



Koren L. Bell

Partner

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Education

Yale Law School; Yale Journal of International Law,
Executive Editor
Swarthmore College, B.A., High Honors, Phi Beta
Kappa, Lang Scholar

Admissions

California
New York
Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
U.S.D.C. Central District of California

Koren L. Bell (“Kori”) is a partner at Larson O’Brien LLP. She is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer with a record of success litigating high-stakes cases. In courtrooms across the country, Ms. Bell has handled complex white-collar criminal matters—including as Counsel of Record in the U.S. Supreme Court—and civil matters—including as trial counsel for the NCAA in a highly-publicized defamation case. She has represented both plaintiffs and defendants, including Fortune 500 companies, diplomats, and high-net-worth individuals, in all types of cases across a range of industries—including pharmaceutical, transportation, financial services, and sports and entertainment. Ms. Bell’s current representations include developer Colonies Partners and its co-managing partner, a major municipal corporation, and prominent individuals who have been criminally charged in pending high-profile public corruption matters. Through aggressive, creative, focused advocacy at every stage of the proceedings, Ms. Bell delivers results for her clients both before and after trial.

Prior Experience

Ms. Bell joined Larson O’Brien LLP from Wilkinson Walsh + Eskovitz LLP, where she defended prominent clients—including FedEx Ground Package System, Pfizer Inc., and the billionaire CEO and founder of a major pharmaceutical company—in high-profile civil and criminal disputes. Among them was *Todd McNair v. NCAA*, in which she helped to obtain a complete defense verdict following a month-long trial arising from the Reggie Bush scandal. Ms. Bell spearheaded case strategy and conducted key witness examinations during the trial, which was covered extensively in the media, including by ESPN, Sports Illustrated, and the LA Times. After the jury rejected the plaintiff’s claims, the trial court called the advocacy in the case “the best I’ve seen since I’ve been a judge.”

Previously, Ms. Bell spent over eight years at the Office of the Federal Public Defender 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, she also defended clients in some of the Office’s most complex and difficult federal criminal trial matters and appeals. Among them was *Shaw v. United States*, involving the federal bank fraud statute, which Ms. Bell advanced to—and argued as Counsel of Record before—the United States Supreme Court. At the trial level, she defended a variety of serious cases, including matters involving alleged cross-border criminal activity, each of the federal fraud statutes, bribery, public corruption, and capital murder.

Ms. Bell began her career as a law clerk to the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She was then a Skadden Fellow at the Education Law Center, where she represented a plaintiff class of schoolchildren from 31 low-wealth districts before the New Jersey Supreme Court and the lower courts, and an associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.

Ms. Bell received her law degree from Yale Law School, where she was an Executive Editor of the Yale Journal of International Law. She received her undergraduate degree with high honors from Swarthmore College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was selected as a Eugene Lang Scholar. Following college, she was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Argentina, where her family is from, and a Fulbright Scholar in Chile.

Other Activities

Ms. Bell is active in the Los Angeles legal community as a member of the Latina Lawyers Bar Association and the Advisory Committee of the LA-ABA's Judicial Internship Opportunity Program. She has taught at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, presented at the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers West Coast White Collar Conference, and judged the national moot court competition at Loyola Law School.

Representative Matters

- Trial counsel in *Todd McNair v. NCAA*. Obtained a complete defense verdict in a month-long defamation trial in Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Counsel of Record in the United States Supreme Court, and lead trial and appellate counsel, in *Shaw v. United States*. After winning jury acquittals on certain counts, advanced the case to the Supreme Court. Following argument before the Supreme Court, secured a judgment vacating and remanding the Ninth Circuit's decision affirming the client's convictions in a ruling that undermines the applicable jury instructions for the federal fraud statutes.
- Defense of FedEx Ground Package System in \$600 million federal civil lawsuits brought by the State and City of New York alleging the knowing shipment of contraband cigarettes.
- Defense of Pfizer Inc. in multi-plaintiff products liability actions brought in Missouri state court over its blockbuster statin.
- Defense of founder, majority owner, and former CEO of a leading pharmaceutical company federally charged with illegally distributing an FDA-approved medication in violation of RICO, the fraud statutes, and the Anti-Kickback Statute.
- Trial counsel in a landmark criminal prosecution under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Obtained mid-trial dismissal following aggressive litigation over the applicable jury instructions.
- Lead trial counsel for the lead defendant in three cases, out of two jurisdictions, alleging \$30-million international market-manipulation conspiracies. Leveraged government misconduct to negotiate a disposition that reduced the client's life-term exposure to a sentence of time-served.
- Trial counsel in a counterfeit currency case. Obtained pre-trial dismissal after challenging the constitutionality of the government's search.
- Lead trial counsel in a cross-border illegal gratuities case. Obtained jury acquittal on a witness-tampering count, and post-trial dismissal of a gratuities count. Raised first-impression questions of statutory interpretation later addressed by the Supreme Court in *McDonnell v. United States*.
- Trial counsel in a firearms case in which the government presented two confessions obtained from the client. Won jury acquittal.

Awards and Recognition

- Skadden Fellow (2004 - 2006)
- Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar (1999 - 2000)
- Fulbright Scholar (1998 -1999)