Practice Areas

Wealth Planning & Family Office

Family Office Services

Bar Memberships

California

Jillyn Hess-Verdon

Partner

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Since 1990, Jillyn has advised high-net-worth individuals with their estate tax and business matters. Her dedication to achieve results for her clients has earned her a reputation of excellence and a trackrecord of success. Jillyn's commitment to the highest level of legal expertise and knowledge while providing personal service to her clients has caused the firm to grow into one of Southern California`s leading law firms.

Jillyn particularly enjoys overseeing the firm's Family Office Practice which often includes the following:

- Family Foundations
- Irrevocable Trust Planning (CRTs-Charitable Remainder Trusts; ILITs-Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts; SLATs-Spousal Limited Access Trusts; Dynasty Trusts; Irrevocable Trusts for Children and Grandchildren; GRATs-Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts; IDGTs- Intentionally Defective Trusts)
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Succession Planning for business owners
- Family Limited Partnerships
- Planning for a Merger or Acquisition of a client's business
- Coordinating with General Counsel, Tax Counsel and Real Estate Counsel regarding transactions affecting clients, their family and their partners
- Helping clients avoid inheritance litigation through strategic planning
- Advising fiduciaries when administering Trusts and Estates

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

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

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