



Lori V. Berke
Principal

lori@@berkelawfirm.com

Legal Focus

Governmental and Public Entity Liability; Commercial Litigation; Accident and Injury Litigation; Family Law; Product Liability.

Lori V. Berke has been practicing law in Phoenix, Arizona since 1995, and is the founder and principal of Berke Law Firm, PLLC. Before departing to form Berke Law Firm in 2008, Lori was a shareholder with a large regional law firm.

Lori is an AV rated attorney in Martindale-Hubbell and is listed in Best Lawyers in America and Southwest Super Lawyers.

Lori's experience includes a wide variety of litigation matters in both State and Federal court, having completed over 20 jury trials. A substantial portion of Lori's practice involves representing governmental entities in cases involving alleged civil rights violations brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, deficient road design and negligent operation of motor vehicles. Lori also represents plaintiffs in personal injury matters stemming from auto and motorcycle accidents, slip & fall, and other incidents resulting in injury. Additionally, Lori handles family law matters, including divorce, child custody, legal separation, annulment, child support, paternity and post-decree modifications. She litigates cases involving claims of breach of contract and product liability, as well.

Education

William Mitchell College of Law, J.D., cum laude, 1993.

University of Minnesota, B.S. Finance, 1990

Court Admissions

1995: Arizona; 1995: U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona; United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; 2010: U.S. District Court, District of Arizona

Achievements

Martindale Hubbell: Awarded a peer review rating of AV* (very high to preeminent in legal ability and ethics). This is the highest rating awarded and reflects that a lawyer has reached the height of professional excellence and is recognized by peers for the highest levels of skill and integrity.

*CV, BV and AV are registered certification marks of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell certification procedures, standards & policies.

Super Lawyers®: Southwest Super Lawyers (2010-2012, 2014-2022)

The Best Lawyers in America® (various years including 2021-2022)

Recipient of the DRI Mary Massaron Award for the Advancement of Women in the Legal Profession (2019-2020)

Phoenix Woman Magazine (Early Spring 2008 issue): Law & Order: Featured as one of five Valley women with careers in law and law enforcement “who dare to prove that they do what they do because they want for a better world.”

Recipient of Business Journal’s “Forty Under Forty” Award, 2007: Honoring young professionals who are making their mark in both business and the community.

BizAZ Magazine’s Up-and-Coming Attorneys List (2003): One of fourteen attorneys who are “charging ahead in Arizona’s legal field.”

Today’s Arizona Woman Magazine (January 2003 and February 2004 issues): The senior female attorney highlighted in coverage of Lori’s former law firm.

Appointed by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona to the Merit Selection Panel for the appointment of a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Arizona (April 2006, March 2009).

Instructor for Louisiana State University School of Law 2007 Trial Advocacy Program Deposition skills program instructor for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy

Publications & Presentations

August 2021, Asheville, North Carolina: Presenter at Association of Defense Trial Attorneys Annual Meeting: *Unmasking Pointers for Conducting Civil Jury Trials During a Pandemic.*

January 2020, San Diego, California: Presenter at the DRI Civil Rights and Governmental Tort Liability Seminar: *Master the Technical Aspects of Your Civil Rights Case – the Skill of the Expert Witness Deposition.*

January 2018, Phoenix, Arizona: Presenter at Arizona Association of Defense Counsel Seminar: *A Practical Approach to Mediation.*

March 2017, Charleston, South Carolina: Panel Member at the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel Mid-Year Meeting: *Art of Marketing*.

January 2017, Nashville, Tennessee: Presenter at the DRI Civil Rights and Governmental Tort Liability Seminar: *I Saw You . . . But Did I Really? Eye Witness Identification Issues in Civil Cases*.

October 2012, Phoenix Arizona: Presenter at State Bar of Arizona seminar: *Navigating the Disclosure and Discovery Rules*.

April 2012, New Orleans, Louisiana: Presenter at Association of Defense Trial Attorneys Annual Meeting: *Essential Jury Trial Skills for the Younger (and not so young) Lawyer*.

October 2012, Phoenix Arizona: Presenter at Arizona Association of Defense Counsel seminar: *Discovery and Motion Practice in Section 1983 Cases*.

April 2009, Phoenix, Arizona: Presenter at Arizona Association of Defense Counsel seminar: *Defending Public Entities at Trial*.

September 2007, Phoenix, Arizona: Presenter at Lorman Education Services seminar: *Taking and Defending Effective Depositions in Arizona*.

October 2006, Las Vegas, Nevada: Presenter at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants National Conference on Fraud and Litigation Services. Seminar: *Fine Tuning Your Expert Report*.

January 2005, San Diego, California: Presenter at the DRI Civil Rights and Governmental Tort Liability Seminar: *Using the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to Your Advantage*.

January 2004, San Diego, California: Presenter at the DRI Civil Rights and Governmental Tort Liability Seminar: *42 U.S.C. § 1983 -- The Basics*.

Professional Memberships

Arizona State Bar
Family Law Section

DRI - The Voice of the Defense Bar
Board of Directors (2008-2011; 2018-2021)
Chair, Annual Meeting Committee (2012-2013)
Chair, Governance Committee (2009-2010)
Member, Strategic Planning Committee (2009-2010)
Chair, Governmental Liability Committee (2006-08)
Vice Chair, Governmental Liability Committee (2004-06)
Chair, program on Governmental Liability (2006)
Presenter, program on Governmental Liability (2004, 2005, 2017, 2020)

ADTA - Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
Immediate Past President (2020-2021)
President (2019-2020)

President Elect (2018-2019)
Vice President (2017-2018)
Member, Executive Council (2014-)
Chair, Webinar Committee (2012 -2015)

FDCC - The Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
Member

Federal Bar Association
National Council (2006-2009)

Trial Attorneys of America
Member

Foundation of the Federal Bar Association
Board of Directors (2008-2010)
Secretary (2009-2010)

Federal Bar Association (Phoenix Chapter)
Board of Directors (2001-2016)
President (2005-2006)

Arizona Association of Defense Counsel
Board of Directors (2002-07)

Maricopa County Bar Association
Family Law Section

Personal Information

Lori was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota.