

SUSAN C. YU - BIOGRAPHY

Attorney Susan C. Yu specializes in complex criminal and civil trials in Federal and State courts, as well as Medical Board trials. She is the co-founder of the law firm of Mesereau & Yu, LLP in Los Angeles, California. She received her B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in *Soviet Politics* from the *University of California at Berkeley* and her J.D., *cum laude*, from *Syracuse University College of Law*, where she was a *Dana Hinman Scholar*. Her strong academic performance in law school also earned her a place on the *College of Law's Dean's Honor List* and a membership in the *Justinian Honorary Law Society*. She also served as Editor of the *Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce*. In addition to English, Ms. Yu speaks Korean, Russian and Japanese.

Ms. Yu has received recognition and awards for her contributions to various community-based organizations and has been listed as one of the "[*Top 75 Women Litigators in California*](#)" by the Los Angeles Daily Journal, *the leading legal newspaper in California*.



Over the years, Ms. Yu has successfully defended prominent clients in high-stakes cases, including: the *late music legend*, [Michael Jackson](#); the *former First Lady of Gabon, Africa* (also the *mother of the country's current president*, **President Ali Bongo**); actor [Robert Blake](#); a *prominent Beverly Hills Plastic Surgeon before the California Medical board*; a *well-respected Radiologist*; a *successful Orthopedic Surgeon in Beverly Hills*; a *highly accomplished Corporate Lawyer in Los*

Angeles; the *world's largest home improvement retailer*, [Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.](#); the *founder and former CEO of women's knitwear*, [St. John Knits International, Inc.](#); the *country's highest grossing Real Estate Agent*; one of the *country's top real estate companies*, [Coldwell Banker Realty](#); and a publicly traded, *Texas-based Oil Pipeline Company*.

Committed to excellence and strong dedication to her clients, Ms. Yu has consistently obtained outstanding results as a medical board lawyer, as a federal and state civil trial lawyer, and as a federal and state criminal lawyer in Los Angeles and in other venues:

Recently, in December 2011, a capital murder case, in which Ms. Yu's client was facing the death penalty, was **dismissed** prior to trial.

In December 2010, after approximately a year of litigation, Ms. Yu, as co-lead trial counsel, obtained a complete **Dismissal** for a billionaire client, who was accused of criminal threats and battery. The alleged victim was a former girlfriend who had been a Playboy Magazine centerfold and Playmate of the Year.

In April 2010, on the first day of a jury trial, Ms. Yu, as *lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Dismissal** of a [multi-count felony sexual assault case](#) for her client, a well-known local celebrity race car driver.

In August 2009, Ms. Yu, as *co-lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Not Guilty** jury verdict on all [13 federal felony counts of mortgage fraud](#) (i.e., allegations of \$40 million loan fraud, bank fraud, conspiracy, money laundering, aiding and abetting, and criminal forfeiture) in the [United States District Court, Central District of California \(Los Angeles\)](#) for **Joe Babajian**, a highly-respected, top real estate agent in the country. This was a highly publicized, complex, document and fact intensive federal real estate fraud case involving [11 co-defendants](#). The *United States Attorney's Office*, the *F.B.I.*, and the *I.R.S.* conducted a 6-year investigation. [8 co-defendants pleaded guilty](#) before trial. The remaining [3 co-defendants](#), including Mr. Babajian, pleaded **not guilty** and went to trial. Over 200 potential witnesses, hundreds of thousands of pages of discovery and thousands of Federal Grand Jury and Trial Exhibits were involved. After 6 weeks of jury trial, [Mr. Babajian](#) was the [only defendant](#) that was **Acquitted**. He was found **not guilty** on 13 felony counts of mortgage fraud, and the jury hung on the remaining 8 felony counts. The United States Attorney's Office has **dismissed** the remaining 8 felony counts, in exchange for Mr. Babajian's plea of guilty to a [newly-created, 1 misdemeanor count](#) of receiving improper referral fees from his brokerage company with **no jail time**. In addition, the United States Attorney's Office has waived any potential civil claims against him.

