

# Daily Journal

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## TOP WOMEN LAWYERS 2025



### MARY E. ALEXANDER

MARY ALEXANDER &  
ASSOCIATES PC

PERSONAL INJURY

SAN FRANCISCO

**M**ary E. Alexander is a veteran personal injury litigator and the founder and principal of a highly successful two-person shop, Mary Alexander & Associates PC. In practice for more than 40 years, she focuses on catastrophic PI cases along with those involving premises liability, wrongful death, clergy abuse and sexual assault.

A new sexual assault case and a new personal injury matter have recently been atop her docket, following her win for clients in Catholic church litigation where she successfully represented dozens of abuse survivors in Los Angeles and Sonoma County.

"There is one this year that I'm especially proud of," she said.

Where other lawyers have failed, she explained, she successfully sued the parent organization of the youth services group Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, obtaining a judicial ruling that the national group owed a duty of care directly to a child who accused a victimizer in a local affiliate. That led to a \$4 million settlement with the national headquarters.

"The court rejected their summary judgment motion and that brought them to the table — but we were in the courtroom getting ready for jury selection when they actually agreed to settle," she said. *John Doe v. Doe 1*, a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corp. et al., CGC-22-599432 (S.F. Super. Ct., filed April 29, 2022).

"We overcame a motion to dismiss in this case, and it's not an exaggeration

to call it a landmark ruling, because all over the country plaintiffs have been losing when they try to hold national youth organizations liable for the action of local chapters," Alexander said.

In a new matter, Alexander has sued a private girls' middle and high school in Palo Alto on behalf of three former students who allege they were groomed and sexually abused by a school tutor between 2007 and 2016. *Jane Doe 1 et al. v. Castilleja School Foundation et al.*, 25CV458088 (S. Clara Co. Super. Ct., filed Feb. 3, 2025).

"I have deposed a couple who ran a residence hall there who said a girl complained to them about this conduct as far back as the 1990s," Alexander said. "The school knew what was going on."

The tutor, Mark Hodes, was arrested in 2020 and faces 55 felony counts of lewd acts with 17 former students, according to published reports.

"I take a lot of depositions," Alexander said. "I like to do them myself, though my friends think I'm crazy. I love figuring out the witness and getting what I need."