

Daniel E. Rynhart | Partner
Business Litigation

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CO-CHAIR, LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

Dan Rynhart is the chair of Blank Rome's 300-member Litigation Department. Dan handles a wide variety of high-stakes business disputes across the country involving software and technology, telecommunications, financial services, shareholder/securities, and real estate financing and construction. He has been specially admitted to practice in more than 20 states, and has won both plaintiff's and defense verdicts in multimillion-dollar trials and arbitrations.

Dan is ranked as a leader in the field of commercial litigation by *Chambers USA*, and is applauded for "establishing a fine reputation for his litigation practice." He is praised for his ability to "handle and discredit hostile witnesses," and clients say "he is outstanding across the board: he has an excellent courtroom and deposition presence, and he quickly masters the important technical nature of our business. He is the consummate professional," and that he is "good at highlighting weaknesses in the other side's arguments."

The Philadelphia Inquirer named Dan as one of five "Influencers of Law" for "Litigation and Dispute" in 2018.

Dan is a frequent speaker on technology issues and trial tactics, and is regularly quoted in publications such as *Law360*, *Bloomberg*, and *Wired*.

Outside The Firm

Dan currently serves on the boards of directors of the American Red Cross for Eastern Pennsylvania (Chairman Emeritus), SeniorLAW Center, and Hopeworks

Camden, as well as the corporate councils of the National Constitution Center and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia ("CHOP").

Dan was an Edward F. Hennessey Distinguished Scholar at Boston University School of Law, and president of his class at Colgate University, where he serves as Class Reunion Chair.

Dan handles a number of pro bono cases each year on behalf of indigent clients. He was recognized by Blank Rome with its Pro Bono Hero award, and has been named to the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania's Pro Bono Roll of Honor every year for the past eleven years.

The Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County awarded Dan the First Judicial District's Distinguished Pro Bono Award for his representation of a World War II veteran who was defrauded by a con man and rendered homeless.

Dan accepted the Pennsylvania AARP's and SeniorLAW Center's inaugural "Access to Justice Champions" award on behalf of Blank Rome for helping the elderly fight fraud.

Dan led Blank Rome's team at Diversity Lab's first Women in Law Hackathon, aimed at advancing and retaining experienced women lawyers in law firms.

Select Engagements

- Defeated \$82 million contract and fraud claims in a telecommunications trade secrets dispute, following federal jury trial, and won sanctions and attorneys' fees for destruction of evidence.
- Successfully represented real estate developer with \$200 million construction project, defeated injunction claims in Pennsylvania state court.
- Successfully represented trader in employment dispute with hedge fund, won \$1.6 million FINRA arbitration award, plus punitive damages and attorneys' fees.
- Defeated \$70 million breach of contract claim for a construction-related distribution agreement, and won a counterclaim, following a five week trial in New York state court.
- Defeated \$170 million software trade secrets lawsuit, and obtained permanent injunction securing client's intellectual property rights, followed by contempt order for violations of injunction. Action was litigated in three courts, including Pennsylvania state and federal, and California federal court.
- Fraud action against derivatives trading website—secured verdict in California state court, upheld as a nondischargeable debt in federal bankruptcy proceedings in Texas, affirmed by Texas federal court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and review denied by U.S. Supreme Court.
- Biotechnology dispute involving virus-based gene delivery—misappropriation of trade secrets—achieved settlement for no money on behalf of defendant after expedited discovery in Pennsylvania federal court.

- Software implementation and customization dispute between *Fortune* 500 companies—defeated multi-million dollar claims and obtained minimal verdict following jury trial in state court.
- Breach of contract and trademark infringement action between manufacturers and distributors of lighting technologies—won \$8 million AAA arbitration award, confirmed by federal court.
- Breach-of-contract, fraud, and RICO action between mortgage company and top agents—defeated \$30 million claim and secured \$1.6 million counterclaim in AAA arbitration award, confirmed by Pennsylvania federal court.
- Fraud action by equity fund and holding company against sellers of a transportation logistics company—won \$30 million JAMS arbitration award, confirmed by federal court—third largest trial verdict in Pennsylvania that year.

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court - Colorado
- U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Memberships

- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Colgate University Alumni Association

Education

- Colgate University, BA
- Boston University School of Law, JD

Recognitions

- 2018, “Influencer of Law: Litigation and Dispute,” by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
- 2015–2019, “Pennsylvania Super Lawyer” in Business Litigation, listed in *Super Lawyers*
- 2014–2018, Litigation: General Commercial Law, listed in *Chambers USA*
- 2010, “40 Under 40,” listed in *Philadelphia Business Journal*

Professional Activities

Dan serves on the boards of various philanthropic organizations, including:

- American Red Cross for Eastern Pennsylvania—*Board of Directors (Past Chairman)*
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)—*Corporate Council*
- National Constitution Center—*Corporate Council*
- SeniorLAW Center of Pennsylvania—*Board of Directors*
- Hopeworks Camden—*Board of Directors*