



Michael P. Verna

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Michael P. Verna is a 1975 graduate of the University of California at Berkeley (Phi Beta Kappa) and a 1978 graduate of Hastings College of the Law. An experienced trial attorney with an extensive record of accomplishment, Mr. Verna enjoys an A.V. rating from the Martindale Hubbell Law Directory (highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards), and has been certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the ABA accredited National Board of Trial Advocacy (“NBTA”) since 1986. He was formerly an instructor for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and was long ago elected by his trial lawyer peers to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates (“ABOTA”), San Francisco Chapter. He has also been selected as a Diplomat with the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys (product liability emphasis); as Senior Counsel with the American College of Barristers; as member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum; and as Charter Fellow with the Litigation Counsel of America Trial Lawyer Honorary Society. Mr. Verna is regularly listed in Best Lawyers of America and Super Lawyers of Northern California, (top 5% of lawyers).



Listed in a number of different publications for his successes as a trial lawyer, Mr. Verna’s practice focuses on mass disaster aviation accident litigation, with an emphasis on international accidents involving commercial jetliners, general aviation aircraft, and helicopters. As a recognized expert in aviation crash litigation, Mr. Verna has authored legal articles on issues of interest in aviation law and been a guest speaker at several prestigious aviation law conferences (including for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the European Air Law Association and the American Bar Association Air and Space Law Committee).

Mr. Verna’s successes for his clients are often record breaking, both in obtaining exceptional settlements or verdicts and also in effecting changes in aircraft design and operation with the governing authorities as a result of litigation pressures on the defense. He is personally responsible for having obtained over \$150 million in verdicts and settlements for his clients over the last ten years, with the \$63 million settlement for Filipino victims of the crash of an Air Philippines Boeing 737 and \$23 million settlement for victims of the Air France Flight 447 crash being the most recent examples. (Mr. Verna was appointed liaison counsel for all victims of Air France 447 disaster in litigation before Hon. Charles Breyer of the USDC, Northern District of California in San Francisco.) When he started his practice over 30 years ago, Mr. Verna represented aviation manufacturers and airlines, so has particularly keen insights into the tactics employed by aviation defendants and their lawyers. Since 1999, he has represented air crash victims exclusively, and his clients have benefited mightily from those insights.