

# Daily Journal

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## Honoring the Top Performing Attorneys in California



### J. Mira Hashmall

Miller Barondess  
Los Angeles

**M**ira Hashmall will be in trial soon defending the L.A. County Sheriff's Department from a former deputy claiming disability-based retaliation and harassment. He'd won an \$8 million jury verdict, which Hashmall got reversed on appeal. Now, she is leading the retrial. *Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles*, BC680213 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Oct. 19, 2017).

She's excited. "I love being in front of a jury. I don't think there's anything more exhilarating than a blistering cross or the euphoria you feel when you're really hitting your stride in the closing argument," she said.

This trial will be tricky just because it's a retrial. The first trial delved improperly into alleged policing misconduct on the force, according to the appellate court, which Hashmall now hopes to ensure does not recur. "It's going to certainly keep me on my toes," she said.

Another case may go to trial in October, although she moved for terminating sanctions asserting the other side's failure to obey the court's orders on discovery. The plaintiff has invoked the Fifth Amendment. The sanctions motion was to be heard in late August. *McDade-Dickens v. City of Inglewood*, 21STCV02999 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Jan. 25, 2021).

Hashmall regularly represents L.A. County and the city of Inglewood. A certified appellate specialist, she should soon argue a case to the California Supreme Court on behalf of the city. "I'm excited," she said. "It will be my first argument in front of the Supreme Court."

The case deals with "whether or not elected officials can bring whistleblower claims under the Labor Code." *Brown v. City of Inglewood*, S280773 (Cal., filed Aug. 1, 2023).

Hashmall said an appellate argument is exhilarating and gives her an adrenaline rush. But it's not quite the same as a closing argument in a trial.

"I think one of the most creative parts about practicing law is the storytelling, and a strong closing argument really is storytelling at its best," she said. She compared constructing a closing to "composing a score, bringing in the high notes and balancing the lows and making sure that everything is in harmony" and that "it has that crescendo when you need it, has that calm when that's the right note to hit."

As one might deduce, music is very important to Hashmall. She is an active member of Black Women Lawyers and the League of Women Voters. And she also serves on the board of Center Dance Arts at The Music Center of Los Angeles.

As a teenager in Oakland, Hashmall apprenticed with the Savage Jazz Dance Company. "I'm a long, long-time dance lover. It's a huge passion," she said.