

PETTIT KOHN

PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN



KHODADAD “KO” SHARIF, ESQ. *Senior Counsel*

Khodadad “Ko” Sharif has been an active member of the State Bar of California since June 1997, practicing law in both state and federal courts, and has overseen numerous civil, criminal, and family law cases. He is an experienced trial lawyer, having litigated both as plaintiff and defense counsel in civil matters, including felony criminal jury trials and complex family law disputes. Mr. Sharif serves on the court-appointed panel of CAA/GAL of the Probate division of the San Diego Superior Court.

Mr. Sharif volunteers with the Fee Arbitration Program of the San Diego County Bar Association and has successfully arbitrated many fee disputes since 2007. He has also volunteered for the Servicemember Civil Relief Act Pro Bono program at the SDCBA.

Mr. Sharif has taught the Business Law-140 course at Southwestern College (Chula Vista) since 2016. As an adjunct professor, he has served as the Grievance Chair for the college, serving its faculty union, and currently serving as the Grievance Officer for the Union. Further community involvement has taken Mr. Sharif from coaching soccer at AYSO to coaching the high school Mock Trial team at Otay Ranch High School (2010-2015). He is also a Founding Member of SB ELEVATE.

A graduate of University City High School ('87), Mr. Sharif continued his studies in Political Science at San Diego State University, minoring in Philosophy. A graduate of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, his interest in comparative law led him to summer studies at his law school, sponsored by Cambridge University in the U.K., specifically at Gonville and Caius College and at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. During law school, he served as Vice President of the Student Bar Association and the Dean of Delta Theta Phi, also serving on various committees to promote a better environment for the students. To encourage diversity at his alma mater, Mr. Sharif has assisted in reactivating Delta Theta Phi at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. He is also currently helping the SDCBA reach out to pre-law society groups at SDSU's undergraduate program. His passion is to promote diversity at the bar and access to justice.

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EDUCATION

- Thomas Jefferson School of Law (J.D., 1995)
- San Diego State University (B.A., 1992)

AWARDS

- Delta Theta Phi, Law Fraternity, International, The Most Outstanding Alumnus of the Fraternity in the Nation, 2013-2014
- San Diego *Super Lawyers* 2026
- South Asian Bar Association of San Diego, 2023 Friend of SABA San Diego, Honoring Khodadad Sharif and recognizing his leadership and Commitment to Diversity, 2023

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Bench-Bar Luncheon, “The Afghan Outreach Project,” presented by the Southern District of California Lawyer Representatives. Federal District Court, September 12, 2024
- Forensic Expert Witness Association – San Diego Chapter, Presentation “Why do Lawyers Hire an Expert” October 24, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

- Khodadad “Ko” Sharif, The Ethical Obligations of a Court-Appointed Guardian ad Litem as Opposed to the Obligations held by a Court-Appointed Attorney, *SDCBA Legal Ethics* (May, 2025)
- Khodadad “Ko” Sharif, Pervasive Incivility is a Negative Multiplier in Fee Calculations, *SDCBA Legal Ethics* (March, 2024)
- Khodadad “Ko” Sharif, Application of CRPC 1.15 to Government Lawyers, *SDCBA Legal Ethics* (February, 2024)

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California | Arizona

PRACTICE AREAS FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Business Litigation
- Professional Liability
- Farsi

AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Foundation: Fellow
- American Inns of Court, Louis M. Welsh Inn Chapter
- California Lawyers Association
- Delta Theta Phi, Law Fraternity, International
- Delta Theta Phi, Marshal of the Supreme Senate (2013-2014)
- Filipino American Lawyers San Diego (FALSD)
- Iranian American Bar Association – San Diego (IABA-SD)
- Lawyers Club of San Diego: Trial Advocacy Committee Co-chair (2024-2026)
- Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego (PALSD)
- San Diego County Bar Association: Director - Board of Directors (2019-2021 & 2025-2027), Public Positions Advisory Committee Chair (2026), Bench Bar Committee Member (2026), Awards Committee Member (2025 & 2026), Membership Committee Member (2025 & 2026), Legal Ethics Committee Member (2024-2026), DEI Leadership Member at Large (2024-2025), Leadership Speaker Series Subcommittee Member (2025)
- San Diego Family Law Bar Association (SDFLBA)
- San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association (SDLRLA)
- SB Elevate – Founder Member
- Southwestern College (Chula Vista) Education Association Adjunct and Grievance Officer
- South Asian Bar Association – San Diego (SABA-SD)
- State Bar of California
- Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California