



NORMA GARCÍA GUILLÉN

Founding Partner

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Ms. García Guillén has been a commercial litigator for over 15 years. She specializes in general business litigation with experience in various jurisdictions across the United States and internationally. Her litigation experience centers around complex breach of contract and business tort claims, breach of fiduciary duty, as well as unfair competition, partnership disputes, corporate governance, consumer defense and securities disputes. As a business litigator, Norma has successfully tried complex civil cases, most recently obtaining a \$2.7 million dollar judgment at trial.

Ms. García Guillén has litigated matters in both state and federal courts, and international ADR panels. She has extensive experience in mediation and arbitration.

Prior to founding Garcia Rainey Blank & Bowerbank LLP, Ms. García Guillén was an associate at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP where she co-chaired the Latin American Practice Group.

EDUCATION

- » J.D., University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, 2002
- » A.B., Smith College, 1997
- » Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, 1995 (semester abroad)

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. García Guillén currently represents a cosmetics manufacturing company in prosecuting fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of implied in law contract, RICO claims, among others against former employees who we allege defrauded the company out of tens of millions of dollars.

Ms. García Guillén recently first chaired a bench trial involving fraud, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty claims, and seeking dissolution of corporation. After a three and a half week trial, the Court issued a decisive victory in favor of GRBB's clients awarding \$2.7 million in damages, plus attorneys' fees, and dissolution.

Ms. García Guillén first chaired a bench trial related to multi-residential real estate complex fraud claims. GRBB obtained a decisive victory in favor of its clients.

Ms. García Guillén represented a public utilities corporation in a multi-billion dollar commercial dispute concerning the San Onofre nuclear power plant.

Ms. García Guillén has managed all claims on behalf of a federal Receiver in a high profile Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement action for a ponzi scheme where thousands of investors were defrauded out of tens of millions of dollars.

She has successfully brought contempt, turnover, and disgorgement motions and handled evidentiary hearings.

Ms. García Guillén has handled numerous high profile cases, including business and defamation disputes for Latin American celebrities.

ADMISSIONS

- » All courts of the State of California
- » U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- » U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- » U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California

LANGUAGES

- » Ms. García Guillén is fluent in Spanish.

She also successfully represented a Hong Kong based manufacturer of cell phones and cell phone equipment in international arbitration, before the International Chamber of Commerce (“ICC”) International Court of Arbitration, in a breach of contract dispute where the choice of law was Mexican law.

Ms. García Guillén has also successfully asserted extraterritorial jurisdiction and international comity defenses in two related class actions brought under the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, obtaining summary judgment in both matters on behalf of an international telecommunications company.

She successfully represented brokers in a self-insurance group in a breach of contract, business tort, and defamation dispute. Ms. García Guillén managed the entire action, which resulted in a remarkable victory for the client. Indeed, the legal research and drafting persuaded a panel of three arbitrators that the proper measure of damages for a breach of contract dispute was loss of gross commissions, and not lost profits. This decision made a multi-million dollar difference to the client. The victory was replicated in a related action before an Orange County Superior Court Judge who issued the same ruling in a jury instruction, forcing the opposing party to settle.

Ms. García Guillén managed multiple complex disputes on behalf of a prominent food manufacturer involving trade secret misappropriation, breach of contract and trademark infringement claims.

Ms. García Guillén has successfully obtained numerous judgments for a leading factoring company in commercial disputes against parties in different parts of the country.

She successfully resolved commercial litigation on behalf of a U.S. subsidiary of a Mexican entity after coordinating with foreign counsel in related civil and criminal proceedings.

Ms. García Guillén has obtained waivers and expedited 0-1 visas for a Latin American celebrity after working directly with the Visa Chief in the United States Embassy.

She has drafted various talent performance agreements for Latin American celebrities with United States producers and venues.

She has strategized and coordinated with local counsel in Mexico pertaining to the creation of a joint venture between a Mexican parent company and U.S. subsidiaries.

Ms. García Guillén advised the U.S. distributor for a Mexican subsidiary of a German company on legal issues, including the interplay between Mexican and United States/California law, pertaining to a bilingual distribution agreement.

