

Jillyn Hess-Verdon

Partner

jverdon@fbtgibbons.com | 949.209.8060

620 Newport Center Drive
Suite 1400
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Practice Areas

Wealth Planning & Family Office

Family Office Services

Bar Memberships

California

Jillyn Hess-Verdon advises high-net-worth individuals, multigenerational families, business owners, family offices, fiduciaries, and charitable organizations on sophisticated estate planning, wealth transfer, trust administration, business succession, and legacy preservation strategies. She is the Chair of the firm's Family Office Group.

Recognized by Chambers High Net Worth for Private Wealth Law in Southern California, Jillyn is known for helping families navigate the legal, financial, and interpersonal complexities that accompany significant wealth. She counsels clients on the preservation and transfer of wealth across generations, developing customized strategies designed to protect assets, prepare future generations for responsible stewardship, promote family harmony, and preserve family legacies. Clients and peers commend her technical knowledge, foresight, professionalism, and ability to navigate complex family dynamics.

Jillyn's practice is particularly focused on multigenerational wealth planning. She works closely with founders, entrepreneurs, inheritors, trustees, and rising generations to address the opportunities and challenges that arise as wealth moves from one generation to the next. Her counsel extends beyond traditional estate planning to include family governance, fiduciary oversight, beneficiary preparedness, special needs planning, philanthropic objectives, and succession planning for closely held businesses. By integrating legal, financial, and family considerations, she helps clients build structures designed to endure for generations.

A distinguishing feature of Jillyn's practice is her unique perspective at the intersection of planning and controversy. Having handled complex trust and estate disputes throughout her career, she understands how planning decisions are scrutinized years later and where family wealth transfer strategies can break down. This experience enables her to design practical and durable solutions that anticipate risk, minimize the likelihood of future disputes, and preserve family relationships while achieving long-term planning objectives.

Jillyn is widely recognized as a thought leader on issues affecting affluent families, including inheritance planning, fiduciary responsibility, wealth transfer trends, tax developments, special needs planning, and the evolving challenges associated with the historic transfer of wealth between generations. She is frequently sought by national media to provide commentary and legal insight, having appeared as a legal expert on CNN, ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, and Court TV.

Her thought leadership has been featured in leading national publications, including USA Today, Barron's, Forbes, Bloomberg, and Fortune. Recent commentary has focused on the Great Wealth Transfer, evolving tax legislation, and the legal and practical considerations facing families and business owners navigating significant wealth transitions.

A respected educator and speaker, Jillyn regularly presents to attorneys, wealth advisors, fiduciaries, business leaders, and family enterprises on sophisticated planning and wealth preservation strategies. She has taught at the graduate level and has lectured for the Los Angeles Daily Journal's *Bridging the Gap Conference*, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), the Los Angeles Times-UCI Conference on *Estate Planning for the High Net Worth Family*, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the McDonnell Douglas/Boeing Management Association, and the Society of Orange County Emergency Physicians (SOCEP).

Her professional accomplishments have earned recognition from both the legal and business communities. Jillyn is ranked by Chambers High Net Worth for Private Wealth Law in Southern

California, recognized in the Orange County Business Journal's OC 500 Legal as one of the region's most influential leaders, named a Top Lawyer by *Modern Luxury Riviera Orange County*, and selected to the *Orange County Business Journal*'s "Leaders of Influence: Women in Law" issue.

Through her advisory work, thought leadership, and extensive experience in both wealth planning and trust and estate matters, Jillyn helps families preserve wealth, prepare future generations for leadership and stewardship, and create enduring legacies that reflect their values and long-term objectives.

Other Info About Jillyn

Education

Western State University College of Law, J.D.

Western State University College of Law, B.S. Law

Courts

Federal District Court, 1990

United States Supreme Court, 1996

Recognition

Ranked by Chambers High Net Worth Guide for Private Wealth Law in Southern California, 2026

Recognized in OC 500 Legal as one of the 500 most influential people in Orange County, *Orange County Business Journal*, November 2025

Recognized as a Top Lawyer in *Modern Luxury Riviera Orange County* magazine, 2025

Recognized in "Leaders of Influence: Women in Law," *Orange County Business Journal,* August 2025

Professional Affiliations

Jillyn has been a member of the following bar associations:

- CLA-California Lawyers Association
- CLA-California Lawyers Association-Trusts & Estates Section
- Beverly Hills Bar Association
- OCBA-Orange County Bar Association
- OCBA-Orange County Bar Association – Trust & Estates Section
- OCBA-Orange County Bar Association – Appellate Section
- OCBA-Orange County Bar Association – Masters Section – for respected attorneys with 25 years or more experience

Jillyn has had the pleasure of serving as a member or director of the following organizations:

- Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity
- Robert A. Banyard Inn of Court
- Orange County Forum
- Sunwest Bank
- UC Irvine's Chief Executive Roundtable

Civic Activities

Jillyn has had the pleasure of serving as a member or director of the following organizations:

- Leadership Tomorrow
- Direct Connections to Africa
- Discovery Science Center's Innovators

Presentations

Jillyn has taught at the graduate level and has been a noted lecturer for the Los Angeles Daily Journal – Bridging the Gap Conference

McDonnell Douglas/Boeing Management Association

N.A.M.I (National Alliance for Mental Illness regarding Special Needs Trust Planning)

SOCEP (Society of Orange County Emergency Physicians)

The Los Angeles Times-UCI 1st Annual Conference on "Estate Planning For the High Net-Worth Family."

Featured speaker for STEP-Society of Trust & Estate Professionals regarding "Trends in Inheritance Litigation and How to Prevent Litigation for High Net Worth Families"

Major Publications

Media commentator, "The Great Wealth Transfer's Begun. Are Heirs-to-Be Ready to Receive It?" USA Today (September 18, 2025)

Media commentator, "Tax Law Benefits Small Businesses and the Wealth," Barron's (July 18, 2025)

Media commentator, "How the New Tax Las Benefits the Wealthy," Barron's (July 16, 2025)

Jillyn's appellate work has resulted in published cases such *Patrick v. Alacer (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 995*

Forbes 2019, *Experts on Complex Inheritance Issues*

Bloomberg 2019, *Experienced Trust and Estate Firm Sets New Standards*

Fortune 2019, *OC Law Feature regarding Inheritance Issues*

Jillyn has been featured in the *California Lawyer* magazine and the *Orange County Lawyer* magazine regarding Trusts and Estate issues.

Jillyn has appeared numerous times on CNN, ABC NEWS, NBC NEWS, CBS NEWS and COURT TV as a legal expert on Trust, Estate and Probate cases she was handling for unique or noteworthy cases.

Featured Articles

One Big Beautiful Bill Act Enacts a Permanent Increase in the Estate and Gift Tax Lifetime Exclusion Amount for 2025 and Later Years

© 2026 FBT Gibbons LLP. May be considered attorney advertising in some jurisdictions.