



W. Michael Hensley

Of Counsel

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Practices & Industries

- Litigation
- Employment
- Retail, Food & Beverage

Overview

Mike Hensley is an accomplished trial lawyer that represents global and Fortune ranked companies and corporate executives. With over 40 years of experience helping his clients resolve disputes... – through trials, arbitrations, mediations, and appeals – he’s argued cases before U.S. Supreme Court as well as all Southern California State and Federal courts. In addition, he’s often asked to assist clients across the country and as a result has made a number of *pro hac vice* appearances before various Federal and State courts throughout the United States.

Throughout his career, Mike has been involved in lawsuits related to a wide range of corporate disputes, from real estate, securities, and corporate governance issues, to trade secrets, employment matters, unfair competition, and California financing laws. He has significant experience defending class action lawsuits.

Finally, Mike has an active real estate and appellate practice covering both transactional and litigation matters: he’s helped clients structure and defend mechanics liens, purchase agreements, commercial leases, homeowner’s disputes, commercial common area maintenance disputes, subordination agreements, financing arrangements, and more.

Mike is the principal author of The California Attorney Fees blog, which provides a resource to practitioners, jurists, and the public about the law governing attorneys’ fees/costs awards in California State or California Federal judicial forums. He regularly lectures at bar association and continuing education seminars on real estate, mechanics lien, and attorney fees issues.

Mike lives in Laguna Niguel with his wife, Anne, and their Labradoodle, Lucy.

Memberships

- Orange County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Former member of L.A. County Bar Association and American Business Trial Lawyers (L.A.)

Education / Admissions

Education:

- J.D., Rutgers-Camden Law School, 1979
- B.A., Speech Communication, University of Southern California, 1976

Bar Admissions:

State Bar of California

Accolades

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Rated
- Co-contributor to calattorneysfees.com, a legal blog with co-contributor Marc Alexander
- Honoree on ABA Journal Blawg 100, 2012
- Selected as a “Super Lawyer” by Southern California Super Lawyers® from 2009 – 2015, 2019

Matters

Recent representations of note include:

- Successful resolution of numerous disputes on behalf of a commercial developer redeveloping popular commercial projects in Costa Mesa and Anaheim, including obtaining both a judgment in favor of his client as well as the award of attorney fees in a Costa Mesa case.
- Representation of an accounting firm and a public company with respect to two decisions against the business. In the first, Mike successfully argued that a previously reversed arbitration award in favor of his client should be affirmed. In the second, he was able to reduce the damages of a jury verdict and attorney’s fees against his client by about 75%.
- Defending a developer who was sued during the recession by an out-of-state lender for a debt incurred while building a major office project for a multinational corporation. Mike prevailed in a month-long trial, allowing their client to continue pursuing a work out of the debt and recover 85% of their attorney fees.
- Mike has successfully represented numerous clients before Los Angeles and Orange County intermediate appellate courts.

Other Publications

Public Speaking:

Mike has lectured at various bar association and continuing education seminars on real estate, mechanics lien, and attorney fees issues. He was a panelist on a NALFA 2012 Annual Attorney's Fees Seminar at Loyola-L.A. Law School. He has also presented for Bridgeport CLE and the Los Angeles County Bar, Appellate Section.

Recent News

- [Q&A for Commercial Landlords and Tenants: Tips on Negotiating Leases & Addressing Lender Issues](#)