

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S  
**Women Leaders in the Law**

AS SEEN IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

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As colleagues for the past 10 years, Laura Gianni and Daria Carlson have provided aggressive representation for women's rights in their respective injury and employment practices.

## Gianni Petoyan

**F**ounded in 2004 by partners Laura Gianni and Marcus Petoyan, the firm has achieved countless multimillion-dollar settlements for individuals seeking compensation for injuries in cases involving pharmaceutical products, medical devices, medical malpractice, and other catastrophic injury cases.

Ms. Gianni can relate to her clients with a unique female perspective. She notes that in many of the firm's cases the proportion of women who are affected is much higher than men. "Many of the pharmaceutical cases involve exclusively or mostly women," she says. "Currently, all of the major cases I am handling involve injuries to women—thromboembolic events such as DVTs (deep vein thrombosis) and PEs (pulmonary embolisms) as a result of birth control products; injuries to women who had transvaginal mesh products implanted to treat stress urinary incontinence; and women who took SSRIs (anti-depressants) and other drugs during pregnancy who had children born with birth defects. I believe women are disproportionately affected by defective drugs and medical devices."

Ms. Gianni has devoted her legal career to representing victims of catastrophic injuries. She has litigated pharmaceutical products cases at the national level since 1995 and has served on numerous state and federal committees for the litigation of pharmaceutical products cases including currently serving on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee for MDL 2051 Denature Cream Products Liability.

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## Markun Zusman & Compton LLP

**W**ith offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Portland, Markun Zusman & Compton LLP has established a nationally recognized practice in employment, securities, consumer fraud, and class action litigation. The firm has secured many multimillion-dollar settlements and judgments for its clients, who range from employees subjected to unfair and illegal treatment in the workplace, to investors exploited by unscrupulous financial advisors, to consumers misled or otherwise harmed by large corporations.

MZC also represents companies that have been accused of wrongdoing. "Because the firm represents both plaintiffs and defendants, it has unique insight into the motivation, goals, and strategy of the opposing party," notes partner Daria Carlson. "This perspective often results in quicker resolutions and greater benefits to our clients."

Ms. Carlson primarily handles employment litigation involving unpaid wages and overtime, wrongful termination, retaliation, sexual harassment, discrimination, trade secrets, and contract disputes. Throughout her career, Ms. Carlson has passionately represented the rights of women in the workplace. "Despite the advances women have made in the workplace, we are still frequently subject to unequal treatment. I feel a responsibility to try to make things better for all women."

Ms. Carlson has extensive experience in class actions, and has successfully obtained certification of many employee classes against national corporate defendants.

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