



## Elizabeth Dorsi

Partner

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Elizabeth Dorsi leads the Fintech Initiative. She represents clients in disputes ranging from high-stakes civil litigation to pre-litigation conflict resolution. Elizabeth leverages her practical experience handling a wide range of matters in state and federal trial courts, on appeal, and in arbitration.

Her practice focuses on complex litigation with an emphasis on unfair competition, false advertising consumer class actions, breach of contract claims, business dissolution disputes, and trust and estate litigation. She uses a combination of strategic, big-picture thinking, and close attention to detail to develop creative solutions when none appear to exist. Elizabeth focuses day-to-day primarily on advising clients on litigation risks and strategy, preparing and responding to dispositive motions, taking and defending depositions, and negotiating settlement agreements with opposing counsel. Elizabeth recently first-chaired five jury trials during a three-month secondment with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

Elizabeth has an active pro bono practice. She successfully argued the Ninth Circuit habeas appeal for a death row inmate, which resulted in her client's 40-year-old conviction being overturned because the prosecutor had engaged in unconstitutional racial discrimination during jury selection. She has also represented parties in unlawful detainer actions, SSDI administrative appeals, and civil rights class actions challenging California's DNA collection law and juvenile detention practices.

Elizabeth served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable William B. Shubb of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, and as a legal intern with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

### Distinctions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation (2021)
- Northern California Rising Stars, *Super Lawyers* (2020-2021)

### Memberships and Affiliations

- Executive Committee, Harvard Law School Alumni Association of Northern California (2019-present)
- Board of Directors, Pacific Crest Trail Association (2021-present)
- Board of Directors, AIDS Legal Referral Panel (2014-2016)

## Experience

### False Advertising and Labeling

Representing companies in the cosmetic and personal care industries in pre-litigation dispute resolution and litigation on false advertising, unfair competition, and CLRA claims. Successfully won dismissal of unfair competition claims against a cosmetic company on the basis that the plaintiff's labeling claims were preempted by the FDCA.

### Services

- Appellate Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Consumer Products + Manufacturing
- Financial Services
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Privacy and Cybersecurity
- Technology
- Fintech

### Education

- Harvard Law School (J.D., 2011)
  - executive editor, *Harvard Law Review*
- University of California, Berkeley (B.A., 2007)
  - director, Parliamentary Debate Team

### Bar Admissions

- California

### Clerkships

- U.S. District Court (E.D. Cal.), William B. Shubb

### **Payment Processing Litigation**

Won summary judgment on behalf of a financial services provider in a business tort action. The lawsuit accused our client of unlawfully terminating payment processing services for the plaintiffs after their accounts were flagged for illegal transactions.

### **Trust and Estate Litigation**

Representing an income beneficiary in a range of trust litigation issues, including nomination of a new permanent trustee and disputes regarding the identity of remainder beneficiaries.

### **Elder Abuse Litigation**

Represented a developer against claims of fraud and elder abuse arising out of a real estate transaction. The matter resolved with an early settlement favorable to our client.

### **CFTC Enforcement Action**

Representing a precious metals retailer in both the district court and the Ninth Circuit in a federal government enforcement action brought by the CFTC alleging off-exchange transactions and fraud. The lawsuit raises novel issues regarding the CFTC's jurisdiction, including whether depository delivery of financed metals results in "actual delivery" under the Commodity Exchange Act and the scope of the CFTC's anti-fraud jurisdiction. Also representing the company in a parallel class action.

### **Mass Tort Litigation**

Represented a nuclear fuel processing company in a mass tort action brought by over one hundred plaintiffs alleging personal injury and property damage. Won a complete victory at summary judgment.

## **Outside the Office**

When Elizabeth isn't going the distance for her clients, she is a long-distance hiker. She hiked from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail (2650 miles) during a record snow year, averaging 20+ miles a day for five months. She's also hiked the Camino de Santiago (550 miles), John Muir Trail (220 miles), and the Tahoe Rim Trail (170 miles). Elizabeth enjoys discussing ultralight backpacking gear and is currently on the lookout for her next 100+ mile adventure.