In May 2009, Ms. Yu, as *lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Hung Jury** in a felony sexual assault case for her client, a highly-respected corporate executive. The prosecution has agreed to *dismiss* the entire case in return for the client performing community service and completing certain prescribed courses.

In February 2009, Ms. Yu, as *lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Hung Jury** in a document-intensive felony financial embezzlement case, in which her client, an executive assistant, was accused of embezzling over \$800,000.00. The prosecution has agreed to end the case with a plea agreement and no jail time.

In November 2008, as *lead trial counsel*, Ms. Yu successfully defended on behalf of a *highly-respected philanthropist and businessman* in Los Angeles, a civil lawsuit involving unfair business practices under the *California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.* After Ms. Yu successfully *defeated* plaintiff's *Anti-SLAPP Motion under C.C.P. § 425.16* and *Demurrer*, the plaintiff agreed to **Dismiss** the complaint in its entirety.



In October 2008, Ms. Yu, as *lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Dismissal** of a document-intensive oil pollution environmental criminal case on behalf of a publicly-traded, Texas-based oil pipeline company.

In September 2008, on the first day of a jury trial, Ms. Yu, as *co-lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Dismissal** on behalf of her client, a school board official, who was accused of engaging in lewd conduct.

In July 2008, Ms. Yu, as *co-lead trial counsel* obtained a **Hung Jury** on behalf of her client, a prominent member of a Catholic Church, who was accused of child molestation. The case was subsequently **Dismissed** because the prosecutor decided to *not retry* the case.

In December 2007, Ms. Yu, as *lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Dismissal** of a criminal case in which four police officers accused Ms. Yu's client, a former military officer, of battery, assault and resisting arrest.

In November, 2007, on the eve of trial, Ms. Yu, as *lead trial counsel*, obtained a **Dismissal** of a criminal case involving domestic violence and abuse of governmental power for her client, an employee of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

In June 2007, on the first day of a murder trial before a jury, Ms. Yu's client, who was facing life in prison, was offered a **Settlement** of voluntary manslaughter with significantly less jail time. The client accepted the offer and will be released from prison in approximately 4 years.

In April 2007, Ms. Yu, as *lead trial counsel*, successfully won and **Acquitted** a prominent **Plastic Surgeon** in Beverly Hills, who was facing a permanent suspension of his medical license from charges of sexual harassment and lack of informed consent for surgery. After a 2-week trial before the [California Medical Board, Los Angeles Division](#), Ms. Yu's client was exonerated.



In April 2006, Ms. Yu, as *sole lead trial counsel*, vigorously litigated and **Won** a bench trial for the former **First Lady of Gabon, Africa**, who almost lost her real estate properties in Beverly Hills, worth in excess of \$15 million dollars, in a real estate fraud scam.

In October 2005, Ms. Yu, as *co-lead trial counsel*, successfully obtained a dismissal of a high-stakes civil lawsuit for a *nuisance amount* on behalf of the founder and former CEO of [St. John Knits](#).

From April 2004 – June 2005, Ms. Yu served as *co-trial counsel* to her law partner and a legendary trial lawyer, Tom Mesereau, in their successful **Acquittal** of the *late music legend Michael Jackson* in a high-profile 5-month jury trial in Santa Maria, California. This case was the most televised and publicized criminal trial in American history, in which over 2,200 media outlets from all over the world covered the case. After countless hours of trial strategies, preparation of over 300 potential witnesses and scrutiny of hundreds of thousands of

documentary, audio and video discovery, Mr. Mesereau and Ms. Yu obtained a sweeping **Not Guilty** jury verdict on *all 10 felony and 4 lesser-included misdemeanor counts*.

Ms. Yu also served as *co-counsel* for actor **Robert Blake** in a high-profile, murder with special circumstances case.

In prior years, Ms. Yu, as *lead counsel*, successfully defended [*Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.*](#) in numerous white-collar, regulatory compliance and enforcement proceedings in criminal courts throughout *Los Angeles County, Ventura County, Orange County, San Bernardino County and Riverside County*. In many of these cases, Ms. Yu was successful in obtaining a favorable settlement and a **Dismissal**.

