



Suzette J. Barnes

Senior Associate

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Suzette Barnes is a senior associate in Orrick's San Francisco office and a member of the Complex Litigation and Dispute Resolution group.

Practice Areas

- Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Trials
- White Collar, Investigations, Securities Litigation & Compliance
- Internal Investigations

Honors

- National Black Lawyers' Top 40 Under 40
- Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights Keta Taylor Colby Award winner (2015)
- Staff Editor and Senior Articles Editor *Hastings Business Law Journal*
- Witkin Awards for Academic Excellence (Corporations, Negotiations & Settlement, and Public Finance)
- CALI Excellence for the Future Awards (Corporations, Law and Business in Japan, Negotiations & Settlement, and Public Finance)
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Golden Key International Honour Society

Her practice focuses on the representation of major financial institutions, corporations, and individuals in securities and complex commercial actions, regulatory investigations, and internal investigations.

At Orrick, Suzette serves as the co-chair of the San Francisco office's Diversity Committee and a member of the firm's Summer Associate Committee. Additionally, Suzette devotes a portion of her practice to providing *pro bono* services to homeless individuals seeking the resolution of open warrants, low income individuals seeking criminal record remedies (including expungements), asylum seekers, and veterans seeking VA benefits.

Suzette is a Board member for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area ("LCCR"), one of the Bay Area's preeminent non-profit organizations working to protect and promote the dignity and self-determination of people of color, immigrants and low-income people in California. She also serves as the Vice President of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Northern California.

Prior to joining Orrick, Suzette was a litigation fellow in the Office of General Counsel for The Regents of the University of California, where she litigated commercial, probate and mandamus actions.

Representative Engagements

Suzette's recent engagements also include:

- Defending an investment bank in a New York state court trial against monoline insurer seeking nine-figure judgment in connection with financial guarantees covering residential mortgage-backed securitizations
- Representing an investment bank and a loan servicer in multiple court actions initiated by certificate holders of residential mortgage-backed securities alleging securities and common law fraud and breach of contract claims
- Representing a relief defendant LLC and its managers in a \$110 million federal securities fraud action involving EB-5 investments, and preventing multiple attempts to impose liability on the LLC and its managers
- Representing a corporation and its owner in a California state court action initiated by international plaintiffs alleging fraud, breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duty claims
- Representing a payment service provider in a series of federal

Education

- J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2010, *cum laude*
- B.A., East Asian Languages and Literature (Japanese), University of Florida, 2007, *cum laude*
- B.A., Economics, University of Florida, 2007, *cum laude*

Clerkships/Externships

- Hon. Marla Miller, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco

Memberships

- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights for the San Francisco Bay Area
- Black Women Lawyers Association of Northern California
- State Bar of California
- Charles Houston Bar Association

securities class and derivative actions

- Conducting a corporate internal investigation into allegations about compliance issues at a *Fortune* 100 company
- Representing a technology company in connection with regulatory and internal investigations related to its product lines and revenue recognition practices

Publications

- Co-Author, "Equity Trust Notches a Rare Defense Win in SEC Administrative Proceedings," *Orrick's Securities Litigation, Investigations and Enforcement Blog* (July 2016).
- Co-author, "FINRA Issues Largest Fine Regarding Variable Annuities Contracts," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (May 10, 2016).
- Co-author, "Eighth Circuit Breathes Life Into Halliburton's Price Impact Defense," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (April 19, 2016).
- Co-author, "Second Circuit Applies *Omnicare* to Affirm Dismissal of Securities Fraud Actions," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (March 15, 2016).
- Co-author, "SEC Announces Settlement with State Street – and a Suit Against a Big Law Partner – for Pay-to-Play Scheme," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (January 26, 2016).
- Co-author, "2015 Securities Law Developments," *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation* (January 25, 2016).
- Co-author, "SEC Eliminates References to Credit Ratings in Money Market Fund Rules," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (September 22, 2015).
- Co-author, "You Can't Cover Up Fraud with TARP Funds: US Government Sues Bank President's Estate," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (July 14, 2015).
- Co-author, "Fannie and Freddie Shareholders Sue FHFA and Treasury Department Over Payment of Profits to U.S. Government," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (June 2, 2015).
- Co-author, "New House Bill Aims to Reduce Some Dodd-Frank Regulatory Burdens," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (January 21, 2015).
- Co-author, "Ninth Circuit Applies Heightened Pleading Standards for Loss Causation," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (December 30, 2014).
- Co-author, "Is Your Bank Stressed Out? OCC Follows Fed on Proposed Stress-Test Changes," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (September 16, 2014).
- Co-author, "Patience is a Virtue: District Court Suggests that the SEC 'Wait and See' Before Seeking Certain No-Admit, No-Deny Settlements," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (June 24, 2014).
- Co-author, "The SEC Scores Another Admission: Scottrade Acknowledges That It Broke Recordkeeping Rules," *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (February 4, 2014).
- Co-author, "The Cop is on the Beat: SEC Chair White Says the Agency Aims to be 'Everywhere,'" *Orrick's Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog* (October 23, 2013).
- Co-author, "Fannie and Freddie Shareholders to US: 2008 Government Takeover of Mortgage Giants Good For the

Country; Not So Much For Us,” Orrick’s Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog (June 18, 2013).

- Co-author, “Another Securities Case for the Supreme Court. Next Up: Ponzi Scheme Cases,” Orrick’s Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog (January 31, 2013).
- Co-author, “CFTC Tightens Hold on Swap Participants,” Orrick’s Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog (September 19, 2012).
- Co-author, “What’s Up with HERA’s Statute of Limitations?,” Orrick’s Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Blog (May 15, 2012).

Speeches and Programs

- Panelist, “How to Be an Ally to the #BLM Movement: Top Considerations and Action Items in 2020,” Bar Association of San Francisco, July 30, 2020
- Moderator, “Don’t Get Chained: Avoiding Liability Arising From the Use of Blockchain,” Orrick In-House Counsel Forum, May 8, 2019

Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- **United States District Courts** | Northern District of California
- **United States Courts of Appeals** | Ninth Circuit