

Jonna M. Thomas Esq., CBN 240261

4 Orinda Way, Suite 250B; Orinda, CA 94563 • 925-253-1717

jthomas@hartogbaer.com

Professional Experience

Hartog & Baer PC

Trusts, Estates and Elder Law Litigation Associate

Dec 2011—Present

- Litigation—Manage all aspects of high-value and multi-national trust, estate and elder abuse litigation and dispute resolution from initial client contact through resolution.
- Transactional—Draft transactional documents including, without limitation, non-profit corporate formation documents, real property transfer documents and settlement agreements.
- Publications—Edit and update Lexis Nexis and Matthew Bender publications including:

John A. Hartog & George Dirkes; California Trust Practice; (Matthew Bender).

John A. Hartog and Albert Handelman; California Wills & Trusts Forms, Vol.1 1-3; (Matthew Bender).

John A. Hartog and Albert Handelman; California Wills & Trusts; Vol 1-3; (Matthew Bender).

Alameda County Public Defender's Office/ East Bay Children's Law Offices (EBCLO)

Senior Staff Attorney

Feb 2009—Nov 2011

- Represented abused and neglected minors in the juvenile dependency system in contested trials and periodic review hearings.
- Managed high volume caseload with a range of 150-300 active clients.
- Assisted in the launch of EBCLO by managing a double caseload and interviewing attorney applicants. EBCLO was formed to ensure continuity of client representation after the Public Defender's Office discontinued its Juvenile Dependency Division due to budgetary limitations.
- Trained new attorney staff at EBCLO on dependency law, parentage law, federal funding mechanisms for foster children, trial practice strategy, and negotiation strategy.
- Conducted legal research; drafted motions and trial briefs.

Alameda County Counsel's Office

Senior Staff Attorney

Nov 2007—Dec 2008

- Child Welfare Counsel—Managed high volume caseload, representing Child Welfare Services in dependency court actions at trial and appellate levels. Advised social workers regarding evidentiary investigation and presentation strategy. Drafted trial and appellate briefings.
- Central Collections Counsel—Represented Central Collections in debt collection actions and adversarial proceedings in bankruptcy.
- Risk Management Counsel—Drafted pre-trial law and motion briefs to defend county departments in varied government tort actions in state and federal court. Conducted client interviews and organized discovery requests, responses, and production. Presented oral arguments before federal and state courts.

Tulare County Counsel's Office

Deputy County Counsel II

Dec 2005—Nov 2007

- Child Welfare Counsel—Represented Child Welfare Services in dependency court actions at trial and appellate levels. Provided written and oral advice to social workers and county management on legal issues including juvenile law, family law, civil rights, tort law, constitutional law, civil procedure, rules of evidence, and practical pre-trial investigation strategy.
- Chair of Child Death Review Team, Subcommittee on County-Wide Protocol Development—Designed and drafted operational protocol to improve interagency cooperation and communication surrounding child abuse investigations and prevent child deaths. Led negotiations between directors of varying county agencies including the Public Health, Public Mental Health, Office of Education, Law Enforcement, Coroner's Office, the District Attorney, Child Welfare Services, and County Counsel.

Education

Golden Gate University

Master of Laws in Taxation (LLM)

Jan 2011—Present

- Seeking Master of Laws in Taxation with 23 of 26 required units completed.
- Maintaining a GPA of 3.54
- Anticipated graduation date May 2014.

McGeorge School of Law

Juris Doctorate (JD)

Sep 2002—May 2005

- Graduated with distinction: Class rank was within top 11% (29/257), GPA 3.4.
- Honors: Traynor Honors Society, Dean's Honor Roll for three years, Annual Dean's Scholarships, Annual Alumni Scholarships (55% tuition in total), Witkin Academic Achievement Awards in Foreign Investment/Development and Problems in Criminal Justice (awarded to first in class).
- Law Clerk—Community Legal Services Clinic—Managed personal caseload including family law, landlord/tenant, and bankruptcy matters.
- Law Journal Comment Staff, THE TRANSNATIONAL LAWYER—Researched conflicts of law issues arising between multilateral treaties. Edited various international law journal articles in preparation for publication.

Azusa Pacific University

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (BA)

Sep 1996—May 2000

- Graduated with distinction: Magna cum laude, GPA 3.7.
- Special Honors: General Studies Honors Program, Pew Honors Society, 1 of 10 Centennial Scholars, Annual Dean's Merit Scholarships
- International Justice Mission, Campus Chapter Founder—Initiated and led campus chapter to promote human rights awareness and activism. Presented before a forum of 2000 students. Initiated letter-writing campaign against global religious persecution. Envisioned and coordinated fundraiser to support efforts to emancipate women and children from forced prostitution in Thailand. Collaborated with Amnesty International by leading all-campus textbook collection drive to rebuild war-ravaged schools and libraries.