

## M.C. Sungaila in Attorney Journal Orange County: Appellate Lawyers Trending in the Right Direction

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PRACTICES Appellate

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Appellate lawyers are being called to work on lawsuits earlier than ever these days. A decade ago, these specialists were being used at the trial stage and beyond to advise attorneys in the event of an appeal. Now, some high-caliber appellate attorneys are being called in on Day One of certain cases to serve as consulting counsel, before it's even determined if there will be a trial...

The types of cases where appellate attorneys are now being called as soon as a claim is filed include those with novel or complex legal issues and those where the stakes are high. Sometimes these specialists are given free reign to hire the entire legal team, according to MC Sungaila, a partner with Haynes Boone LLP.

"This has led to an expanded role for some appellate lawyers as 'chief legal strategy counsel' in significant cases--often in class or collective actions or cases involving emerging legal standards," Sungaila said. "In this role, the appellate lawyer serves as a trusted advisor who directs the over-arching legal strategy in a case from the outset and often leads the selection of the overall litigation team."

**Excerpted from *Attorney Journal Orange County*. To read the full article, click [here](#).**