LARSON · O'BRIEN LLP

Stephen G. Larson

Partner

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EDUCATION

University of Southern California Gould School of Law
Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, B.S.F.S.

ADMISSIONS

California
District of Columbia
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
U.S. Court of Federal Claims
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
U.S.D.C. Central District of California
U.S.D.C. Eastern District of California
U.S.D.C. Northern District of California
U.S.D.C. Southern District of California
U.S.D.C. District of Columbia

Stephen Larson, co-founder of Larson O'Brien LLP, is a former U.S. District Judge and has been a national trial lawyer for high-stakes civil and white collar matters since returning to private practice in 2009. Stephen is also a trusted adviser to senior executives and prominent domestic and international businesses.

Stephen has nearly 30 years of trial and appellate experience, and has been lead counsel in scores of jury trials in the federal and state courts and appeals, including before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court, and the California Court of Appeal. The *Daily Journal*, California's leading legal newspaper, has recognized Stephen as one of the "Top 100 Lawyers in California" for the past three consecutive years, noting achievements as lead trial counsel in his broad white collar and civil trial practice.

Stephen's civil practice is broad, having represented individuals and public and private companies of all sizes as plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes disputes, including intellectual property, real property and land use, complex contract issues, business torts, employment, securities, class actions, and environmental lawsuits. He regularly represents companies in the entertainment, technology, financial services, real estate, healthcare, and energy and natural resources industries. In addition, Stephen is frequently engaged as an arbitrator and mediator in complex commercial disputes.

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Orange County
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Washington, D.C.
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Washington, D.C. 20001

Stephen's white collar criminal defense practice includes representing businesses in government investigations and prosecutions related to an array of issues, including public corruption, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), domestic and international sanctions issues, the False Claims Act, healthcare laws, and financial controls. Stephen also represents companies, executives, lawyers, doctors, and public figures at all stages of white collar criminal matters from investigations to trial. Stephen's criminal defense practice includes conducting internal investigations for companies, public entities, boards, and committees. In 2016, Stephen was appointed by the Orange County District Attorney and the Orange County Board of Supervisors to monitor the District Attorney's compliance with a Blue Ribbon commission's recommendations related to jail informants.

In 2018, Stephen was awarded the *Daily Journal*'s California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year (CLAY) Award for his trial advocacy in *The People of the State of California v. Paul Biane et al.*, which former California Attorney General Jerry Brown touted as one of the most significant public corruption matters in California history. After an eight month trial, Stephen secured a complete defense verdict for developer Jeff Burum, defeating allegations that three county officials took bribes from Burum in exchange for their approval for a $102 million settlement of a land dispute.

In 2019, Stephen completed his service as the chair of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Safety.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Stephen began his career before being appointed as a litigation associate at O'Melveny & Myers, before being appointed as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California in 1991, where Stephen served as the Chief of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Division. As a prosecutor, he led 24 criminal trials, was responsible for 49 appeals before the Ninth Circuit, and received the U.S. Department of Justice Director's Award for Superior Performance from Attorney General Janet Reno. Stephen also conducted joint training exercises and investigations with foreign law enforcement agencies in Russia, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, the Ukraine, and South Korea.

Stephen departed the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2000 to serve as a Magistrate Judge in the Central District of California. In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Stephen to serve as a District Judge. As a federal judge, Stephen adjudicated over a thousand cases and was designated seven times to serve on the Ninth Circuit. Stephen was also a member of the Ninth Circuit's Jury Instruction Committee responsible for drafting and publishing model jury instructions. Stephen was a founding member of the State Department's Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan.

During his nearly ten years as a federal judge, Stephen presided over a number of high-profile cases, including the "Barbie vs. Bratz" copyright infringement dispute between toymakers Mattel and Bratz, and *Siegel v. Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc.*, which determined the ownership of the copyrights to the iconic comic strip Superman. Stephen also presided in *United States v. Nazario*, a landmark Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act case involving U.S. Marines accused of manslaughter during the Battle of Fallujah; *United States v. Duro*, in which he blocked the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs' decade long effort to close down and expel a major migrant worker camp on the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation; and *John Doe v. County of San Bernardino*, which resulted in systematic reform of educational and therapeutic services for disabled youths within the county juvenile hall system.

Prior to founding Larson O'Brien, Stephen was chair of the litigation department at a national law firm and a member of its Executive Committee.

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Stephen received his law degree from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, and is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Throughout his career, he has taught law school classes in constitutional law, civil rights law, and federal courts, and has conducted law enforcement training at the FBI National Academy at Quantico and overseas on money laundering, asset forfeiture, and U.S. banking regulations.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Secured a complete defense verdict for the Managing Partner of Colonies Partners, LP, a real estate development partnership, defeating allegations that three county officials took bribes from the managing partner in exchange for their approval for a $102 million settlement of a land dispute.

- In *United States v. Aguilar*, one of only a few Foreign Corruption Practices Act (FCPA) cases to go to trial in the past decade, successfully defeated FCPA and money-laundering charges by securing an order vacating the convictions of Ms. Aguilar.

- Obtained a $10 million jury verdict and judgment against the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center and in favor of a minor child abused at the defendant's facilities.

- Secured a mid-trial dismissal of a federal grand jury's nine-count indictment against a former special agent of the Drug Enforcement Agency accused of conspiring to commit fraud and making false statements to federal law enforcement officers.

- Represented senior executive of international mining company in Foreign Corruption Practices Act (FCPA) joint investigation by the Justice Department and Eastern District of New York, resulting in no charges being filed.

- Successfully represented the states of Arizona and Oklahoma in connection with their efforts to seek recovery following the Volkswagen AG emissions "Diesel Dupe" scandal, obtaining settlements totaling more than $40 million.

- Secured a dismissal of criminal charges and a civil compromise for an industry-leading industrial materials manufacturer, following an industrial homicide investigation.

- Won summary judgment in favor of Taco Bell Corp. in a putative class action alleging $51 million in violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

- Represented a financial technology company during criminal and civil investigations by several District Attorneys' offices and the United States Attorney, resulting in no charges being filed.

- Represented the relator in a *qui tam* civil False Claims Act matter alleging healthcare fraud, resulting in more than$60 million in recovery.

- Won a seven-figure judgment for an attorney in a fee dispute arising from the Indian Trust litigation and settlement, following a trial before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

- Succeeded in having no charges filed against a doctor following months-long investigation of alleged $30 million in False Claims Act violations.

- Won three appeals overturning orders granting terminating sanctions in a high-profile wrongful death action against a celebrity drug interventionist, and defeated defendants' motion for summary judgment after remand.

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- Represented Arizona voters challenging the constitutionality of unequally populated voting districts created by a state commission, before the Supreme Court of the United States in *Harris v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*.

- Obtained summary judgment for a non-profit organization alleged to have aided and abetted fraud and financial crimes.

- Conducted internal investigations of a retirement pension regarding allegations of executive misconduct.

- Served as the Independent Monitor of the Orange County District Attorney's office, following his appointment to that role by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- *Daily Journal,* "Top 100 Lawyers in California" (2017-2019)

- *Daily Journal*, "California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award" (2018)

- *Benchmark Litigation*, "Litigation Star" (2019-2020)

- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, "LA 500: The Most Influential People in L.A." (2016-2020)

- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, "Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers" (2018-2019)

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