



SHERNOFF BIDART  
ECHEVERRIA<sup>LLP</sup>

LAWYERS FOR INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS

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## Ricardo Echeverria



Ricardo Echeverria is a trial attorney with the law firm of Shernoff Bidart Echeverria LLP where he handles both insurance bad faith and catastrophic personal injury cases. Mr. Echeverria is the immediate past president of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) the nation's largest local association of plaintiffs' attorneys. Mr. Echeverria was recognized as one of the Top 30 Plaintiff Lawyers in California in 2018 by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, and he was named a Top 100 Attorney in California by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* in 2017 and 2018.

Mr. Echeverria's trial record is distinguished by impressive victories including a \$68 million jury verdict in a medical malpractice case in Fresno, CA (*Perez et al. v. Community Regional Medical Center, Pervaiz A. Chaudhry*) the *National Law Journal* recognized the verdict as one of the Elite Trial Lawyer Top 50 Verdicts in 2018; \$25.7 million (net) jury verdict in a catastrophic personal injury case (*Elkins v. Murchison*); a \$17 million jury verdict in a catastrophic personal injury case where a security guard had his leg amputated in a forklift accident (*Meier v. Pennysaver USA*); a \$15 million jury verdict in a wrongful death case involving a mother of two killed in a hit-and-run accident (*Paregien v Perez dba E&M Trucking*); a \$13.2 million jury verdict in an auto v. bicycle hit-and-run accident (*Wood v Venegas*); a \$7.2 million unanimous jury verdict against an insurance company for its failure to settle a claim within policy limits on behalf of its insured in Minnesota Federal Court (*George Martin Co. v. Royal Insurance*); a \$5.1 million jury verdict against an insurance company for low-balling victims of the October 2003 California Wildfires (*Stone v. Fidelity National*); a \$3.6 million jury verdict against an insurance company for its failure to pay on a \$75,000 water loss claim under a homeowner's insurance policy (*Colombero v. USAA*); a \$3.3

million jury verdict against an insurance company for mishandling a fire claim for victims of the 2007 San Diego wildfires (*Van Zee v. Homesite Insurance*); a \$3.2 million jury verdict in a wrongful death and personal injury trial (*Rojas v HFS Enterprises*); a \$2.3 million jury verdict against an insurance agent in an agent negligence case (*Fulton Santa Rosa v Sullivan Curtis Monroe Insurance Services*); a \$2 million jury verdict against an oil refinery in a breach of employment contract case (*George Sturges, Jr. vs. Kern Fuels Research, LLC, et al.*); a \$1.9 million verdict on behalf of the City of Long Beach against its insurer in a coverage dispute (*City of Long Beach v. AIG*); a \$1.8 million jury verdict for a computer software developer (*Nunn v. Cigna*); a \$1.8 million verdict against the State of California in a wrongful death action (*Musharbash v. State of California*); a \$1.2 million jury verdict in a personal injury matter (*Berry v. Hicks*); a \$1 million jury verdict for a commercial property owner against a tenant for negligently causing a fire (*Ramos-Lovato v. Community Bank*); and a \$500,000 jury verdict in a personal injury and premises liability action (*Smith v. Margaritaville, Inc.*).

Mr. Echeverria was named the 2010 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles. Prior to that he had been nominated for the award in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009. He has also been a finalist for the Consumer Attorney of California's Consumer Lawyer of the Year in 2007, 2009, and 2018. Mr. Echeverria was presented the 2011 – 2012 Jennifer Brooks Lawyer of the Year Award by the Western San Bernardino County Bar Association. In 2012, he received an Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego. After being chosen as a "Rising Star" in 2004 by *Super Lawyers Magazine*, he has been a Super Lawyer every year since 2005. He has been named a "Best Lawyer" by the *Best Lawyers in America* publication every year since 2014.

He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and has been recognized as a Top 100 Trial Lawyer in the State of California by The National Trial Lawyers Association. In 2014, Mr. Echeverria was elected a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), which recognizes the top one percent of total trial attorneys in the country.

