



Daniel L. Geysler

Partner | Chair - U.S. Supreme Court Practice

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PRACTICES Appellate, Federal Circuit Practice, U.S. Supreme Court, Litigation

Daniel L. Geysler is Chair of the firm’s U.S. Supreme Court Practice and a member of its Appellate Group. He focuses on complex and high-stakes appellate litigation, representing clients in the Supreme Court of the United States and in appellate courts nationwide. In the past five Terms alone, Dan has had six cert. petitions granted, argued eight SCOTUS merits cases, and secured multiple wins in high-stakes disputes. He is a two-time *Law360* “Appellate MVP” (an honor awarded to only four lawyers in the United States), and was recently named one of 12 lawyers who are “the future of the Supreme Court bar,” “w[inning] rave reviews” in a study identifying “the top talents in the next generation” (*Law360*, Dec. 2024).

Dan is widely regarded as one of the nation’s leading Supreme Court and appellate lawyers. *The Legal 500* reports that Dan is “recognized by peers and clients alike as ‘an extraordinary oral advocate and brief writer,’” “stand[ing] out for his sheer brainpower and creative thinking” (2020); clients say “Geysler’s intellect and analysis are peerless” (2021); “[h]is legal analysis is brilliant and on point, and his written and oral advocacy is very strong and powerful” (2020). *Chambers USA* describes Dan as “an incredible talent,” whose work is “impressive,” “fabulous,” and “brilliant” (2024); he is recognized as a “superb lawyer with impeccable judgment and a wonderful manner in oral arguments,” adding he has “that rare ability to make clients and legal counsel at ease, even under difficult circumstances. He instills confidence” (2020).

Dan is among a select group of lawyers who regularly handle significant disputes in the U.S. Supreme Court. Listed among the “veritable who’s who of the Supreme Court bar” (*Empirical SCOTUS*, 2018), Dan has argued nineteen Supreme Court cases in private practice, including two arguments this Term. He has twice had three cert. petitions granted in a 12-month period (a feat matched by few global firms), and personally handled over 5% of the Court’s merits docket in OT 2018. He has been named to the *National Law Journal*’s “Appellate Hot List” (2018, 2022), earned weekly honors as a *Law360* “Legal Lion” (2018, 2024, 2026, 2026 (again)), achieved national appellate rankings in *Chambers USA*, *The Legal 500*, and *Lawdragon*, and been declared OT 2017’s “top performing” brief-writer (based on a 2018 empirical study using brief-analyzing software). His petitions are regularly selected as “Featured Petitions” on SCOTUSblog, and he is a three-time winner of NAAG’s Best Brief Award for excellence in brief-writing before the Court (2008-2009, 2011). Since 2017, Dan has the third highest SCOTUS grant rate in the country among all repeat players in private practice, per an analysis “show[ing] how a small circle of elite Supreme Court advocates” can “significantly shift the odds” (Legalytics, “The Supreme Court’s Quiet Power Players”). And in the past half-decade, Dan ranks among the top ten lawyers nationwide for

total Supreme Court arguments in private practice, notching “rare victor[ies]” (SCOTUSblog, 2021) and “huge win[s]” (Reuters, 2019) in cases that industry experts said could not be won.

Dan routinely matches up against the top litigators in the country. He has convinced the Supreme Court to grant review over the opposition of elite appellate groups at multiple Am Law 20 firms, and his recent wins have come against superstars at Am Law 10 firms and the Solicitor General’s Office. In the past five Terms alone, Dan has secured multiple wins in major business disputes—including striking down an Act of Congress under the Bankruptcy Clause, winning a closely watched battle for taxpayers under the Bank Secrecy Act, reshaping arbitration rules nationwide under the Federal Arbitration Act (three times in separate cases), and arguing a multibillion-dollar dispute under the False Claims Act, one of Dan’s three cert. grants in 2022.

Beyond the Supreme Court, Dan handles high-stakes matters in appellate courts nationwide, litigating cases in virtually every major area of federal law (especially bankruptcy, securities, patents, ERISA, and arbitration). For plaintiffs, he has crafted legal strategy in matters generating over a half-billion in recovery. For defendants, he has won appeals in 8- and 9-figure disputes. He has special expertise at the rehearing stage, and has argued before the en banc Ninth Circuit (winning 10-1). In addition to an active federal practice, Dan also handles landmark state-court appeals, including arguing seven times before the Texas Supreme Court.

Before joining Haynes Boone, Dan ran his own award-winning appellate practice; served as the appellate chair of a prominent litigation boutique (also leading that firm to the *National Law Journal*’s “Appellate Hot List” and a *Chambers USA* national-appellate ranking); and was an appellate partner in one of the nation’s top litigation firms, building its appellate practice while focusing especially on complex patent appeals and bankruptcy cases.

From 2007 to 2011, Dan served in the Office of the Solicitor General of Texas, where he conducted and supervised appellate litigation for the State. In addition to handling his own docket, his experience in the office included advising other divisions on appellate and trial strategy, revising countless briefs in cases across all subject areas, and extensively preparing other attorneys (in moot courts and otherwise) for oral argument. In his last week on the job, Dan argued before the Texas Supreme Court in *Severance v. Patterson*, one of the State’s most important cases in recent memory—a constitutional attack on the public’s historic access to open beaches; he had earlier won “a rare motion to rehear the case” (Austin American-Statesman, 2011). The same week, Dan also won a major case in the U.S. Supreme Court, *Sossamon v. Texas*, involving Congress’s spending power and state sovereignty; Dan wrote the State’s briefs in that case and crafted its core legal theories and appellate strategy. He was also the principal writer of the State’s invitation brief in *Rhine v. Deaton*, a case marking the very first time the U.S. Supreme Court called for a state solicitor general to file a brief expressing the views of a State.

