



Sharon Appelbaum

MANAGING ATTORNEY

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Sharon Appelbaum leads a highly specialized criminal defense and white-collar practice, representing clients in complex, high-stakes cases in state and federal court. Known for her strategic approach and relentless advocacy, Sharon excels in crafting tailored defense strategies that incorporate a team of experts, investigators, and consultants uniquely suited to each case. Her ability to manage high-profile and high-intensity matters, coupled with her crisis management experience, makes her a trusted advocate for clients facing serious legal challenges.

With two decades of experience interfacing with government agencies and law enforcement, Sharon has handled some of the most difficult and novel cases, including allegations of financial wrongdoing, sexual misconduct, and other criminal offenses. Her white-collar fraud practice spans across a broad spectrum of matters, such as money laundering, wire and mail fraud, cybercrime, healthcare fraud, extortion, and mortgage fraud. Sharon's expertise extends to both criminal and civil investigations, positioning her as a formidable defense attorney in cases involving corporate misconduct and regulatory violations.

A nationally recognized trial attorney, Sharon has successfully tried cases to verdict in multiple federal and

state jurisdictions. Her background as a former NYC prosecutor adds to her depth of knowledge and tactical expertise, including spearheading an investigation that resulted in the indictment of 94 defendants in a major white-collar fraud conspiracy. Sharon's career has earned her fellowship with the Litigation Counsel of America and recognition as a Top 100 Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers.

Sharon's dedication to her clients goes beyond the courtroom. She listens to their needs, carefully evaluates the nuances of each case, and creates a defense plan that protects their interests with precision. Her practice not only provides effective legal representation but also offers crisis management services, ensuring minimal disruption to her clients' lives and businesses.

Appelbaum Law, P.C. is uniquely positioned to handle complex legal challenges, delivering strategic, high-level defense to clients.

Education

Temple University Beasley School of Law, Juris Doctor

- Beasley Scholar, Editor on Law Review, Dean's List, Barrister Award Winner
- Outstanding Oral Advocate

University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts in History and Spanish

- Cum Laude, Dean's List

Admissions

State Bar of New York

State Bar of California

United States District Court Central District of California

United States District Court Southern District of California

United States District Court Northern District of Texas (pro hac vice)

United States District Court District of New Jersey (pro hac vice)

Awards and Certifications

Women of Influence in Law by [San Diego Business Journal \(2025\)](#)

Women's Leadership Award nominee, [Los Angeles Business Journal \(2025\)](#)

Legal Visionary, [Los Angeles Times Business Magazine \(2025\)](#)

Inspirational Women Award Nominee, [Los Angeles Times \(2024\)](#)

Fellow, [Litigation Counsel of America](#)

Top 100 Criminal Defense Trial Lawyer, [National Trial Lawyers Association \(2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024\)](#)

Top 40 under 40 Criminal Defense Trial Lawyer, [National Trial Lawyers Association \(2016 and 2018\)](#)

Representative Matters

Fraud & White-Collar Defense

- **No Convictions for Real Estate Agent in Federal Felony Fraud Trial**

Successfully defended a real estate agent facing extensive jail time during a federal trial in the District of New Jersey against felony charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and aiding in the submission of a false statement to a bank. After a five-week trial in federal court, there were no convictions. Client was acquitted of one count and had no convictions on the remaining two counts. Ultimately, the client received a single misdemeanor and no jail time.

- **Represented Surgeon at Trial in a Federal Conspiracy Case**

Represented at trial a surgeon charged in a federal health care fraud case with conspiracy, illegal kickbacks, and money laundering in the Northern District of Texas in a complicated multi-defendant case.

- **Felony Welfare Fraud Case Dismissed at Arraignment**

Felony welfare fraud case dismissed at arraignment in Los Angeles County after the firm contacted the prosecutor before the arraignment and showed proof of incorrect calculations.

- **Doctor Facing Kickback Allegations Receives Reduced Sentence**

Represented a doctor in San Diego County originally facing substantial prison time for multiple allegations regarding kickbacks and Labor Code violations. Obtained a lesser sentence on a plea to far fewer charges and minimal jail time.

Sexual Misconduct Allegations

- **College Student Avoids Charges in Sexual Assault Case**

Represented a student accused of sexual assault by a fellow student. The college found no basis for the claims and no criminal charges were filed.

- **Sexual Battery Charge Reduced for Financial Analyst**

Negotiated a plea to simple battery and summary probation for a financial analyst accused of sexual battery, avoiding sex offender registry conditions.

- **No Charges Filed Against Government Contractor**

No charges filed after representing a government contractor under investigation for child sexual assault.

- **Preliminary Hearing Representation for Actor Client**

Represented actor charged with multiple counts of rape and special allegations through the preliminary hearing stage in Los Angeles County.

Criminal Defense

Case Dismissed when Victim Wrongly Charged with Domestic Violence

Case dismissed by prosecutors on the eve of trial after firm's independent investigation in a case where the actual victim had been charged with domestic violence and assault with a deadly weapon in Los Angeles County.

- Contractor Cleared of Violent Assault Charges with Self-Defense Claim**

Case dismissed by prosecutors against a contractor in New York County after the firm's investigation and presentation of a viable self-defense claim.

- Case Dismissed Against Wrongly Accused Client**

Successfully defended and proved client had been falsely accused of child sexual abuse in the midst of a divorce dispute.

- Police Officer Cleared in Child Abuse Investigation**

Represented a police officer in San Diego County falsely accused of child abuse investigation. After conducting an independent investigation and consulting experts, no charges were filed.

- Attempted Murder Conviction Overturned on Appeal in Los Angeles**

Defended client at trial in Los Angeles charged with two counts of attempted murder, shooting at an occupied vehicle, fleeing the scene, and gang enhancements. Jury convicted, but the case was overturned on appeal due to error made by the Judge which our firm had pointed out and preserved at the time.

- Public Figure Represented in High-Profile Murder Case**

Represented public figure in Los Angeles County charged with murder, attempted murder, and felony hit and run resulting in death.

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