Jonathan E. Phillips

PARTNER

TEL 213.436.4867
FAX 213.623.2000
EMAIL jphillips@larsonllp.com

OFFICE Los Angeles

Jonathan Phillips understands the importance of aligning litigation strategy with his clients' business objectives.

In his labor and employment litigation practice, he regularly defends corporations against single-plaintiff and class action wage and hour, discrimination, and wrongful termination claims that can disrupt not only business operations, but also a company's culture and hard-earned reputation. Jonathan works closely with his clients to effectively eliminate and mitigate disputes as they arise, conduct internal workplace investigations, and advise on regulatory and compliance matters so that issues may be avoided altogether.

Jonathan's broader civil litigation practice encompasses handling trusts and probate litigation, bad faith insurance claims, contract disputes, civil rights matters, and class actions. He has litigated scores of high-stake commercial matters in state and federal courts and on appeal for clients across a variety of industries, including media and entertainment, food and beverage, healthcare, and investment banking.

In his white collar defense practice, Jonathan represents executives, municipalities, and public officials in criminal matters and investigations related to misappropriation of funds, public corruption, and violations of the Brown Act. In one of his most notable successes, he defended a real estate developer and its co-managing partner in a 10-month jury trial of a high-profile public corruption matter. *Daily Journal*, California's leading legal publication, awarded Jonathan and partner Stephen G. Larson its prestigious "California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year (CLAY) Award" for their efforts securing acquittals for Larson's clients. Jonathan then served as counsel for the real estate developer and its co-managing partner in two civil rights suits seeking damages for the retaliatory investigation, which resulted in a $65 million settlement in November 2020.

After honing his litigation practice at two Am Law 200 firms, Jonathan joined Larson when the firm was founded in 2016. During law school, Jonathan served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Virginia A. Phillips of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. A lifelong musician, Jonathan studied musicology and trumpet performance before pursuing a career in law.

EDUCATION

- University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, J.D.
- University of California, Los Angeles, M.A., B.A.

ADMISSIONS

- California
- 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

PRACTICE AREAS

- Appellate Litigation
- Complex Civil Litigation
- Civil Rights Litigation
- Class Action

Jonathan's Representative Matters

- Secured a complete defense verdict for the co-managing partner of a real estate developer, defeating allegations that three county officials took bribes from the co-managing partner in exchange for their approval for a $102 million settlement of a land dispute.
- Following the complete defense verdict at trial, obtained a $65 million settlement for the real estate developer and its co-managing partner for the retaliatory investigation and malicious prosecution, among other civil rights claims.
- Obtained a $10 million jury verdict and judgment against the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center and in favor of a minor child abused at the defendant's facilities.
- Represented a municipality and its council members against allegations of illegal payments of public funds, obtaining dismissal through an anti-SLAPP motion which was upheld on appeal.
- Won summary judgment in favor of a Fortune 50 company in a hotly contested employment dispute, wherein the plaintiff alleged wrongful termination, discrimination, and defamation claims against the client.
- Represented a municipality during several investigations by a District Attorney's Office and Grand Jury involving various claims of misappropriation of public funds and Brown Act violations, which were found to be unsubstantiated.
- Successfully negotiated favorable agreements with the California Attorney General's Office on behalf of a large physical therapy practice in proceedings brought on behalf of the Physical Therapy Board of California.
- Negotiated a favorable settlement for a television station facing various discrimination and hostile work environment claims arising from its enforcement of workplace policies brought by a former news reporter.

Jonathan's Associations

- American Bar Association Labor and Employment Law Section, *Member*
- California Lawyers Association Labor and Employment Law Section, *Member*

Jonathan's Awards & Recognitions

- The Best Lawyers in America®, for Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2022-2024
- Benchmark Litigation, Litigation Star, 2021-2024
- Los Angeles Business Journal, Leaders of Influence – Litigators & Trial Attorneys, 2021
- Daily Journal, California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award, 2018

- Commercial Litigation
- Environmental, Natural Resource, and Basic Materials Litigation
- Intellectual Property and Patent Litigation
- Labor and Employment Litigation and Counseling
- Partnership Disputes and Securities Litigation
- Trusts, Probate, and Estate Litigation
- Internal Investigations and Compliance
- White Collar Defense and Government Investigations