

Nancy L. Abell

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Nancy L. Abell is a partner resident in the Los Angeles office of Paul Hastings LLP, the firm she joined as a Summer Associate in 1978, and is a Co-Founder and Co-Chair of UCLA Law Women LEAD. She is a trial lawyer who represents employers in all aspects of employment law and litigation, including discrimination as well as wage and hour class and collective actions; trials of statutory and common law claims; appeals to federal and state appellate courts, including the California Supreme Court; Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs systemic cases and affirmative action compliance reviews; unfair labor practice charges and other proceedings before the NLRB; organizing campaigns; labor negotiations; arbitrations; systemic charges and complaints before the EEOC, state anti-discrimination agencies, the Department of Labor and state wage and hour compliance agencies. Nancy has defended members of the judiciary and regularly presents educational sessions for justices and judges, including the Council of Chief Judges, California Supreme Court, and California Court of Appeal on employment issues.

From 2000 to 2014 Nancy was the Global Chair of Paul Hastings' employment law practice, which has been recognized as Labor & Employment Litigation Department of the Year by *The American Lawyer* and a recipient of *Chambers USA's* Award for Excellence in Labour & Employment in various years, including 2021.

Nancy was one of 50 lawyers recognized on *The National Law Journal's* inaugural "Litigation Trailblazers & Pioneers" list of professionals who have changed the practice of litigation through the use of innovative legal strategies. In 2010 she was named as one of the decade's 40 most influential lawyers (one of three employment lawyers) by *The National Law Journal*.

In 2016 she was the recipient of the Learned Hand Award, presented annually by the AJC Los Angeles to an attorney for professional achievement and contributions to the community and human rights. She is a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, was named UCLA School of Law Alumni of the Year for Professional Achievement, and has been recognized in the Legal 500 Hall of Fame for employment litigation and advice, the Lawdragon Hall of Fame, and *Chambers USA* as one of the top-ranked employment defense lawyers in California.

Nancy is a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, the Board of Advisors of the UCLA School of Law, and the Board of Directors of the American Employment Law Council. She is a Governor Emeritus and past Chair of the Board of Governors of the Institute for Corporate Counsel.

Nancy graduated first in her class from Pitzer College of the Claremont Colleges. She graduated Order of the Coif and Order of the Barristers from the UCLA School of Law. While there, Nancy was one of UCLA's two National Moot Court Team oral advocates and Roscoe Pound Competition honorees, and an extern clerk to the Honorable Shirley Hufstедler, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to studying law, she was the City of Los Angeles Affirmative Action Director, responsible for the department that ran the City's affirmative action programs and conducted independent investigations of discrimination, harassment and retaliation complaints, and a Member of Mayor Bradley's Task Force on Affirmative Action and the Status of Women.

Nancy and her husband, Les, have two daughters, Allison Abell Schwartz and Lauren Abell Windom, and four grandchildren.