

Robert A. Olson

rolson@gmsr.com

+1 310 859 7811



More than 30 years ago Bob Olson found his passion and calling for appellate law. It started with a clerkship with Hon. Anthony Kennedy, then on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit after graduating Order of the Coif from Stanford Law School. He eventually found his way to GMSR where he has practiced for more than three decades.

Bob is a leader of the appellate bar, a past president of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and a past president of the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (and a member of its Hall of Fame). He has been a California Lawyer of the Year and recognized as one of *The Best Lawyers in America®*. He has represented individuals, companies, insurers and public entities in the California Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the California Courts of Appeal. He also actively collaborates with local counsel on cases before several state Supreme Courts.

Bob has a breadth of experience, which helps in placing difficult cases in a context that will enhance the likelihood of success. He has particular expertise, and successful appellate outcomes, in matters of insurance coverage and bad faith, tort liability, contract—including entertainment contract—claims, anti-SLAPP and defamation, family law, trusts, and arbitration.

Education

J.D., Stanford Law School (1983). Order of the Coif.

A.B., Stanford University (1979). Phi Beta Kappa.

Honors

A California Lawyer of the Year, *California Lawyer Magazine* (2016)

Daily Journal's Annual Top 100 California Lawyers (2012)

Southern California Super Lawyers, Appellate (2005 – Present)

Top 100 Southern California Super Lawyers (2017)

Named in *The Best Lawyers in America®* (Appellate Law, Insurance Law) (2010 – Present)

Bar Admissions

California

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals: Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Courts: Northern, Southern, Eastern, & Central Districts of California

Speaking and Involvement

The Year in Review: A Summary of Recent Cases, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (1996 to Present)

2022

"What makes a PAGA Penalty?" Daily Journal Podcast, audio interview available via SoundCloud

2019

"The Bermuda Triangle of Coverage Issues," 2017 CLM New York Conference

2017

"Going Postal--The Coverage and Insurance Guide for Religious and Non-Profit Organizations," 2017 CLM Midwest Conference

2017

"Tort & Civil Procedure Appellate Update – Important 2016 Cases for Your Practice," South Bay Bar Association

2017

"Best Practices When Dealing with Reptiles" and "Legal Writing in the Electronic Age," Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC) Annual Winter Meeting

2017

"How to Use Amicus Support Effectively," Beverly Hills Bar Association

2014

"Howell v. Hamilton Meats: What it Means, How to Take Advantage of it & What's Left," Association of Southern California Defense Counsel

2011

"About Face! Howell Reverses Direction in the Supreme Court," Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada

2011

"Update on Insurance Issues," Lorman Education Services, Costa Mesa

2007

"Winning Strategies Using Legislative Intent," State Bar of California Annual Meeting

2007

"Appellate Practice in the 2nd District Court of Appeal," Bar Association of San Francisco's Appellate Courts Committee, San Francisco

2007

Adjunct Professor of Law, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles (appellate advocacy)

1998

Professional Associations

The Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, Chair, Appellate Section

California Academy of Appellate Lawyers, Past President

American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, Fellow

California Judicial Council, Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Appellate Courts Committee

Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, Past President

Association of Business and Trial Lawyers

Claims and Litigation Management Alliance

Defense Research Institute (DRI)

Beverly Hills Bar Association

High Impact Wins

Sterling v. Sterling (2015) 242 Cal.App.4th 185

Jan 01, 2015

Sanchez v. Valencia Holding Co., LLC (2015) 61 Cal.4th 899

Aug 03, 2015

Farmers Insurance Exchange v. Superior Court (2013) 220 Cal.App.4th 1199

Oct 01, 2013

Celador Internat., Inc. v. American Broadcasting Cos., Inc. (9th Cir. 2012) 499 Fed.Appx. 721

Dec 03, 2012

Howell v. Hamilton Meats & Provisions, Inc. (2011) 52 Cal.4th 541 (amicus)

Aug 18, 2011

Ladd v. Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc. (2010) 184 Cal.App.4th 1298

May 25, 2010

Publications

Daily Journal: "On Judgments"

Mar 14, 2023

Journal Of The California Association Of Certified Family Law Specialists Features Article On Full Disclosure By GMSR Appellate Lawyers Bob Olson And Jeff Raskin

Dec 14, 2021

"A 'clear and convincing' appellate standard," Daily Journal (August 4, 2020)

Aug 04, 2020

Deciding Whether To Make The Leap: Evaluating The Chances Of Success On Appeal.

Mar 21, 2018

Wretched Excess – Working with Umbrella and Excess Coverage to Manage the Large Claim

Apr 17, 2017

Limiting Reptile Arguments, By Appeal And Otherwise

Apr 17, 2017

The “Metaphysical Moment” When a Pipe Begins to Leak Is Not a “Sudden” Discharge Where Damage Only Results From a Gradual or Continuous Process (2013) 2 Verdict 13.

Sep 10, 2013

Write this Down: California Supreme Court Rejects Recovery of ‘Written Down’ Amount of Medical Bills (Oct. 21, 2011) Westlaw Journal Insurance Coverage, Vol. 22, Issue 2.

Oct 21, 2011

Anticipating ‘Reid v. Google,’ reserving objections for review, S.F. Recorder (July 5, 2010).

Jul 05, 2010

Part 2: Getting it Right – Challenging a Statement of Decision (Feb. 2009) Appellate Tips for Trial Lawyers (a newsletter of the Los Angeles County Bar Association) Vol. 1, No. 14.

Feb 01, 2009

Part 1: Getting it Right – Challenging a Statement of Decision (Jan. 2009) Appellate Tips for Trial Lawyers (a newsletter of the Los Angeles County Bar Association) Vol. 1, No. 13.

Jan 01, 2009

Taking the Offense (2d quarter 2008) Verdict Magazine, pp. 17-20.

Jun 01, 2008

Examining the Rules – Divining Legislative Intent and Finding Statutory Meaning, (3d quarter 2006) Verdict Magazine pp. 37-43.

Jul 01, 2006

Strategic Opportunities In The Statement Of Decision Process (2d quarter 2005) Verdict Magazine, pp. 42-46.

Apr 01, 2005

A Few Of My Favorite Things Tips for Persuasive Writing (4th quarter 2004) Verdict Magazine, pp. 38-43.

Oct 01, 2004

How Much is Enough? Evidentiary and Instructional Issues in Trying the Amount of Punitive Damages (3d quarter 2002) Verdict Magazine pp. 30-38.

Jul 01, 2002

The Meaning of An Insurance Carrier’s Reservation of Rights – Part I, (Spring 2002) Association of Business Trial Lawyers Report pp. 1, 9-11.

Mar 22, 2002

Issues in Trying the Amount of Punitive Damages (Sept. 1996) Association of Business Trial Lawyers Report, pp. 5-6.

Sep 01, 1996