



# Matthew S. Steinberg

## Member

## Los Angeles

msteinberg@cozen.com | (213) 892-7924

### Practice Areas

- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation

### Education

- University of San Diego School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 1978
- University of California, Berkeley, A.B., 1975

### Bar Admissions

- California

### Awards & Honors

- Southern California "Super Lawyers" 2006-2007, 2009-2011
- AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- 2019 Top Trial Attorney, Los Angeles Business Journal

Matt, a business and real estate litigator, has more than 40 years of experience representing businesses and individuals in major commercial disputes. He represents both plaintiffs and defendants in all aspects of litigation, including class actions, from pretrial through trial and appeal. Matt has won several major jury verdicts, including three in excess of \$4 million. He has extensive trial and appellate experience in both state and federal courts, and several of his cases have resulted in reported decisions making appellate law. Matt has litigated in federal court throughout his entire career, including a multimillion-dollar jury verdict and successful appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He is admitted to practice in all the federal courts in California.

A well-rounded litigator with a wide spectrum of experience, Matt's areas of concentration include general civil litigation, intellectual property litigation, real estate litigation, business torts, securities fraud litigation, malicious prosecution and anti-SLAPP litigation, breach of fiduciary duty litigation, First Amendment litigation, class action defense, unfair competition defense, and Business and Professions Code Section 17200 litigation.

Matt's most significant trial victory in recent years on the defense side involved a decision in favor of a corporate client sued in a California consumer class action based on the Unfair Competition Law. The suit sought \$247 million in restitution against his client and a co-defendant for the alleged failure to test a particular brand of seat belt for a dangerous condition known as "partial engagement." Matt was hired to try the case after it had been certified by the court as a class action on behalf of 3.5 million California consumers. After a three week trial, the court rendered its decision, finding for defendants on all issues.

He also maintains a robust appellate practice, and has established appellate case law in the areas of reasonable reliance in federal securities fraud, bad faith in contract disputes, negotiable instruments, and arbitral immunity.

Most recently, Matt was just selected by the Los Angeles Business Journal as a top litigator and trial attorney for 2019. Matt has been listed in *Super Lawyers* magazine and *Southern California Super Lawyers* (2006-2007, 2009-2011), and he is rated AV® Preeminent™ 5.0 out of 5. He earned his law degree, *cum laude*, from the University of San Diego School of Law and his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of California at Berkeley.

## Experience

Won a unanimous defense verdict, after a seven-day jury trial in federal court in California, on behalf of an insurance broker against a third-party plaintiff on professional negligence and indemnity claims seeking \$2.4 million in damages.

Won a major jury verdict Orange County, California on behalf of two investment companies, convincing the jury to award \$4.3 million in compensatory and punitive damages for claims arising from breach of an oral contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and spoliation of evidence in a dispute stemming from the defendants' mishandling of our clients' investments. In securing this verdict, the Cozen O'Connor team

### Matthew S. Steinberg

msteinberg@cozen.com

P: (213) 892-7924 | F: (213) 892-7999

©2024 Cozen O'Connor. All rights reserved.



overcame the substantial challenge presented by the lack of a written agreement and the need to base the case entirely on witness credibility and circumstantial evidence.

Secured a complete defense verdict in a California consumer class action based on the Unfair Competition Law seeking \$247 million in restitution, as described more fully in the narrative above.

Secured a jury verdict in the client's favor in a case centering on claims of misappropriation of trade secrets involving theft of computerized data.

Successful representation since 2009 of a large publicly traded company in several significant contract disputes involving major commercial real estate developments in Southern California.

Secured favorable settlement of a residential mold exposure case involving a subterranean apartment owned and managed by our clients. Contributing to the favorable settlement was our showing during mediation that the plaintiffs could not establish the presence of a damp, moldy environment, that they had no physical symptoms that could be linked to mold exposure, and that they could not establish mold-related property damage.