



▲ Linda M. Savitt

Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt LLP, Glendale

PRACTICE TYPE: litigation SPECIALTY: labor and employment

When Savitt says she tries a lot of cases each year, she means it. The volume of her civil employment defense caseload is impressive: in 2011, she had four jury trials, she said. Last year, she tried five jury trials, one court trial and an arbitration.

Clients come to her when they believe their cases will make it to trial, she said. "Frequently the demands are just so high the clients are willing to take their chances with a jury."

That is not to say she does not try to settle; she does. In 2011, she offered a six-figure settlement. When the settlement was denied, the case went to trial and she won, she said.

"I'm very good at analyzing not just the plaintiff's theory of the case but the overall situation," she said. Her winning strategy in court is the evidence she chooses to present: details that illustrate how a company came to a decision on an employment matter. "I try to put on evidence of the other problems the company is facing, along with the one the plaintiff is facing."

The hours she has logged in trial have nearly paid off in another respect: Savitt is just a case or so shy of — a mere two points — being designated a diplomat by the American Board of Trial Advocates, of which she has been a member since 1998. The honor would place her in the company of a very small number of female diplomats nationwide, and fewer than 20 or so in the Los Angeles chapter.

"I'm excited to get those points," she said.

Savitt is also a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only organization.

"I like to talk to people and that's what a trial lawyer is, someone who talks to people."

— Chase Scheinbaum

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