

Jill Piano

(310) 429-0090 | JillPianoESQ@gmail.com | Santa Monica, CA

ATTORNEY AT LAW | ARBITRATOR | INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATE

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Self-Motivated, Inquisitive Attorney with 16+ years of diverse experience in Civil Litigation, Family Law & Entertainment Law, and a passion for advocating for others

With excellent communication and negotiation skills, I possess a proven ability to take ownership of cases in a variety of disciplines and effectively deliver results. I am a natural “people person” with exceptional compassion, empathy, and problem-solving skills who excels at resolving disputes. My passion in my work is helping **people tell their truth**, and supporting them both legally and personally through their unique set of challenges.

After working on my own for the last 3+ years, I am eager to return to a collaborative team environment.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Civil Litigation & Investigation
- Evaluating Evidence & Conducting Interviews
- Compliance & Policy Adherence
- Negotiation & Communications
- Client Relations & External Collaboration
- Fact Gathering & Fact Finding
- Misconduct Evaluation
- Expertise in Estate Planning, Wills & Trusts
- High Emotional Intelligence (EQ)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Law Office of Jill Piano, Santa Monica, CA

2018 - Present

Owner

I founded my company to be able to take a more sensitive, personable approach to working with my clients, while also providing them unparalleled legal support, problem-solving strategies, and when necessary, attentive handholding through a difficult time in their lives. In this capacity I’ve been able to partner with dozens of clients to help them share their stories and achieve financial and personal success.

- Founded a solo litigation practice focused on identifying and responding to client-specific needs which included the areas of Contracts, Wills & Trusts, Personal Injury, Family Law, Intellectual Property, Trademark, Bankruptcy and Employment Law.
- **Represent 10 select clients for all phases of litigation.** Regular responsibilities include drafting discovery requests, preparation of depositions, mediation, and hearings.
- Managed all operational aspects of the firm, including marketing, billing, accounting, client relations, and legal work. Attained almost all clients from word-of-mouth, as a testament to my excellent quality of service and constant devotion to **going above and beyond for my clients.**
- **Advised 25+ clients on estate planning**, including drafting and executing wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and health care directives.
- Performed extensive legal research for various aspects of litigation and areas of law. **Applied supreme research skills to find case-winning details in footnotes** and other nuanced legal documentation.
- In addition to performing case-winning research, providing thoughtful client service, and advising on effective legal action, I also went to court and effectively communicated with Opposing Counsel and other parties.
- **Employed exceptional communication and empathy skills to interview clients** with the goal of building and maintaining a professional relationship build on trust.
- **Assisted multiple clients in standing up against workplace bullies** with a focus on building strength and self-worth. In more than one instance, I helped my clients create legal letters that forced bullies to back down and cease intimidation.
- **Provided above-and-beyond care for many of my estate planning clients**, including one terminally-ill client who needed to update her estate plan in the final 3 weeks of her life – I was with her at home, in the hospital, and every step of the way to make sure her wishes were upheld.

Duchrow & Piano, LLP, Santa Monica, CA

2015 - 2018

Partner

- Functioned in partner role at Plaintiff Employment/Family Law firm representing clients for all phases of litigation. My Partner role was focused on client relations and business development - **bringing in new clients and building relationships with those clients built on trust and genuine care** – something I am great at.
- Oversaw interview processes necessary to sign up new clients to receive legal assistance.
- **Negotiated successful resolution of 15+ cases** with a focus on providing an empathetic support for clients. I was good at helping things get resolved before trial because it was in the best interest of the client and their mental state.
- **Helped multiple clients successfully resolve career disputes**, primarily through helping them keep their jobs or winning them sizeable settlements. I built strong relationships with these clients, many of whom keep in touch with me to this day.

Law Offices of David J. Duchrow, Santa Monica, CA

2008 - 2013

Attorney

- Served as attorney for plaintiff civil litigation law firm, playing the internal role of **client relations specialist and business development driver**.
- Interviewed prospective clients, gathering case-related information to determine necessary processes.
- **Employed excellent written communication skills and attention to detail to draft and process key legal documents**, including documents for pleading, discovery, law and motion, and settlement agreements.

Law Offices of Timothy Martella - Dependency Courts, Los Angeles, CA

2007 - 2008

Associate

- Utilized law proficiency to defend parents in dependency proceedings brought by Los Angeles Office of the County Counsel. Maintained senior attorney's caseload consisting of **approximately 350 cases**.
- Gained Trial Attorney experience by defending clients in various bench trial proceedings and contested hearings; performed other related tasks, such as, subpoenaed witnesses for trials, directed and cross-examined witnesses including children and medical experts and participated in successful mediations.
- Drafted motions, memoranda, declarations, family law custody orders, legal guardianship paperwork and restraining orders.

Hidden Beach Recordings, Santa Monica, CA

2000 - 2007

Associate

- Negotiated and drafted artist, video, producer, recording, licensing, sample, sync, distribution, and publishing agreements for record label; resolved issues between artists, managers, and producers.
- Gained experience interacting & communicating with high-profile celebrities, such as Stevie Wonder.
- **Reduced telecom overhead of the company by \$2000 to \$4000 monthly**; analyzed and reviewed necessity to amend vendor contracts.
- **Implemented multiple procedures to increase effectiveness** of internal processes and artist meetings.
- Employed excellent communication skills to coordinate with AFTRA, Grammys, NARAS and AFM to ensure thorough compliance of regulations.
- Volunteered for multiple NARAS Grammys & MusicCares events – **always willing to step in and provide a helping hand when needed**.
- Oversaw filing accuracy of sample clearance, copyright and trademark paperwork; researched and verified credits on CD packaging, as well as, on liner notes.
- Served in various collateral roles, including Officer on Dare to Dream and Worldvision boards.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Graduate, University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN

Bachelor of Arts, Social Services, St. Catherine's University, St. Paul, MN

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of California & State Bar of Minnesota (Present)
- **Volunteer/Mediator/Arbitrator** – Santa Monica Bar Association
- Board Member – Women Lawyers of Los Angeles (2005 - Present)
- Sojourn Co-Chair – Pro Bono Clinic (2013 - Present)
- Board Member – Santa Monica Bar Association (2006 - 2011)
- Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law (2004 - Present)