

Paul A. Rigali

PARTNER

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Described by clients as “pragmatic,” “courtroom-savvy,” and someone “you will be glad you hired for your most difficult cases,” Paul Rigali is an experienced litigator who has tried cases in state and federal courts, the Delaware Court of Chancery, and private arbitration.

Paul’s successful advocacy for his clients in [commercial](#) and [white collar defense](#) cases has earned him recognition as one of the foremost trial lawyers in the country. He is listed in [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), and [Benchmark Litigation](#) counts him among the best litigators on the West Coast.

Paul tackles the toughest problems for clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to high-net-worth individuals in complex [contract](#) cases; [class actions](#); and [partnership, corporate governance, and fiduciary duty](#) disputes. His experience litigating high-stakes matters spans an array of industries, including real estate, software, sports and entertainment, healthcare, mining, and precious metals, and financial services. Paul’s diverse practice benefits from his knack for developing creative and aggressive case strategies that consistently yield victories.



EDUCATION

- University of Southern California Gould School of Law, J.D.
- University of Southern California, B.A., cum laude

Notable Experience and Results

Paul is a sought after litigator for matters involving state and federal governments. He regularly represents clients in civil litigation and investigations involving the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, the California Attorney General’s Office, the California State Auditor, and district attorneys’ offices.

Much of Paul’s commercial litigation practice involves complex [real estate, environmental, and water rights](#) disputes. He successfully represented a developer defrauded in a financing hoax; a prominent shopping center in eminent domain disputes; and landowners in title, zoning, and boundary disputes. Paul also effectively litigated a municipal water agency’s claims that a private water company illegally pumped more than \$100 million of groundwater from an adjudicated basin. In another matter, he [obtained summary judgment](#) for a private water company accused by landowners of illegally diverting water.

Paul’s white collar defense experience includes representing clients in trials and investigations involving procurement fraud, the False Claims Act, the Foreign Corrupt

ADMISSIONS

- California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. Court of International Trade
- 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

Practices Act, wire fraud, and money laundering. In a complete vindication for a health clinic's billing and record-keeping practices, he obtained summary judgment for the clinic, defeating False Claims Act allegations seeking more than \$50 million. Paul was also one of the Larson partners who defended the former USC water polo coach, Jovan Vavic, against fraud charges in [the highly publicized "Varsity Blues" case](#).

A skilled appellate advocate, Paul has also been involved in more than a dozen appeals throughout his career, including prevailing arguments before the California Court of Appeal.

An original member of Larson upon its formation in 2016, Paul serves as the firm's managing partner. He forged his legal career at Am Law 200 firms, Venable LLP and Arent Fox LLP, and externed with the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit during law school. Paul's pro bono efforts include having represented the Special Olympics World Games Organizing Committee in support of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles. Outside of managing the firm, Paul enjoys an active home life with his wife and their four young kids.

Paul's Representative Matters

- Successfully [represented a leading financial advisory firm](#) in a breach of contract and trade secret arbitration hearing against former advisors who improperly used confidential company information.
- Successfully [represented a mortgage servicer](#) in opposing the plaintiff's motion for class certification in a Fair Debt Collection Practices Act suit, resulting in the District Court denying the plaintiff's motion.
- Successfully represented Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and obtained a complete dismissal of a civil qui-tam lawsuit alleging violations of the federal False Claims Act.
- Retained as trial counsel to represent investors in a class action against Snap Inc., which resulted in [a \\$154 million settlement](#) of all claims against the defendants.
- Obtained a complete defense verdict on allegations of fraud, breach of contract, and unfair competition for an automotive dealer group, following a three-week trial.
- Won summary judgment for a Federally Qualified Health Center accused of violating the federal False Claims Act.
- Represented a software company and its founders against claims alleging copyright violations, misappropriation of trade secrets, civil RICO violations, and breached employment agreements, in arbitration.
- Represented a software company and its founders in a Section 225 trial before the Delaware Court of Chancery to resolve issues of corporate control.
- Won dismissal of a putative class action complaint against a mortgage servicer and Fortune 50 company, alleging violations of California's Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- Won [summary judgment](#), which was later affirmed on appeal, in favor of a private water company and its officers, defeating allegations that defendants misappropriated water rights and breached fiduciary duties.
- Successfully [opposed a motion](#) to appeal an order denying attorneys' fees in a San

of California

PRACTICE AREAS

- Appellate Litigation
- Complex Civil Litigation
- Antitrust and Competition Litigation
- Class Action
- Commercial Litigation
- Environmental, Natural Resource, and Basic Materials Litigation
- Intellectual Property and Patent Litigation
- International Arbitration
- Media and Entertainment Litigation
- Partnership Disputes and Securities Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Trusts, Probate, and Estate Litigation
- Internal Investigations and Compliance
- White Collar Defense and Government Investigations

Juan Capistrano real estate dispute before the California Court of Appeal.

- Won summary judgment in favor of a nonprofit foundation accused of aiding and abetting fraud of its board members.
- Represented a professional sports franchise in a two-week arbitration hearing between the franchise and its sponsor, winning a seven-figure arbitration award.
- Represented a municipal water district in connection with its remediation and cost recovery efforts related to two plumes of volatile organic compounds affecting groundwater.
- Represented a corporate officer and corporation in a three-week criminal trial of procurement fraud and wire fraud claims in federal court.
- Represented a municipal water district in a water rights dispute with a private water company alleged to have over-pumped water worth approximately \$50 million.
- Represented a municipality during the California State Auditor's investigation and resulting public records act issues and litigation between the city's accounting firm and engineering firm.
- Conducted an internal investigation of fraud and embezzlement by a corporation's investment advisor and treasurer.
- Conducted an internal investigation of a trade organization arising from allegations of workplace harassment and discrimination claims.
- Successfully defended fast food companies, clothing companies, and automotive dealers, in various class actions, including claims arising from the unfair competition laws, the Consumer Legal Remedies Act (CLRA), the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), California's "Made in USA" statute, and state and federal employment laws.

Paul's Associations

- [Association of Business Trial Lawyers](#), *Member*
- [Litigation Counsel of America](#), *Fellow*

Paul's Awards & Recognitions

- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), for Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2021-2025
- [Benchmark Litigation](#), Litigation Star, 2021-2024
- [Benchmark Litigation](#), 40 & Under Hot List, 2019-2020
- [Daily Journal](#), Top 40 Under 40, 2017