

Lawrence K. Rockwell

Partner

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Practice Areas

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

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:**
 - Represent executor in trial confirming contested Will terms
 - 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 sought)
 - 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 sought)
 - Represent beneficiaries to protect trust or estate interests (multiple actions >\$5MM sought)
 - Represent corporate trustee in actions relating to trust administration, management and interpretation and performance of duties (multiple actions >\$1-\$20MM sought)

- Represent trustees and beneficiaries in trust contest lawsuits (multiple actions >\$1-10MM sought)
- Represent property owners opposing claims brought by trustee seeking transfer of property ownership to trust (>\$2MM sought)
- Represent beneficiary in litigation opposing trustee's claims of conversion of trust property (>\$5MM at issue)
- Represent beneficiaries to oppose petitions to invalidate trust terms and achieve intestacy (>\$5MM at issue)
- Represent beneficiaries of famed musician in trial determining music rights upon famed musician's passing (>\$2MM sought)
- **Business:**
 - Represent business owner in complex litigation department trial 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 sought)
 - Multiple consumer class actions defending retailers against price-fixing claims in setting milk prices (>\$200MM sought)
 - Enforcement of publically traded companies' distribution agreements and license/resale rights of software (multiple actions >\$5MM sought)
 - Represent publicly traded employer in trial of employment class actions alleging sex and race discrimination (multiple actions >\$100MM sought)
 - Represent corporate executive alleging breach of fiduciary duties respecting unsuitable investment advice and management (>\$1MM sought)
 - Represent education book content developer/publisher in national joint venture marketing/distribution dispute (>\$1MM sought)
 - Represent publicly traded company in trial of distribution termination (>\$5MM sought)
 - Represent managing general partner respecting management and alleged breach of fiduciary duties respecting multiple housing properties/businesses (>\$5MM sought)
 - Represent publicly traded company in trial regarding international telecommunication rights (>\$10MM sought)
- **Intellectual Property:**
 - Represent heirs of legendary musicians and heirs in licensing, product distribution, and business disputes throughout the United States (multiple actions >\$1MM sought)
 - Represent publicly traded software publishers and trade associations in federal court actions and trials in more than a dozen states to halt software copyright infringement and obtain damages for software piracy (multiple actions >\$1MM sought)
 - Represent publicly traded software companies to protect software intellectual property and license rights (multiple actions >\$25MM sought)

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

Representative Business and Intellectual Property Counseling Matters include: Advising 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 business)
- Former Advisory Board Member, Contra Costa California Business Incubator (startup business)
- 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™*

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, Hastings College of the Law
- **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 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”](#)