

Koren Bell

PARTNER

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LANG Spanish
OFFICE Los Angeles

Koren (“Kori”) Bell is a bilingual Spanish-speaking lawyer who litigates high-stakes trials and appeals in courtrooms across the country.

Praised for her advocacy—described by courts as **“superb,” “topnotch,”** and among **“the best I’ve seen”**—Kori has handled some of our nation’s most complex trials and appeals, including as Counsel of Record in a case she advanced to and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. She has earned national recognition as a powerhouse litigator, including from *Benchmark Litigation* as a **“Litigation Star”** and one of the **“Top 250 Women in Litigation”** for **appellate litigation**, **complex civil litigation**, and **white collar defense work**, among other top rankings.

Notable Experience and Results

A creative and tenacious litigator, and former supervising federal public defender, Kori represents clients in high-profile white collar defense matters. She also represents prominent individuals and companies in a broad array of complex civil litigation, including high-stakes **commercial** disputes and widely publicized **civil rights** suits, and in sensitive **investigations**.

Kori delivers results for her clients at every stage of litigation. She has prevailed at trial, before trial, and in post-trial proceedings in a variety of areas—from business disputes to products liability, defamation to trade secrets, and all manner of white collar crime. Her clients include high-net-worth individuals, entrepreneurs, public figures, and companies from a range of industries, including entertainment, technology, health care, transportation, construction, real estate, and sports.

Kori’s current representations include the widely publicized “Varsity Blues” college admissions case, in which she co-leads the defense of the decorated former USC water polo coach against federal fraud conspiracy charges. In addition to **securing severance of our client’s trial**, Kori and the defense team prevailed on a motion **to dismiss the government’s property fraud allegations**, **obtained the government’s dismissal of its lead RICO charge**, and ultimately **won a motion for a new trial** after extensive litigation following a multi-week trial.

In another high profile matter, Kori represents the former president of Outcome Health in parallel SEC and federal criminal proceedings pending in Chicago which allege a \$1 billion fraud scheme targeting the prominent startup’s pharmaceutical clients and investors. In an early victory, Kori and the defense team defeated the government’s



EDUCATION

- Yale Law School, J.D.
- Swarthmore College, B.A., high honors

ADMISSIONS

- California
- New York
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S.D.C. Central District of California

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Stephen Reinhardt U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

PRACTICE AREAS

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

motion to stay the SEC proceedings.

Kori's other recent results involve three of the most significant public corruption cases in California history.

In 2020, Kori and co-counsel secured a [\\$65 million settlement](#) from the County of San Bernardino in [a pair of novel civil rights lawsuits](#) brought on behalf of developer Colonies Partners, L.P., and its co-managing partner, following our client's [full acquittal at trial](#) on public corruption charges.

In the long-pending, high-profile public corruption case involving the former Los Angeles County Assessor, Kori and co-counsel [obtained the dismissal](#) before the California Court of Appeal of two cases charging our client with dozens of counts, and a final dismissal of the tax case when it was [recharged on remand](#). The case, which dates back to 2012, garnered national attention after then-Los Angeles County District Attorney Cooley called it one of the most important in decades.

And in another highly publicized public corruption case involving the former mayor of Palmdale, Kori and co-counsel obtained a no-custody, no-restitution tax-count disposition and the dismissal of all other charges alleging that our client, an aerospace expert, embezzled millions in NASA funds. Following a multiweek preliminary hearing—which the Court deemed **“among the most complicated, if not the most complicated case I’ve ever heard in 37 years”**—the Court praised the **“topnotch”** and **“superb lawyering by Ms. Bell and Mr. Larson,”** calling the result **“a testament to their abilities.”**

Prior Experience

Prior to joining Larson, Kori was a member of the trial team that obtained a complete defense verdict in *McNair v. NCAA*, a defamation case arising from the Reggie Bush scandal, following a month-long trial that was covered extensively in the media. After the jury rejected the plaintiff's claims, the Court called the advocacy in the case—which included Kori's spearheading of legal strategy and examination of key trial witnesses—**“the best I’ve seen since I’ve been a judge.”**

Before entering private practice, Kori spent nearly a decade at the Federal Public Defender's Office in Los Angeles. As a supervising trial deputy in the largest office in the federal defender system, she helped oversee trial litigation, devise management improvements, and develop district-wide challenges to prosecutions.

During her tenure, Kori defended clients in some of the Office's most difficult federal criminal trial matters and appeals—including cases involving alleged cross-border criminal activity, each of the federal fraud statutes, public corruption, and capital murder.

Among these matters was *Shaw v. U.S.*, a case involving the construction of the federal fraud statutes, which Kori tried, appealed, and ultimately argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. In a victory for Kori's client, *Shaw* invalidated the Ninth Circuit's model fraud jury instruction and that of a number of other circuits.

- Commercial Litigation
- Environmental, Natural Resource, and Basic Materials Litigation
- International Arbitration
- Media and Entertainment Litigation
- Trusts, Probate, and Estate Litigation
- Internal Investigations and Compliance
- White Collar Defense and Government Investigations

Following *Shaw*, Kori spearheaded strategy in *U.S. v. Miller*, in which the Ninth Circuit confirmed that its precedent and that of five other circuits upholding the model fraud charge “are no longer tenable in light of the Supreme Court’s intervening ruling in *Shaw v. U.S.*” “In light of *Shaw*,” the Court held, “we therefore overrule our prior cases on this question[.]”

Koren's Representative Matters

- As co-lead trial counsel for the decorated former USC water polo coach in [the high-profile “Varsity Blues” admissions case](#), notched a string of victories, including: [severance](#), [dismissal of the property fraud allegations and the lead RICO charge](#), and ultimately [a new trial](#) after extensive post-trial litigation following a multi-week trial.
- Retained as trial counsel for the former Outcome Health president charged in highly publicized parallel SEC and criminal proceedings with a \$1 billion fraud scheme targeting the startup’s clients and investors.
- Obtained [a \\$65 million settlement](#) for Colonies Partners, L.P., and its co-managing partner from the County of San Bernardino in a pair of novel civil rights lawsuits following our client’s full acquittal at trial on public corruption charges.
- Obtained [the dismissal before the California Court of Appeal](#) of two cases charging our client with dozens of counts in the long-pending, high-profile public corruption case involving the former Los Angeles County Assessor, *People v. Salari*.
- Obtained a favorable tax-count, no-custody, no-restitution disposition, and the dismissal of all remaining charges, for an aerospace economic development expert charged with embezzling millions of dollars in NASA funds, and achieved successful resolution of sequel California Attorney General and NASA enforcement actions.
- Obtained a favorable settlement for counterclaimants in a putative class action involving alleged trade secret violations and violations of the Federal Wiretap Act.
- Obtained a finding of no violation for a leading physician in enforcement proceedings brought by the Attorney General’s office for the Medical Board.
- Obtained the non-prosecution of charges and the return of all seized assets for an entrepreneur in forfeiture proceedings involving a large-scale seizure of property.
- Represented a major television network in an internal investigation overseas.

Significant Prior Representations:

- As Counsel of Record, argued *Shaw v. U.S.* before the U.S. Supreme Court, invalidating the Ninth Circuit’s model fraud jury instruction and that of five other circuits, in a victory for the client.
- Obtained a complete defense verdict in *McNair v. NCAA*, a defamation case arising from the Reggie Bush scandal, following a month-long trial.
- Represented FedEx Ground Package System in \$600 million federal civil lawsuits brought by the State and City of New York alleging shipment of contraband cigarettes.
- Represented Pfizer Inc. in multi-plaintiff products liability actions brought in Missouri state court over its blockbuster statin.
- Represented the founder and former CEO of Insys Therapeutics against unprecedented charges alleging that the distribution of an FDA-approved medication

violated RICO.

- Obtained mid-trial dismissal in a landmark criminal prosecution under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, following first-impression litigation over the statute.
- Obtained time-served disposition in a high-profile criminal prosecution alleging \$30 million international market-manipulation conspiracies, after exposing government misconduct.
- Obtained pre-trial dismissal of a counterfeit currency case, after motion practice challenging the constitutionality of the search.
- Obtained acquittal on a witness-tampering count and post-trial dismissal of a gratuities count in a cross-border illegal gratuities case.
- Obtained acquittal in a firearms case involving client's two confessions.

Koren's Associations

- [Hispanic National Bar Association](#), *Member*
- [Latina Lawyers Bar Association](#), *Member*
- [Mexican American Bar Association](#), *Judicial Externship Program Committee Member*
- [Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association](#), *Board Member*
- [Los Angeles County Bar Association](#), *Membership Committee Co-Chair*
- [American Bar Association's Judicial Intern Opportunity Program](#), *Advisory Committee Member*
- [The Chancery Club of Los Angeles](#), *Member*
- [Los Angeles Chapter of the Women's White Collar Defense Association](#), *Member*

Koren's Awards & Recognitions

- [Benchmark Litigation](#), Top 250 Women in Litigation, 2022
- [Benchmark Litigation](#), Litigation Star, 2023
- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), for Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2021-2023
- [Daily Journal](#), Top Women Lawyers, 2022
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys, 2022
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Women of Influence: Attorneys, 2022
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Thriving In Their 40s, 2021
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Women of Influence - Attorneys, 2021
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Top Women Attorneys in Los Angeles, 2020
- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Most Influential Women Lawyers, 2019
- Litigation Counsel of America Fellow, Invitation-Only Trial Lawyer Honorary Society for Top 1/2 of 1% of Lawyers, 2020