

Christopher J. Petersen | Partner

Business Litigation

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Christopher Petersen is a litigation partner in the Firm's Los Angeles office. He concentrates his practice on complex litigation matters involving business disputes, real estate, trusts and estates, and charter schools.

Chris represents individuals and private and public entities in all phases of civil litigation, from the initial pleading stage through trial. He has successfully tried numerous cases involving claims for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud.

Chris regularly handles a wide range of corporate disputes, including disputes between partners, shareholders, and members. He also regularly represents trustees and beneficiaries in disputes related to trusts and decedents' estates.

Chris also represents charter school operators and related nonprofit entities in a variety of areas, including business structure, entity formation, governance, operations, and litigation.

Chris has been named a Southern California "Rising Star" by *Super Lawyers* from 2012 through 2017, a distinction that honors the top 2.5 percent of lawyers age 40 or under, or who have been in practice less than 10 years.

Chris is also an adjunct professor of law at Southwestern Law School where he teaches civil pretrial practice.

Select Engagements

- Successfully defended trustees of family trust with assets in excess of \$10

million as trial counsel in action seeking to surcharge and remove trustees based on alleged breaches of fiduciary duty and mismanagement of trust assets.

- Obtained judgment of foreclosure and order of sale in excess of \$10 million as trial counsel in breach of contract and judicial foreclosure action.
- Obtained multimillion dollar judgment against one of California's largest property developers as trial counsel for a limited partner alleging claims for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and fraud.

Admissions

- California
- U.S. District Court - Central District of California
- U.S. District Court - Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court - Southern District of California

Education

- University of California, Santa Barbara, BA, with honors
- Southwestern Law School, JD, cum laude

Recognitions

- 2012–2019, “Los Angeles Rising Star” in Business Litigation, listed in *Super Lawyers*

Professional Activities

As part his pro bono efforts, Chris has represented parents in all phases of the adoption process. Chris also represents individuals seeking temporary and permanent guardianship of minors at risk of entering the foster care system.