A frequent lecturer on insurance bad faith and managed care liability, Mr. Echeverria has been a featured speaker for the American Association for Justice, formerly known as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, Consumer Attorneys of California, Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire, National Health Lawyers Association, Montana Trial Lawyers Association, Santa Clara University School of Law, UCLA School of Law, Loyola Law School, Whittier Law School, The University of La Verne College of Law, Practicing Bar Institute, American Conference Institute, and Mealey's. He is a member of the State Bar of California, American Bar Association, Riverside County Bar Association, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Consumer Attorneys Association of California,

Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire, and the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles as a member of the Board of Governors since 2003 and its 2017 President.

He has co-authored numerous articles, including “Litigating an HMO Bad Faith Case from the Plaintiff’s Perspective,” “The Erosion of ERISA Preemption of Bad Faith Liability Actions,” “Punitive Damages in Insurance Bad Faith Cases,” “HMOs: Delay of Treatment” and “Holocaust Insurance Claims: Getting Justice 50 years Later.” Mr. Echeverria has also written several articles for Mealey’s Publications, including “*Goodrich v. Aetna: A \$120.5 million Commentary.*”

Mr. Echeverria received his B.S., *magna cum laude*, from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1990, and his J.D. from Santa Clara University in 1993.

## **AREAS OF PRACTICE**

- Insurance Bad Faith
- Liability Insurance
- Property Insurance
- Catastrophic Personal Injury
- HMO Cases
- Wrongful Death
- Professional Negligence  
(100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation)

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

- California, 1993
- U.S. District Court Central District of California, 1993
- U.S. District Court Northern District of California, 1993
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of California, 1993
- U.S. District Court Southern District of California, 1993
- U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Circuit, 1993

## **EDUCATION**

- Santa Clara University School of Law, Santa Clara, California, 1993; J.D.
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, 1990; B.S.
- *Honors: Magna Cum Laude*

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

- *Litigating an HMO Bad Faith Case from the Plaintiff’s Perspective* (Co-Author)
- *The Erosion of ERISA Preemption of Bad Faith Liability Actions* (Co-Author)

- *Punitive Damages in Insurance Bad Faith Cases* (Co-Author)
- *HMOs: Delay of Treatment* (Co-Author)
- *Holocaust Insurance Claims: Getting Justice 50 years Later* (Co-Author)
- *Goodrich v. Aetna: A \$120.5 million Commentary*, Mealey Publications
- *Bad Faith Action from the Duty to Settle*, The Advocate
- *Handling Under-Insurance Cases*, The Advocate (Author)
- *Effective Presentation of Non-Economic Damages at Trial*, The Advocate (Author)
- *Trying an Insurance Bad Faith Case from A to Z*, The Advocate (Author)

### **CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT**

- Frequent Lecturer, Insurance Bad Faith and Managed Care Liability
- Featured Speaker, The Rutter Group, Shernoff Bad Faith Insurance Seminar
- Featured Speaker, Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles
- Featured Speaker, Consumer Attorneys of California
- Featured Speaker, Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire
- Featured Speaker, Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- Featured Speaker, National Health Lawyers Association
- Featured Speaker, Montana Trial Lawyers Association
- Featured Speaker, Santa Clara University School of Law
- Featured Speaker, UCLA School of Law
- Featured Speaker, Loyola Law School
- Featured Speaker, Whittier Law School
- Featured Speaker, University of La Verne, College of Law
- Featured Speaker, Practising Bar Institute
- Featured Speaker, American Conference Institute
- Featured Speaker, Lexington Insurance Seminar
- Featured Speaker, Mealey's Insurance Seminar
- Featured Speaker, Riverside County Bar Association
- Featured Speaker, Los Angeles, County Bar Association

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

- Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), 2017 President
- CAALA Board Member, 2003 – present
- CAALA Educational Committee Member, 2003 – present
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Consumer Attorneys of California
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Riverside County Bar Association
- Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire
- American Bar Association
- State Bar of California