A relentless advocate, Ms. Yu has successfully defended and prosecuted a wide-variety of *criminal* and *civil* cases in both *Federal* and *State* courts on behalf of individuals, mid-size institutions, and major corporations, including Fortune 500 companies. She has extensive experience in highly complex, document and fact intensive *Federal* and *State* criminal and civil cases.

She has also obtained many favorable settlements for her *corporate clients* involving antitrust violations, unfair competition, business torts, trade secret violations, trade mark and trade name infringements, copyright infringements, fraud, breach of contract, unfair business practices, eminent domain, construction defects, toxic torts, environmental liability, products liability, and wrongful termination (based on race, gender, age and disability discrimination).

Ms. Yu represents her clients in all phases of civil and criminal proceedings, including pre-lawsuit counseling, pleadings, law and motion, discovery, settlement negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and trial.

Some of Ms. Yu's other noteworthy victories are as follows:

- Successfully defended, as *co-lead trial counsel*, a **boat manufacturer** involving multi-million dollar *products liability* and negligence claims. The case settled for a *nuisance amount*.
- Successfully defended and prosecuted, as *lead trial counsel*, on behalf of a **prominent businessman**, who came to her after having lost 9 separate civil business lawsuits. He was the target victim of a massive fraud scam. He had lost a bench trial, had several default judgments entered against him, and had a case dismissed against him. In a short period of only 2 months, Ms. Yu expeditiously and successfully **Won** a *Motion for New Trial* (setting aside the bench trial judgment); **Won** multiple *Motions to Set Aside Default Judgments*; **Won** a *Motion to Set Aside the Dismissal and Reinstate the Action*; and **Won** a bench trial for her client.
- Successfully defended, as *lead counsel*, a top **real estate brokerage company** involving a multi-million dollar real estate fraud claim. The case settled for a *nuisance amount* on the eve of a summary judgment motion hearing.

Carrying on the firm's commitment to helping the underprivileged, Ms. Yu donates her time to the poor in criminal and civil cases *pro bono*. She previously *funded* and *opened* a free legal clinic at **St. James' Episcopal Church** in Los Angeles for low-income persons from all walks of life.

In addition, Ms. Yu is an active member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's **Judicial Appointments Committee**, which investigates and evaluates lawyers and commissioners who have applied to the Governor's Office to become Judges of the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Ms. Yu also serves as legal counsel to the **National Association for Asian American Studies**, headquartered in **Cornell University**, Ithaca, New York. Comprised of professors, academic administrators, graduate and undergraduate students, and community leaders from North America, the Association seeks to advance the highest professional standard of excellence in teaching and research in the field of Asian American Studies.

Ms. Yu frequently speaks to various organizations and groups about social, political, legal and civil rights issues, including the need for a community dialogue on race, integration, equality and justice.

Ms. Yu was the featured **Keynote Speaker** at the:

- [*Harvard University Law School's 12th Annual National Asian Pacific American Conference*](#) (for law students and community leaders);
- [*University of Denver*](#) (for students and community leaders)
- [*Los Angeles Leadership Academy*](#) (for middle and high school students);
- [*2005 Summer Associate Mixer*](#), hosted by Asian Pacific American Bar Association in Los Angeles (for summer associates, law interns and law students);
- [*National Korean American Coalition Convention*](#) in Colorado (for community leaders and students); and
- [*Rotary Club of Los Angeles*](#) (for community leaders)

Since 2004, Ms. Yu has participated in the [*California Polytechnic State University at Pomona's Professor for a Day program*](#). She has lectured in the Department of Sociology in the areas of community and urban sociology, criminal justice, and sociology of culture. In 2009, Ms. Yu was a panel speaker at the [*Pepperdine Law School*](#) on the issue of women and the law.

Ms. Yu has also served as a Judge for the semi-final and final rounds of the annual [*National Civil Trial Competition at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles*](#) and for the semi-final round of the annual [*National Criminal Trial Competition at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles*](#).

*Ms. Yu is a member of the [*Litigation Counsel of America*](#), [*American Inns of Court*](#), the [*Federal Bar Association*](#), the [*Los Angeles County Bar Association*](#), the [*Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance*](#), and the [*Association of Business Trial lawyers*](#).*