She provided various legal opinions to a leading bank in Mexico on various issues, including cross-border banking operations and the validity of a family trust pertaining to a brokerage account.

Ms. García Guillén has handled transactional matters for clients such as Broadcom Corporation and Barcel USA, LLC, among others.

COMMUNITY

Ms. García Guillén remains active in her community and currently serves as Vice President of the Orange County Justice Fund, and on the board of the Alzheimer’s Family Center. She served Chair of the Board of Directors of KidWorks, a non-profit in central Santa Ana serving at-risk youth and their families. She also served on the UCI Saturday Academy of Law Oversight Committee (2008 to the 2012) and on the Dean’s Cabinet at UCI’s School of Law (2010 to 2017).

Ms. García Guillén also proudly served as president of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County in 2008. Her professional accomplishments, and humble beginnings, have earned her accolades and recognition in numerous publications, including the Orange County Register (December 2004), Latina magazine (April 2005), Selecciones (May 2005), La Opinión (January 7, 2008), OC Metro (2008), and Excelsior (March 2008).

Ms. García Guillén’s other civic involvement includes:

- » Founding member, Orange County Justice Fund (2017-Present)
- » Member, Alzheimer’s Family Center (2017-present)
- » Member, Dean’s Executive Board, UCI School of Law (2011-2017 t)
- » Member, Board of Directors of KidWorks (2007 - 2016)
- » Member, Board of Directors of Orange County Democratic Foundation (2010 – 2011)

- » Member, Board of Directors of TECMA (Orange County Mexican Consulate's Red de Talentos) (2009 - 2017)
- » Appointed Member, Administration of Justice Committee, Orange County Bar Association (2007, 2008)
- » Member, Orange County Superior Court ADR Committee (2007)
- » Member, City of Santa Ana Charter Amendment Task Force (2006)
- » Member, Board of Santa Ana Education Foundation (2006 - 2008)
- » Member, Orange County Bar Association (2002-Present)
- » Member, Jessup International Law Moot Court, USC Gould School of Law (2001-2002)
- » President, La Raza Law Students Association, USC Gould School of Law (2000-2001)

HONORS

- » Attorney of the Year, *Orange County Hispanic Bar Association* (2018)
- » Rising Star, *Super Lawyers*, (June 2010, June 2011, June 2012, June 2013, June 2014)
- » Sheppard Mullin's Diversity Award (2011)
- » *Latino Leaders National Delegation to Israel*, American Jewish Committee (September 2010)
- » *Inspirational Alumnus Award*, USC Gould School of Law La Raza Students Association, (March 2009)
- » *20 Women to Watch*, OC Metro (March 2008)
- » *Emerging Leader Award*, American Jewish Committee (March 2008)
- » *Voices of Hope*, Community Service Programs, Inc. (2005)
- » *Shattuck Award*, USC Gould School of Law (2002)

IN THE NEWS

- » 20 Women to Watch, *OC Metro Business*, March 13, 2008

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- » Liability and Jurisdictional Risks Associated with Cross-Border Operations(November 2014). Hosted by Garcia Sullivan LLP MCLE Credit Provided.
- » Diversity in The Legal Profession, Guest Class Lecturer/Panelist, UCI Law School (April 2013, April 2014, November 2014).
- » The Legal Implications of Mexico-US Cross Border Transactions, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (May 2014). Hosted by California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and TECMA.
- » The Legal Implications of Mexico-US Cross-Border Transactions, Chapman University (October 2012). Hosted by Chapman University and TECMA.
- » The Reach of U.S. Products Liability Law on Foreign Entities, México City, México (December 2008). Hosted by Mexican law firm, Basham, Ringe y Correa, S.C.
- » International Implications of E-Discovery, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico (April 2007). Hosted by Mexican law firm, Barrera Siqueiros y Torres Landa.
- » International Implications of E-Discovery, Mexico City, Mexico (March 2007). Hosted by Mexican law firm, Barrera Siqueiros y Torres Landa.
- » Latino Educational Attainment, Santa Ana, California (November 2004). Hosted by the Orange County Register and the Orange County Business Council.