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Timothy T. Coates, 52

Greines, Martin, Stein & Richland, Los Angeles

Appellate law

If a fictional car or the top prosecutor for Los Angeles County needs an attorney for a major federal appeal, that lawyer is Coates. The appellate specialist won a precedent-setting 9-0 victory from the U.S. Supreme Court holding that former District Attorney John K.

Van de Kamp and

other prosecutors have absolute immunity for administrative functions leading to trial, not just for their conduct during trial. Then Coates defended the trademark and copyright ownership of the iconic Mustang "Eleanor" from the cult hit, "Gone in 60 Seconds." The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Coates' client, the widow of the filmmaker, and rejected a claim by car designer Carroll Shelby.

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