

Susanne B. Cohen

Partner

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Susanne Cohen advises clients in estate and special needs planning and works with clients in trusts, estates and conservatorship administration matters. With over thirty years of probate court practice, Susanne represents clients in trusts and estate, conservatorship and elder financial abuse litigation and in other court supervised cases. She brings an experienced, pragmatic and compassionate approach to help clients navigate often challenging and contested matters with a focus on good outcomes.

Susanne is a former legal aid lawyer who grew up in Pasadena and has a strong commitment to serving the community.

Related Capabilities

Litigation

Trust Litigation

Trusts & Estates

Experience

Speaking Engagements

Presenter, "Powers of Attorney, Advance Directives for Health Care, and Parental Authority to an Agent," In-House MCLE, October 6, 2025

Presenter, "Conservatorships and Guardianships," June 2, 2025

Speaker, "Holistic Strategies for Drafting Third-Party Special Needs Trusts," The Academy of Special Needs Planners National Conference, 2025

Co-presenter, "From Conflict to Collaboration: How Mediation Transforms Special Needs Trust Lawsuits," Special Needs Planning Symposium, 2024

Speaker, "Mediation: Why It Works, What to Expect and How to Prepare," Fiduciary Round Table of San Gabriel Valley, 2023

Credentials

Admissions

Arizona
California

Education

Loyola Law School of Los Angeles, J.D.
Vassar College, A.B.

Languages

German

Publications

Author, CEB Conservatorships – Temporary Conservatorship (Chapter 6)
Author, CEB Elder Law Resources – The Elder Law Office (Chapter 1)
Author, CEB Complete Plans for Small and Midsized Estates – Problematic Situations (Kevin Urbatsch and Robert L. Harrison, co-authors), Medi-Cal Planning Issues (Chapter 9)
Author, Matthew Bender Practice Guide, California Trust Litigation, Asserting or Defending a Claim of Financial Abuse of an Elder or Dependent Adult Against a Trustee (Chapter 11)
Author, Matthew Bender, California Pleading & Practice – Abuse of Minors, Elders & Dependent Adults (Chapter 5)

Honors & Awards

Named in "Legal Visionaries," *LA Times Studios Business*, 2025
Selected to "Top Attorneys," *Pasadena Magazine*, 2021–2025
Recognized in "Women of Distinction," *Pasadena Magazine*, 2021

“I love helping clients make the decisions they need to as they plan for the future and navigate often challenging leadership roles and situations in trusts, conservatorships and estates. Every client has their own set of priorities and goals, and it’s my job to help my clients get to where they want to go with the law as our guide and the courtroom to enforce it.”

Susanne B. Cohen
Partner

Community Involvement

Professional Organizations

Academy of Special Needs Planners

Member

Planning Chair, 2025

American Bar Association

Member, Commission on Disability Rights (CDR), present

Los Angeles County Bar Association

Member

Pasadena Bar Association

Member

Co-Chair of Women's Section

Professional Fiduciaries Association of California (PFAC)

Affiliate Member

Los Angeles Estate Planning Council

Member

Estate Planning Council of San Gabriel Valley

Member

Fiduciary Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley

Member

Charitable Organizations

Villa Esperanza Services

Board Member

Pasadena Arts League

Board Member

Member

Pasadena Rotary Club

Member

Pasadena Symphony and Pops: Women's Committee of the Pasadena Symphony Association

Member

Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation

Former Board Member, Board of Trustees