

A Champion for Clients and Claims Adjusters

Civil litigator Joan Cochran had several champions on the way up. Now she pays it forward, resolving complex cases quickly and helping claims adjusters be their best.

Cochran, Davis & Associates

When Joan Cochran was 10, her father, a masonry contractor, told her 12-year-old brother he wanted him to become a lawyer because he often had trouble collecting from large developers. “What about me?” asked Cochran. Her father explained that she would be a wife and mother, but Joan’s mother cut in. “Don’t worry; I have the money to put you through law school if you want to be a lawyer, too,” she said.

Later, when Cochran began practicing at Mendes & Mount, she was blessed to have another champion and mentor, Judge Don Fitzpatrick, enter her life. “He would let you do everything and give you the glory,” she recalls. “My first case in front of the Ninth Circuit involved defending an insurance D&O bad faith case. Don said, ‘You know this part of the law better than me and can argue it better. Why don’t you take it?’”

After becoming a junior partner with Mendes & Mount, Cochran started her own firm in 1999. Her clients followed her. The support continued with judges who were understanding when Cochran occasionally had to bring her young son to court when childcare fell through.

More Cost-Effective, Great Results, and Less Bureaucracy

Cochran has now been practicing law for 30 years and running her own firm for two decades.



Joan Cochran

The lawyers at Cochran, Davis & Associates, P.C. handle complex coverage and insurance defense cases that traditionally go to larger firms.

“I am blessed to have a very talented and dedicated team of attorneys, paralegals, and staff,” says Cochran. “We work hard, drive hard, and save our clients hundreds of thousands of dollars with great results on cases. All of us have vast

experience, but we appreciate having less bureaucracy and a shorter commute than if we were at a big firm. In a larger firm, you often don’t have as much accountability; the lawyers just try to meet their billable hours. As a client, you are just a number.”

Not so in Cochran’s practice.

“We dig into each case, evaluate all the evidence, work with the other side, figure out how to resolve the conflict, and usually can mediate without a trial,” she says. “If we have to try a case in front of a jury, we can and will. But resolving early and saving our clients money is always our top goal. We also rely on the latest technology and metrics to stay ahead of the curve.”

Employment Law, Insurance, and Legal Malpractice

Cochran, Davis & Associates, P.C. also focuses on cases of professional liability—particularly employment, insurance brokers, legal malpractice, catastrophic injury, and construction. As counsel appointed by a client’s insurance company, the firm defends anything that causes the client to be named in a lawsuit, including errors and omissions, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, and management liability.

The firm visits individual claims handlers annually to renew their fair claims practices certifications, provide training on relevant topics, and make sure they are well informed on recent cases out of the appellate and supreme courts. “We want our clients to have the best deposition training, to understand their obligations so they can avoid problems of bad faith, and be fully aware of their insured’s exposure,” Cochran says.

“We communicate often with our clients, providing concise case recommendations so they can quickly be apprised of issues that need resolution and limit exposure. We protect our clients and help them to achieve success. Our job is to make theirs easier.”

COCHRAN, DAVIS
& ASSOCIATES, P.C.

