Sheila Z. Chen

Partner

Orange County

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Sheila handles complex commercial litigation, including health care, insurance coverage, class action, unfair competition, and antitrust disputes. She has represented clients in federal and state courts, appeals, arbitrations, and foreign investigations

OVERVIEW

Sheila is a partner in the firm's Orange County office, and has experience litigating at various stages of a case. She has defended clients in claims for unfair competition, breach of contract, fraud and misrepresentation, trade secrets, antitrust, business torts, and statutory violations, including the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act.

Prior to joining the firm, Sheila served as a law clerk for the Honorable Roslyn O. Silver of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona from 2016 to 2017. Sheila earned her J.D. from the University of California, Irvine School of Law. While in law school, Sheila externed for the Honorable James V. Selna of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California and the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California. Sheila received her bachelor's degree in political science and mass communications from the University of California, Berkeley.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Defending insurers in a complex insurance program against a nine-figure insurance bad faith lawsuit seeking coverage and bad faith damages arising out of a fire in Los Angeles, CA.
- Defended an insurer in an $84 million bad faith lawsuit seeking coverage and bad faith damages for a pre-policy period SEC investigation under a directors and officers policy.
- Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of an insurer in coverage litigation against insured concerning coverage for a consumer class action involving alleged damages in excess of $1 billion.
- Defending an insurer in a lawsuit seeking coverage and bad faith damages for environmental cleanup costs, stemming from its consent agreements with state environmental agencies, and in a water district's parallel lawsuit relating to an industrial site in Orange County, CA.
- Defending an insurer in a lawsuit seeking coverage for environmental cleanup costs stemming from a regional water board investigation and the city's parallel lawsuit relating to an industrial site in Torrance, CA.
- Secured a victory for a large Hawaii-based bank from the Ninth Circuit affirming summary judgment on a

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consent defense under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act in Hawaii federal court and successfully defended summary judgment on appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

- Successfully obtained dismissal for a national eyewear retailer in a consumer class action alleging violation of California consumer protection statutes based on complex California regulatory scheme.
- Successfully represented an international hotel management company in an appeal involving a multimillion dollar dispute with a real estate investment company over a failed hotel sale transaction.
- Successfully defended health care plans in arbitrations involving contractual and payment disputes with health care providers.
- Successfully briefed and argued an immigration appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of client seeking political asylum.
- Represented multiple clients in domestic and international investigations.

AWARDS

- *Super Lawyers®:* "Rising Star," California (2020-2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch*: Antitrust Law (2022-2026), Commercial Litigation (2022-2026), Insurance Law (2021-2026)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Antitrust
- Business Litigation
- Class Action
- Financial Services Litigation
- Health Care Insurance
- Insurance + Reinsurance

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Antitrust
- Business Litigation
- Class Action
- Financial Services Litigation
- Health Care Insurance
- Insurance + Reinsurance
- Litigation + Trial
- Managed Care Payor Disputes, Investigations + Regulatory Counseling

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Co-chair (2018), Orange County Young Lawyers Division of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- President (2021), First Vice President (2020), Governing Council (2018, 2019), University of California Irvine School of Law Alumni Association
- Member, Law Dean Search Committee for University of California Irvine School of Law
- Member, Orange County Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

- Member, Orange County Asian American Bar Association
- Member, Obama White House Internship Alumni Network
- Member, Troutman Pepper Locke Women's Network; Member, General Development Programming Subcommittee

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of California, Irvine School of Law, J.D., 2015
- University of California, Berkeley, B.A., 2009, political science and mass communications

BAR ADMISSIONS

- California

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- Department of Veterans Affairs

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Roslyn O. Silver, U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, 2016-2017

LANGUAGES

- Mandarin

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Private Practice Panel," OCAABA, October 22, 2025.
- Speaker, "Notable Professional Liability Insurance Decisions of Last Year," Troutman Pepper, February 9, 2023.
- Speaker, "Breaking Boundaries – A Conversation with Kelly Mi Li from Bling Empire," Troutman Pepper, June 8, 2021.
- Moderator, "Panel Discussion with Women Partners," *Troutman Pepper*, April 29, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "California Supreme Court Allows Declaratory Relief and Bad Faith Claims to Proceed Against Excess Insurers Before Underlying Exhaustion," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, August 4, 2026.
- Contributor, "D&O and Professional Liability – 2023: A Year in Review," *Troutman Pepper*, February 28, 2024.

- Contributor, “D&O and Professional Liability 2022 | A Year in Review,” *Troutman Pepper*, February 6, 2023.
- Contributor, “D&O and Professional Liability 2021 | A Year in Review,” *Troutman Pepper*, February 22, 2022.
- Contributor, “D&O and Professional Liability 2020 | A Year in Review,” *Troutman Pepper*, March 1, 2021.
- Co-author, “Remote Depositions in the Time of COVID-19,” *FBA/OC*, Fall/Winter 2020.
- Co-author, “COVID-19 Insurance Class Actions Face Certification Hurdles,” *Law360*, May 7, 2020.
- Co-author, “Calif. COVID-19 Class Actions: Early Trends And Key Defenses,” *Law360*, April 23, 2020.
- Co-author, “Ninth Circuit Issues Ruling on Insurers’ Rights and Obligations Regarding Suspended Corporate Insureds,” *Troutman Sanders*, March 16, 2020.
- Co-author, “No Fishing Zone: Protecting Against Overly Broad Discovery in Insurance Bad Faith Actions,” *Lexology*, February 21, 2020.
- Contributor, “D&O and Professional Liability Update 2019: A Year in Review,” *Troutman Sanders*, March 3, 2020.
- Co-author, “*Roes v. SFBSC Management, LLC*: Ninth Circuit Reverses Class Settlement Approval and Outlines More Exacting Standard for Class Action Settlements,” *Troutman Sanders*, January 8, 2020.
- Co-author, “Lessons for Calif. Health Payors From 2019 Filing Trends,” *Law360*, January 8, 2020.
- Co-author, “Searching for a Solution to Surprise Medical Billing in Calif.” *Law360*, August 26, 2019.
- Co-author, “Recent Antitrust-IP Guidance by Foreign Competition Authorities,” *The AIPLA Antitrust News*, January 2016.