

R.C. Harlan

PARTNER

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OFFICE Los Angeles

As an experienced first-chair trial lawyer, R.C. Harlan approaches each case with a blend of incisiveness, diligence, and camaraderie—he listens attentively to his clients and builds a working relationship with them to develop a customized, clear-cut strategy for success.

His proven litigation techniques have led to optimal results for his clients in state and federal courts throughout the country, as well as in private arbitration. With a focus on [complex civil](#) disputes, R.C. represents individuals and companies across a wide variety of industries, including high tech, sports and entertainment, towing and transportation, waste management, medical device, pharmaceutical, and healthcare.

In his diverse practice, R.C. handles [business and contractual](#) disputes, mass torts, wrongful death suits, and various types of [class actions](#). He conducts [internal investigations](#) of large and small companies in response to governmental inquiries, including investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice, and local prosecutors. R.C. is also a skilled [appellate](#) lawyer—as just two examples, he won multiple appeals overturning orders granting terminating sanctions in a high-profile wrongful death suit and affirmed on appeal the dismissal of substantive RICO violation claims against his client in a civil matter.

R.C. has represented numerous individuals on a [pro bono](#) basis, including successfully challenging a death sentence in Alabama state court and obtaining asylum for multiple immigrants who faced persecution either because of their sexual orientation or their political beliefs. Prior to joining Larson, R.C. honed his practice at three Am Law 200 firms.

R.C.'s Representative Matters

- Lead trial lawyer in six-week jury trial between investors over failed technology start-up, wholly-defeating opposing cross-claims through both a motion for directed verdict and jury verdict in Orange County Superior Court.
- Successfully moved for partial direct verdict as lead trial lawyer in two-week breach of contract jury trial in Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Obtained a [\\$1.3 million settlement](#) for a towing service in a civil rights lawsuit alleging corrupt favoritism and unconstitutional acts by city officials.
- Represented a victim of the Route 91 Festival shooting in Las Vegas in a private



EDUCATION

- Boston University School of Law, J.D., cum laude
- Claremont McKenna College, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

- California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S.D.C. Central District of California
- U.S.D.C. Northern District of California
- U.S.D.C. Southern District of California

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Boyce F. Martin, Jr. U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

mediation against MGM Resorts, resulting in a multimillion-dollar settlement for the client.

- Represented dozens of individuals whose properties burned in a wildfire and were underinsured in a confidential mediation against the insurance company and handled the allocation of a multimillion-dollar settlement payment to all of the clients.
- Affirmed on appeal the dismissal of substantive RICO violation claims against client.
- 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.
- Conducted [an investigation of a client’s former counsel](#), which confirmed the client’s suspicion that the celebrity lawyer had secretly pocketed a settlement payment and led to private arbitration.
- 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.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Appellate Litigation
- Complex Civil Litigation
- Civil Rights Litigation
- Class Action
- Commercial Litigation
- Environmental, Natural Resource, and Basic Materials Litigation
- Partnership Disputes and Securities Litigation
- Trusts, Probate, and Estate Litigation
- Internal Investigations and Compliance

R.C.'s Associations

- [Association of Business Trial Lawyers](#), *Member*
- [Orange County Bar Association](#), *Member*

R.C.'s Awards & Recognitions

- [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys, 2022
- [Super Lawyers](#), Rising Star, 2014