Dan graduated Phi Beta Kappa, with honors and distinction, from Stanford University, and with honors from Harvard Law School, where he was the Notes Chair of the Harvard Law Review, a best-brief winner and oralist on the championship team of Harvard’s moot-court competition, and a research assistant to Professor Laurence H. Tribe, working on his academic writing and appellate docket. After law school, Dan clerked for the Hon. Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Dan is an invite-only member of BriefCatch’s Legal Writing Advisory Panel, and a mentor in multiple programs promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. He has received the State Bar of California’s Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services and is a past appointee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit Pro Bono Panel.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- J.D., Harvard Law School, 2002
- B.A., Stanford University, 1999

CLERKSHIPS

Law clerk, Honorable Alex Kozinski, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2002-2003

ADMISSIONS

- California
- Texas

COURT ADMISSIONS

- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "[SCOTUS Spotlight: Daniel Geyser](#)" (SCOTUSblog's SCOTUStalk, 2023)
- "[High Court Veteran Examines Changing Oral Arguments](#)" (Bloomberg Law's "Cases and Controversies" Podcast, 2023)
- "Decoding *Cox v. Sony* and the New Era of Secondary Copyright Infringement" (Copyright Society Annual Meeting, 2026)
- "Supreme Court Panel: Understanding the New Landscape" (Financial Restructuring Roundtable, 2025)
- "Atty Behind Supreme Court Wins Talks Arbitration Trends" (Law360, Portfolio Media, May 30, 2024)
- "U.S. Supreme Court Review" (Federal Circuit Bar Association Bench & Bar Conference, 2025)
- "Supreme Court Update Panel" (D.C. Bar Tax Conference, 2025)
- "Examining Varying Statutory Interpretation at Different Judicial Levels" (National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, 2024)

- “The Fine Art of Rebuttal” (Appellate Judges Education Institute, 2023 Summit)
- “Supreme Court Panel” (5th Circuit Bar Association’s Appellate Advocacy Seminar, 2023)
- “Navigating FCA Appeals” (Federal Bar Association’s Qui Tam Conference, 2023)
- “Supreme Court Panel” (5th Circuit Bar Association’s Appellate Advocacy Seminar, 2022)
- “U.S. Supreme Court Update” (UT Law CLE’s Conference on State and Federal Appeals, 2022)
- “A Supreme Court Review: The 2020 Term” (Dallas Democratic Forum, 2021)
- “2021 Supreme Court Round Up” (The Federalist Society’s Houston Lawyers Chapter, 2021)
- “SLLC Supreme Court Midterm Webinar” (State and Local Legal Center, 2021)
- “Learning From Appeals” (TexasBarCLE’s Advanced Intellectual Property Litigation, 2020)
- “Supreme Court Review” (Dallas Bar Association, 2020)
- “SCOTUS Review with The Lawbook” (The Texas Lawbook, 2020)
- “Getting Cert. Granted: The Art and Science of Obtaining SCOTUS Review” (UT Law CLE’s Conference on State and Federal Appeals, 2019)
- “U.S. Supreme Court Update” (Texas State Bar College’s State Bar Summer School, 2012, 2015-2017)
- “Writing Persuasive Facts and Framing the Questions Presented” (State Bar of Texas’s Legal Writing to Win, 2015)
- “Approaching the Legal Writing Project: Understanding the Objective of Every Document” (TexasBarCLE’s Exceptional Legal Writing, 2013)
- “The Roberts Court at Five Years” (Texas State Bar College’s State Bar Summer School, 2011)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- [“High Court Bar’s Future: Haynes Boone’s Daniel Geyser,”](#) a profile as part of *Law360*’s feature series of “12 Lawyers Who Are The Future Of The Supreme Court Bar”—with Dan “w[inning] rave reviews” from “appellate scholars and practitioners” identifying “the top talents in the next generation” (*Law360*, Portfolio Media, Dec. 12, 2024)
- Recognized in *Chambers USA*, Chambers and Partners, in Appellate Law – USA – Nationwide, 2019-2025; in Appellate – Texas 2022-2025
- Ranked in *The Legal 500*, Legalease Ltd., in Appellate, 2019-2025
- Included in the *Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America* Guide, 2026
- Included in the *Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America* Guide, 2026
- Twice named a *Law360* “Appellate MVP,” Portfolio Media, 2019, 2022
- Recognized by *Law360* as a “Legal Lion,” Portfolio Media, May 15, 2026
- Recognized by *Law360* as a “Legal Lion,” Portfolio Media, January 16, 2026
- Recognized by *Law360* as a “Legal Lion,” Portfolio Media, May 17, 2024
- *National Law Journal*’s “Appellate Hot List,” 2018, 2022
- Recognized by *Law360* as a “Legal Lion,” Portfolio Media, May 31, 2018
- Invite-only member of BriefCatch’s Legal Writing Advisory Panel, 2024-present
- Recognized by *Texas Super Lawyers*, Thomson Reuters, in Appellate Law, 2019-2025
- Recognized by *D Magazine*, D Magazine Partners, Best Lawyers in Dallas, Appellate Law, 2020
- National Association of Attorneys General’s “Best Brief Award,” 2008-2009, 2011
- State Bar of California’s Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, 2006