



*Biographical Information*

**Marina A. Macchiagodena, Esq.**

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

Civil Rights ♦ Contract/Business disputes ♦ Complex Litigation ♦ Construction disputes / defects ♦ Disability Discrimination ♦ Employment ♦ Insurance Coverage / Bad Faith ♦ Medical Malpractice ♦ Personal Injury ♦ Premises Liability ♦ Products Liability ♦ Non-Profit / Religious Entities ♦ School Law ♦ Subrogation

Marina Macchiagodena was born and raised in the city of San Francisco to immigrant parents from Italy. She attended Catholic elementary and high schools and graduated with honors from USF, with a major in psychology. She has a strong science background; her father was a physician, and as psychology major, she completed science classes in college, including classes in anatomy and physiology in which she was able to work on cadavers.

After completing law school at UC Hastings and passing the bar, she worked for a year at a plaintiff's personal injury/real estate firm in San Jose.

After marrying, she moved with her husband, Bill Tappin to the Los Angeles area in 1980 and began working for Shield & Smith, an insurance defense firm. While at Shield & Smith she handled cases involving auto accidents, premises liability, employment, medical and dental malpractice, construction defect, asbestos, workers compensation, subrogation and the occasional plaintiff's case. She handled cases through trial and on occasion, through the appellate process. She became a partner and stayed with Shield & Smith until its break up in 1991. Their clients included auto and other general insurers, TPA's, self-insured and governmental entities.

Ms. Macchiagodena's expertise in litigating tort cases has served her well as a mediator. She has mediated hundreds of auto accidents and premises liability cases, in addition to employment discrimination, construction and contract dispute matters. She has mediated for Farmers Insurance, State Farm, Auto Club, Zurich, Travelers and Allstate, among others.

Ms. Macchiagodena enjoys movies, books, hiking and horseback riding. She has owned her own horse for the past 28 years and has participated in equestrian events and competition. She also volunteers at the Pasadena Humane Society in the dog behavioral department.

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### **EDUCATION:**

#### **University of San Francisco**

- ◆ B.A. Psychology, Cum Laude, 1976
- ◆ Alpha Sgma Nu National Jesuit Honor Society

#### **University of California, Hastings College of Law**

- ◆ San Francisco, J.D., 1979
- ◆ Communications and Entertainment Law Journal

#### **UCLA Extension, Dept. of Business and Management:**

- ◆ Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation Training Program; October, 2000

#### **Los Angeles County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Services, Inc.:**

- ◆ Advanced Mediator Training-Commercial and Workplace Mediator Training; November, 2000

#### **Southern California Mediation Association:**

- ◆ Mediating Employment Disputes, May, 2002
- ◆ Mediating Elder Abuse, May 2002
- ◆ Non-Verbal alternative Dispute Resolution, 2002
- ◆ The Art and Science of Mediation, 2006

### **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Legal Consultant, Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

Office of General Counsel  
April, 1996 to present

#### **Freeburg, Judy, Macchiagodena & Nettels, Pasadena**

Partner, 1991 to October, 1995

#### **Shield and Smith, Los Angeles**

1980 to 1991, Partner 1987 to 1991

#### **Matthews and Marzulla, San Jose**

1979 to 1980