

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE



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Mulligan to Chair National Committee

SAN DIEGO, CA, July 27, 2005 -- San Diego County Bar Association leader Janice Mulligan was recently appointed chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Medical Professional Liability. Mulligan will assume her position as chair at the conclusion of the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, August 4-9. It is a one-year appointment, subject to reappointment for a possible total of 3 years.

The ABA's 15-member Standing Committee on Medical Professional Liability provides testimony to Congress and assists in the formulation of policy regarding medical professional liability at the national level. The Committee opposes caps on pain and suffering awards and is in favor of trial by jury for health-related cases. Mulligan has served as a member of the committee since 1999.

The Standing Committee participates in the public debate on medical professional liability and on the interrelationship between the legal system and health care, specifically on issues relating to the federal law known as ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) which shields employer-sponsored health plans from liability under state liability laws.

"ABA policy is very much in favor of consumers. The ABA, and therefore the ABA Committee on Medical Professional Liability, is against any caps on damages and is in favor of jury trials. It is a privilege to be able to advocate these positions at the national level," said Mulligan.

Mulligan, a partner in the law firm of Mulligan & Banham in San Diego, represents consumers in catastrophic cases arising out of medical negligence, pharmaceutical litigation, personal injury and elder abuse actions.

She is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association having served on the Bar Board of Directors between 1987-1990, and chair of the Bar's Lawyer Referral and Information Service community service effort between 1985-1988. Mulligan currently serves on the Task Force on Judicial Appointments, a position she has held since 2001.

At the State Bar level, Mulligan has served in multiple capacities. She was on the executive committee of the Litigation Section of State Bar, a member of the Public Affairs Committee as well as a member of the Lawyer Referral Services Committee.

At the national level, in addition to her role on the Standing Committee on Medical Professional Liability, Mulligan is currently a delegate to the ABA's House of Delegates, a member of ABA/TIPS council, past Co-Chair of the ABA's Medicine and Law Committee and a member of the ABA/Torts and Insurance Practice Section Committee on Litigation of Neonatal Injuries (2001-).

She is a Sustaining Member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, a Member of the Consumer Attorneys of California and Consumer Attorneys of San Diego.

Mulligan graduated from the University of San Diego in 1978 and received her J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1981.

The 8,000 member San Diego County Bar Association was founded in 1899 and is headquartered in downtown San Diego. Among other efforts, it operates the Lawyer Referral and Information Service, Private Conflicts Counsel and Fee Arbitration programs, and conducts educational programs for both the legal community and the public at large.

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