the Challenge of the Multi-Family Housing Construction Claim, February 15, 2008

## Memberships

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- National Association of Home Builders Construction Law Attorney Forum
- Building Industry Association of Southern California
- Associated General Contractors of California
- U.S. Green Building Council, Los Angeles Chapter
- LACBA Construction Law Subsection Steering Committee