



Kevin V. DeSantis

### Biography

For more than a quarter century, businesses and business people have turned to Kevin DeSantis for advisement and representation. Kevin has earned his reputation as a practical, trustworthy attorney by providing careful, reasonable and creative strategies and solutions to a wide ranging clientele. A founding shareholder of Dunn DeSantis Walt & Kendrick, Kevin brings his unique approach and personal attention to every client and every matter, large or small. Kevin values his client relationships and prides himself on being prompt and responsive to client needs, placing great emphasis on dialogue and candor with those who he represents.

Kevin is known throughout Southern California as a leader in the representation of licensed professionals, transportation companies, and businesses facing employment issues. A cornerstone of Kevin's practice has been taking on the unusual cases, with challenging and unique components, including litigation that presents existential "bet the company" threats. He is regularly engaged in complex civil litigation matters focusing on professional liability, commercial disputes, government liability, employment and wrongful termination.

Representing licensed professionals is a responsibility Kevin takes very seriously, and his longstanding relationships with prominent California architects, engineers, accountant and attorneys who have for decades looked to him for his personal involvement on their behalves is the best evidence of the value of Kevin's involvement. He is also one of only a few attorneys in San Diego County who have been certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in the area of professional responsibility and legal malpractice. Each year, Kevin is one of the small group of attorneys who quite literally write the book, he helps author the test taken by those seeking certification as specialists in legal malpractice.

Businesses in the transportation industry also turn to Kevin when facing the complicated challenges that are unique to the industry. Kevin is routinely sought out to represent transportation companies facing employment and class action litigation, and he has developed a reputation for defeating and resolving massive multi-plaintiff class action and representative actions in California and beyond. Kevin's services to clients in this industry also include developing risk management strategies and long term business plans and legal solutions based on decades of experience representing taxi, medical

transport, limousine, bus and other transportation entities, including dispatch and transportation management entities. He also provides services to companies facing concerns arising from governmental regulatory bodies and insurance companies. A regular speaker at transportation industry conventions and continuing education events across the country, Kevin is also often consulted by companies and industry professionals who require creative solutions from someone who understands this unique marketplace.

Kevin's practice includes but extends beyond litigation. For over 25 years, Kevin has served as counselor and advisor, and provided general business representation services, to companies of all shapes and sizes, from small local start-ups to massive transportation companies, national law and accounting firms, and a variety of companies involved in California's robust commercial real estate industry.

### **Admissions**

- All Courts in the State of California

### **Education**

- University of San Diego School of Law, J.D., 1988
- Awards & Activities: San Diego Law Review
- Comparative Law, Magdalen College, Oxford University, England, 1986
- University of California at Irvine, B.S., Biological Sciences, 1985

### **Professional Recognition and Awards**

- Certified by "The "State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization" in the area of Legal Malpractice Law
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating
- Selected by peers for inclusion in the 2017-2021 Best Lawyers in America in the fields of Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants and Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants
- Received 'Lawyer of the Year' designation through Best Lawyers in America in the area of Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants in 2021
- Selected by peers for inclusion in the 2021 Best Lawyers in America in the field of Transportation
- Selected to San Diego Magazine's Top Lawyers List for 2015
- Selected to San Diego Business Journal's Best of the Bar List for 2014

## **Memberships and Activities**

- State Bar of California
- San Diego County Bar Association, Legal Malpractice Committee, Co-Chair
- Orange County Bar Association
- San Diego Defense Lawyers
- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Louis M. Welsh Chapter of the American Inns of Court
- American Institute of Architects
- Litigation Counsel of America

## **Presentations and Publications**

- Kevin is a regular speaker at the local and national level on topics including class action litigation, legal issues facing the transportation industry, best practices for avoiding legal malpractice claims, and defending professional liability actions