HAHN & HAHN LLP

Christianne F. Kerns

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner



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Christianne (Chris) Kerns is the Chief Executive Officer, Managing Partner and Chair of the Executive Committee of Hahn & Hahn LLP. The firm's first CEO and first female Managing Partner, Chris champions diversity in our workforce and an inclusive culture. She has led the firm to become one of the largest law firms in California certified as a majority Women Owned Business Enterprise. In her role, Chris leads strategic planning, human capital management, partnership matters, compensation, branding, business development, IT, finance, accounting, risk management, crisis management, and human resources, and has budget and P&L oversight.

In addition, Chris actively maintains her legal practice as a member of the firm's Business department, guiding corporate boards and C-Suite executives to drive growth. Clients appreciate her ability to assess the opportunity and risk landscape to align major business decisions with organizational goals, build boards and board committees, and implement strong governance practices. Her decades of industry experience provide her with in-depth knowledge of complex debt and capital strategies, inorganic growth strategies, strategic partnerships, complex financing acquisitions, commercial real estate, M&A activities, and other business transactions. She advises management teams to identify and proactively curb risk, achieve financial sustainability, manage legal and regulatory compliance, discreetly resolve sensitive internal challenges, and achieve high-level long-term solutions to benefits all stakeholders. She guides CEOs and boards on board recruiting, board committee structure, and development and implementation of board policies and procedures.

Chris also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of SunAmerica Asset Management, Series Trust and Seasons Series Trust, an over $50 billion mutual fund complex managed by SunAmerica, a subsidiary of Corebridge Financial (NYSE: CRBG). Additionally, Chris has served as a director of various nonprofit organizations for more than two decades, serving on Executive, Nominating, Governance, Finance and Audit Committees.

Related Capabilities

Business

Business Disputes and Partnership Realignment

Real Estate

Experience

Speaking Engagements

Presenter, "Commercial Secured Financing Transactions," In-House MCLE, January 12, 2026

“Informational Sessions for Property Owners Affected by the Los Angeles Wildfires,” Hahn & Hahn LLP | Wolf Wallenstein, PC, 2025

Chris has spoken on various panels regarding real estate matters and on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Credentials

Admissions

California
U.S. District Court, Central District of California

Education

Harvard Business School, Women on Boards Program

University of Southern California Gould School of Law, J.D. (Law Journal: *Major Tax Planning & Computer Law Journal*, Editor in Chief)

California State University, Fullerton, B.A. (With Honors)

Honors & Awards

Selected to “Commercial Real Estate Trends, Updates & Visionaries,” issue, L.A. Times B2B Publishing, 2022–2026

Nominated for "LA Executive Awards," L.A. Times B2B Publishing, 2026

Recipient of "Lawyers in Real Estate Awards," Connect CRE, 2025

Selected to "Top Attorneys," *Pasadena Magazine*, 2010, 2014–2016, 2021–2025

Recognized in "100 Managing Partners You Need to Know," Lawdragon, 2025–2026

Nominated for “Inspirational Women" awards, L.A. Times B2B Publishing, 2024–2025

Recognized in “Top 100 Lawyers,” *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2022–2024

Featured in “500 Leading Lawyers in America" list, Lawdragon, 2023

Selected to “Business of Law: Legal Visionaries,” issue, L.A. Times B2B Publishing, 2022–2023

Finalist for “Inspirational Women" awards, L.A. Times B2B Publishing, 2022

Nominated for “Women's Leadership Award, CEO of the Year,” *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2021–2022

Featured in “Women of Influence" special issue, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2018–2022

Selected to "Women of Distinction," *Pasadena Magazine*, 2021

Nominated for “Leaders in Law" list, *Los Angeles Business Journal*, 2020

Recipient of “Lifetime Achievement Award,” Five Acres, 2020

Recipient of “Excellence in Executive Leadership Award,” Center for Leadership, California State University Fullerton, 2020

“My highest priority is to support my business clients and boards of directors as a dedicated professional, offering a wealth of experience and knowledge that I’ve accumulated throughout my career. My approach unites practical advice with a keen business perspective—a rare advantage in the legal community.”

Christianne F. Kerns
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner

Community Involvement

Professional Organizations

American Bar Association
Member

American Bar Foundation
Fellow

The State Bar of California
Member

Los Angeles County Bar Association
Member

Pasadena Bar Association
Member

National Association for Corporate Directors (NACD)
Member

WomenExecs on Boards (WEoB)
Member

Extraordinary Women on Boards (EWOB)
Member

Exceptional Women Alliance (EWA)
Member

Corporate Directors Roundtable of Orange County (CDROC)
Member

Charitable Organizations

Five Acres
Member, Board of Directors
Member, Executive Committee
Former Chairman of the Board

Hastings Foundation
Vice President and Member, Board of Directors

Pepperdine University: Boone Center for the Family
Member, Advisory Board

University of Southern California: Gould School of Law Alumni
Member, First Generation Professionals Committee

Villa Esperanza Services
Former Member, Board of Directors

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Former Commissioner