

# Tahj Gomes

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**VanDervoort, Dulebohm & Gomes, Chico, CA**

May '17 -- Present

*Partner:* Criminal Defense (90%) and Civil Litigation (10%).

**Law Office of Tahj Gomes, Chico, CA**

May '16 – May '17

*Solo Practitioner:* Public Defender services (80%) per a contract with a member of the Butte County Public Defender's Consortium, Conservatorship hearings, Capacity hearings, *Habeas Corpus* hearings, and legal analysis/advice as Special Counsel for Butte County Public Guardian, Public Administrator, and Behavioral Health (10%) per a contract with the County of Butte; various civil litigation, including some plaintiff's personal injury, private criminal defense work, family law, and TRO's (10%).

**Washington & Heithecker, Chico, CA**

Sept. '04 – May '16

*Associate Attorney:* Medical malpractice insurance defense litigation (80%), Public Entity defense (10%), and various civil litigation, including some plaintiff's personal injury, multiple appeals, criminal defense work, family law, and TRO's (10%). Common tasks include preparing motions for summary judgment and supporting papers, taking, defending and summarizing depositions, preparing status letters, answers, motions, mandatory settlement conference statements, trial readiness packets, discovery requests and responses, meet and confer letters, case management statements, trial analysis, etc., as well as related appearances and oral arguments, including CMC's, TSC's, MSC's. Criminal defense work includes solo trials in both misdemeanor and felony cases, and second-chairing misdemeanor and felony cases. Civil litigation includes trying a governmental liability personal injury case, representing a civil defendant in a high profile case (Matthew Carrington lawsuit), second-chairing multiple civil trials, and a successful nonsuit motion at opening argument, among others. Appellate work has included a Petition for a Writ of Mandate to the Third Appellate District Court of Appeal and a successful appeal in the same court resulting in a published opinion and significant press coverage (*IN RE: C.C., No. C061230*).

**California State University, Chico, Chico, CA**

Sept. '06 – Dec. '06

*Adjunct Professor:* Prepared course materials, gave a weekly 3 hour lecture and Power Point presentation for "Pols 455, The Legal Para-Professional." This was a professional competency class required for the paralegal certificate, and focused primarily on legal writing, civil procedure, discovery, etc.

**Law Offices of Michael T. Shepherd, Chico, CA**

Dec. '02 – Sept. '04

*Associate Attorney:* Primarily automobile insurance defense litigation (90%), with some commercial and construction defect insurance defense litigation and appellate work (10%). Common tasks included taking and summarizing depositions, preparing status letters, complaints, answers, motions, memoranda of points and

authorities, discovery requests and responses, meet and confer letters, arbitration and mediation briefs, *ex parte* applications, motions to continue trial, case management statements, etc., as well as related appearances and oral arguments, including CMC's, TSC's, MSC's, settlement conferences, private & judicial mediations and arbitrations. Appellate work included appellant and appellee's briefs in state & federal courts, preparing a Petition for Review to the California Supreme Court, and oral argument before the Third Appellate District Court of Appeal.

**Bergeson Eliopoulos, LLP, San Jose, CA**

Dec. '99 – Dec. '02

*Associate Attorney:* Primarily business & intellectual property litigation (80%) with some transactional work (20%). Common litigation tasks included preparing complaints, answers, motions, memoranda of points and authorities, discovery requests and responses, meet and confer letters, arbitration and mediation demands and briefs, *ex parte* applications, motions for preliminary injunctions, motion to set aside default, motions to continue trial, and related appearances, including CMC's, TSC's, settlement conferences, private & judicial mediations & arbitrations. Transactional work included drafting settlement agreements, work-out agreements, services agreements, technology licenses, end user license agreements, consulting agreements, non-disclosure agreements, cease and desist letters, etc. Also prosecuted and settled a Plaintiff's personal injury lawsuit arising from an automobile accident.

**Santa Clara University School of Law – High Tech Law Institute**

Oct. '00 – Dec. '02

*Adjunct Professor, High Tech Moot Court Class:* Solo taught high tech moot court classes (focusing primarily on oral advocacy and brief writing skills) & coached Saul Lefkowitz (Trademark) and Giles Rich (Patent) moot court teams in a national competition.

**Computer Curriculum Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA**

Sept. '99 – Dec. '99

*Legal Consultant/Contractor:* Permissions Department – Negotiated copyright licenses with major publishing houses, including Houghton-Mifflin, EFI, Simon & Schuster, Penguin, Little, Brown, etc., and individual authors and artists.

**United States District Court, Northern District, San Jose, CA**

Sept. '98 – Dec. '98

*Judicial Extern* – Attended Law and Motion and trial calendar, conducted legal research, prepared bench memos and court orders, including summary judgment orders, etc.

**Santa Clara University High Technology Law Program**

June '98 – Sept. '98

*High Technology Law Coordinator* – Advised students regarding High Technology Law Certificate requirements and coordinated High Technology Law Program events, including alumni receptions, etc.

**Peninsula IP Group, Morgan Hill, CA**

June '98 – Aug. '98

*Law Clerk* – Researched and prepared appellate brief and appendix for appeal before Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in a patent case.

**Computer Curriculum Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA**

Jan. '98 – June '98

*Legal Intern* – Negotiated copyright license extensions with major publishing groups, revised domestic and international software distribution agreements.

**Community Legal Information Center, Chico, CA**

Sept. '95 – June '96

*Director, Consumer Law Program* – Directed program, supervised paralegal interns; prepared grant application and managed grant funds.

*Intern, Consumer Law Program/Disabled & The Law* – Paralegal intern.

## LEGAL EDUCATION

**Juris Doctorate:** Santa Clara University School of Law, May 1999 – Top 30%

**Bachelor of Arts:** California State University Chico, May 1996 (Political Science) – 3.6 cumulative GPA

## ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 10 Best Attorneys, American Institute of DUI/DWI Attorneys
- Elementary School Mock Trial Coach (2015-Present);
- Chairman, Ruffey Rancheria (2014-Present);
- Assistant Baseball Coach, Chico Eastside Little League Association (Fall 2015);
- California State Bar Litigation Executive Committee (2011 - 2014);
- Avvo.com's 10.0 "Superb" Ranking (2013-present);
- Medical Malpractice Lawyers' Top 1% Trial Counsel for Medical Malpractice (2012);
- East San Jose Community Law Center Advisory Board Member (1998 - 2002);
- Santa Clara University High Technology Law Institute Advisory Board Member (1998 - 2002);
- Author: *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Samara Brothers, Inc.: The Supreme Court Steps Back From Two Pesos And Requires Secondary Meaning In All Product Design Trade Dress Cases*, 17 Santa Clara Computer & High Tech. L.J. 365 (2001);
- National High School Mock Trial Judge (2003 – 2009);
- CSUC Moot Court Competition Judge (2002 – present);
- High Technology Law Certificate & Public Interest Law Certificate (1999);
- Leader of Western Region 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Saul Lefkowitz (Trademark) Moot Court team (1999);
- Santa Clara County Bar Association Pro Bono Award (1997 - 1999);
- Vice President, La Raza/Native American Law Students Association (1998);
- Student Director - Consumer Law Program, East San Jose Community Law Center (1997 - 1998);
- 1L Legal Writing Award (1997);
- CSU Chico Public Law Community Service Award (1996);
- Student Director, Consumer Law Program, Chico Community Legal Information Center (1995-1996);
- Pi Sigma Alpha - The Political Science National Honor Society (Founding member 1996 - present);
- Golden Key International Honor Society (1996 – present);
- Butte County Bar Association (2003 – present);
- California Bar Association (1999 – present).