

## Lawrence K. Rockwell

Partner

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### Practice Areas

- Trusts and Estates
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- Business and Corporate

### Overview

Lawrence K. Rockwell is an experienced trial lawyer whose practice is focused upon [trust and estate litigation](#), intellectual property litigation, and business litigation and includes advising business start-ups on corporate/business strategies. While maintaining a full-time law practice he served alternately as the Donahue firm's Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer for the 25 years leading up to the Donahue Fitzgerald merger in 2014.

**Trial practice:** Lead trial attorney in high-profile and high-stakes litigation and trials for plaintiffs and defendants. The subject matters in lead trial counsel cases include:

• **Trusts and Estates Litigation Trial Counsel:**

- Represent trustee in one of largest trust lawsuits in Contra Costa County, CA history in litigation against charity foundation to enforce settlor's intent to protect family (>\$40MM)
- Represent executor in trial confirming contested Will terms
- Represent individual and corporate trustees in varied lawsuits and trials defending against claims of breach of fiduciary duties, undue influence and elder abuse (multiple actions >\$1-\$10MM)
- Represent beneficiaries to protect trust or estate interests (multiple actions >\$5MM)
- Represent corporate trustee in actions and to trial relating to trust administration, management and interpretation and performance of duties (multiple actions >\$1-\$20MM)

- Represent trustees and beneficiaries in trust contest lawsuits and to trial (multiple actions >\$1-10MM)
- Represent property owners opposing claims brought by trustee seeking transfer of property ownership to trust (>\$2MM)
- Represent beneficiary in litigation opposing trustee's claims of conversion of trust property (>\$5MM)
- Represent beneficiaries to oppose petitions to invalidate trust terms and achieve intestacy (>\$5MM)
- Represent beneficiaries of famed musician in trial determining music rights upon famed musician's passing (>\$2MM)

• **Business Trial Counsel:**

- Represent business owner in complex litigation department trial to verdict confirming ownership of half of statewide solar installation business against claims seeking total divestment (>\$20MM)
- Represent national computer equipment/software seller in trial of business class action defending sales/training practices (>\$5MM)
- Multiple consumer class actions defending retailers against price-fixing claims in setting milk prices (>\$200MM)
- National enforcement to judgement; by trial and motion, of publically traded companies' distribution agreements and license/resale rights of software (multiple actions >\$5MM)
- Represent publicly traded employer in trial of employment class actions alleging sex and race discrimination (multiple actions >\$100MM)
- Represent corporate executive alleging breach of fiduciary duties respecting unsuitable investment advice and management (>\$1MM)
- Represent education book content developer/publisher in national joint venture marketing/distribution dispute (>\$1MM)
- Represent publicly traded company in trial of distribution termination (>\$5MM)
- Represent managing general partner in trial of management performance and alleged breach of fiduciary duties respecting multiple housing properties/businesses (>\$5MM)
- Represent publicly traded company in trial regarding international telecommunication rights (>\$10MM)

• **Intellectual Property Litigation Trial Counsel:**

- Represent heirs of legendary musicians and heirs in licensing, product distribution, and business disputes to judgement throughout the United States (multiple actions >\$1MM)
- Represent publicly traded software publishers and trade associations in federal court actions and trials in more than a dozen states to halt software copyright infringements and obtain damages for software piracy (multiple actions >\$1MM)
- Represent publicly traded software companies in litigation to protect software intellectual property and license rights (multiple actions >\$25MM)

- Represent publically traded software company in shutting down multi-state multi-million dollar illegal software distribution network (>\$15MM)

**Representative Business and Intellectual Property Counseling Matters include:** Advise clients on strategies, opportunities, and alternatives to accelerate business growth with particular focus on technology related startup businesses; counseling joint venture/development, funding structure, sales processes and guidelines, confidentiality and information exchange strategies, financing vehicles/terms/structures, reseller and distributions relationships/disputes, secured financing transactions and enforcement strategies.

## Books

Team Mojo, Chapter 27, *We Got Mojo!, Stories of Inspiration and Perspiration*, chapter author, Xlibris, 2016

## Professional & Community Affiliations

- Member, Business Law and Litigation Sections, American Bar Association
- Member, Litigation and Intellectual Property Law Sections, State Bar of California
- Member, Alameda County Bar Association
- Advisory Board Member, John F. Kennedy University Institute of Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Former Advisory Board, Oakland Communications Cluster (startup businesses)
- Former Advisory Board Member, Contra Costa California Business Incubator (startup businesses)
- Former Board Member, Contra Costa Children's Chorus
- Chairperson, Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation's Business Gifts Committee

## Recognition

- National Association of Distinguished Counsel, *Nations Top One Percent*
- Named, Super Lawyer, *San Francisco Magazine*
- Named, Best Lawyers in the San Francisco Bay Area, *Bay Area Lawyer Magazine*
- Awarded, AV® Preeminent™ (5.0 out of 5) peer-review rated, *Martindale-Hubbell*™
- Awarded, America's Most Honored Lawyers - Top 1%, *Americas Most Honored*

## Bar Admissions

- California

## Courts

- U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern Michigan District
- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona

## Education

- **J.D.**, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco
- **B.A.**, University of California, Berkeley, Economics, *with distinction*
- **B.S.**, University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business, Business Administration, *with honors*
- *Phi Beta Kappa*

## Recent Articles/News

- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized as AV Preeminent on Martindale-Hubbell®](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Named 2025 Super Lawyers](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Named 2024 Super Lawyers](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Named 2023 Super Lawyers](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Named 2022 Super Lawyers](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2021 “Best Law Firms”](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2020 “Best Law Firms”](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2019 “Best Law Firms”](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2018 “Best Law Firms”](#)