



Paul A. Rigali

Partner

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Education

USC Gould School of Law
University of Southern California, B.A., cum laude

Admissions

California
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
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 of California

Paul A. Rigali is a partner at Larson O'Brien LLP. He practices complex civil litigation and white collar criminal defense. He has successfully litigated an array of complex matters, including contractual disputes, fraud, unfair competition, class actions, corporate governance and partnership disputes, water rights and environmental disputes. Mr. Rigali's white collar defense experience includes defending clients in civil and criminal False Claims Act cases, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act matters, wire fraud, and procurement fraud cases.

Mr. Rigali has represented individuals and companies in the real estate, software, sports and entertainment, healthcare, mining, and automotive industries. He has also represented cities, water agencies, and non-profits. He is an experienced trial lawyer who has tried cases in private arbitration, state and federal courts, and the Delaware Court of Chancery. Mr. Rigali's diverse practice benefits from creative and aggressive case strategies that have consistently yielded early victories in high-stakes matters.

In 2017, the Daily Journal named Mr. Rigali one of the top 40 lawyers under the age of 40 in California, recognizing his work on class action, False Claims Act, and water rights matters. He has also been recognized as one of the nation's top litigators under 40 by Benchmark Litigation.

Mr. Rigali joined Larson O'Brien when the firm opened in January 2016. He previously worked at Venable LLP and Arent Fox LLP. Mr. Rigali's pro bono efforts include having provided legal services to the Special Olympics World Games' Organizing Committee in support of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.

Mr. Rigali received his law degree from the USC Gould School of Law and his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California. While in law school, Mr. Rigali externed for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit. He is an active member of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Representative Matters

- 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 Clinic accused of violating the federal False Claims Act.

- Successfully 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, and in a parallel 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 in favor of a private water company and its officers, defeating allegations that defendants misappropriated water rights and breached fiduciary duties.
- Won summary judgment in favor of non-profit 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 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.
- Conducted internal investigation of fraud and embezzlement by corporation's investment advisor and treasurer.
- Conducted internal investigation of 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, the Telephone Consumer Protections Act, California's "Made in USA" statute, and state and federal employment laws.

Awards and Recognition

- Under 40 Hot List, Benchmark Litigation
- Top 40 Under 40 (2017), Daily Journal