

# GABRIELA GUZMAN

## **BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

Admitted to the California State Bar and the United States District Court for the Central District of California, December 2009.

## **EDUCATION**

**Valparaiso University School of Law**, Valparaiso, Indiana, J.D., May 2008

*Activities and Honors:* Hispanic Law Student Association, *President 2006-2007*  
Dean's List Fall Semester 2007

**Pepperdine University**, Malibu, California, B.A. Spanish and Political Science, December 2001

*Activities and Honors:* Outstanding Political Science Graduate for the Class of 2001

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

**Misa Stefen Koller Ward, LLP.** Westminster, CA

June 2024-present

*Senior Attorney*

- Represent permissibly-self insured employers, TPA's and insurance companies in the defense of workers' compensation claims throughout various stages of litigation that included formulation of discovery plans that include exposure analysis for early resolution to Trial.

**The Hartford**, Brea, CA

March 2023-May 2024

*In-house Counsel, Senior Staff Attorney*

- In-House Counsel for The Hartford which entails close partnership with Claims and Employers to achieve equitable resolution of workers' compensation cases in all phases of litigation.
- Analyze facts and law to create a litigation plan and discovery strategy up through and including trial.
- Serve as a mentor for new attorneys that involves reviewing cases together to formulate discovery plans, case analysis, and strategies for Trial that included preparation of direct and cross-examination.
- Training for Claim Handlers and Staff Legal on topics ranging from proper preparation of Pre-Trial Conference Statement, distinction between types of settlements, and expiration of Covid-19 presumptions.

**Stander, Reubens Thomas Kinsey**, Orange, CA

March 2018-February 2023

*Senior Staff Attorney*

- Represented permissibly-self insured employers, TPA's and insurance companies in the defense of workers' compensation claims throughout various stages of litigation that also included formulation of discovery plans that would achieve containment of claim exposure.
- Extensive knowledge and application regarding Covid-19 presumption claims.
- Ability to achieve rapid resolution on pro per claims due to fluency in Spanish language.

**Gilson Daub, Inc.** Dana Point, CA

May 2014 – March 2018

*Senior Staff Attorney*

- Managed and supervised three associate attorneys for the firm's Los Angeles/Pasadena satellite office.
- Provided training and mentoring to associate attorney's that were new to the practice of workers' compensations defense, ranging from knowledge of affirmative defenses, date of injury, issues of contribution and proper training in taking and defending depositions of applicant's and PQME's and AME's.
- Extensive experience in litigating a case through all aspects of the workers' compensation appeals process.

**Kegel, Tobin and Truce, APC** Los Angeles, CA

April 2011-May 2014

*Associate Attorney*

- Acquired experience in deposing applicant's as well as experience in taking cross-examination testimony from medical-legal experts.
- Collaborated with Civil Co-Defendants in reference to the adequate defense of Labor Code Section 132(a) Claims.
- Litigated and represented cases involving insolvent carriers, and acquired knowledge of the California Insurance Code which outlines the responsibility of the California Insurance Guarantee Agency (CIGA).

**Law Offices of Daniel P. Goggins, APC.** Brea, CA

August 2010 – March 2011

*Associate Attorney*

- Acquired extensive experience defending and representing residential employee cases, temporary employment agencies, and public entities at Expedited Hearings, Trial, and Status Conferences before WCAB venues throughout the State of California.

**Hayford & Felchlin, LLP.** Los Angeles, CA

February 2010 – August 2010

*Associate Attorney*

- Drafted Answers to Application for Adjudication, Joint Advocacy Letters, Deposition Summaries, Interrogatories and Opening Reports.
- Researched issues specific to the adequate defense of employees of public agencies, specifically presumptions applicable to Fireman and Police Officer cases.

**Law Offices of Muñoz & Guizar, LLP.** Los Angeles, CA

September 2009 –February 2010

*Contract Attorney*

- Assisted in formulating and completing wage and hour calculations for a class action lawsuit.
- Collaborated with counsel in propounding and responding to discovery that included special interrogatories, employment law interrogatories, general interrogatories and requests for production of documents.
- Researched issues relating to employer compliance with federal and state regulations, specifically Family Medical Leave Act, California Family Rights Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**CERTIFICATIONS**

**Certified Workers' Compensation Specialist, September 2021**

**LANGUAGES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Fluent in the Spanish language** – Native Speaker and completed six and a half years of formal education.

**Latina Lawyers Bar Association** – Active Member from 2009 to present.

**Mexican American Bar Association** – Active Member from 2009 to present.