



David B. Clark

Partner

Orange County

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PRACTICES Intellectual Property Litigation, Litigation, Higher Education, Technology Contracts Litigation, Trials, Digital Asset and Cryptocurrency Litigation

David Clark is a partner in the Litigation Practice Group in the Orange County office. His experience encompasses a wide range of complex business litigation, including licensing matters, contractual disputes, and intellectual property matters involving patent and trademark disputes. He has handled state and federal court matters for clients in various industries, including biotech, semiconductor, apparel, real estate, education, and cryptocurrency.

David has particular experience handling litigation over noncompete agreements, including lawsuits between businesses involved in joint ventures and disputes between employers and employees. He recently won a ruling in California federal court invalidating a noncompete provision as overly broad and improperly harmful to market competition. David also writes and speaks about the evolving state of California law governing noncompete agreements and restrictive covenants.

David has represented clients in many other kinds of business disputes, both at trial and in pre-trial litigation. He played a key role in a California state court breach-of-contract trial where a jury returned a verdict that the firm's client was the victim of software theft. He also was part of a Haynes Boone team that persuaded the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to affirm a take-nothing judgment dismissing breach of fiduciary duty claims against a client.

David maintains an active pro bono practice and has represented clients on matters concerning employment discrimination, immigration, and real estate. He has helped spearhead the firm's longstanding assistance of The Public Law Center, Orange County's pro bono organization that represents low-income residents in a range of matters.

David is a board member of the Federal Bar Association, Orange County Chapter and is active in the Howard T. Markey Intellectual Property Inn of Court Orange County Bar Association. He has been recognized as a *Southern California Rising Star*, Thomson Reuters, 2018-2020, an honor bestowed on only 2% of lawyers age 40 or younger in Southern California.

David previously served as the Deputy District Attorney in the Orange County District Attorney's TAP Program. He argued motions and conducted jury trials, including solo-chairing two trials through to verdicts.

Before law school, David worked as an electrical engineer at Toyon Research Corporation where he

performed research and development in areas including RF and microwave circuit design, reconfigurable antenna design, and immune building design.

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Southern California Gould School of Law, 2010, Order of the Coif; Senior Editor, *Southern California Law Review*
- M.S., Electrical Engineering, University of California Santa Barbara, 2003
- B.S., Electrical Engineering, University of California Santa Barbara, 2002, High Honors; UCSB Regents; Scholar, Tau Beta Pi National Honors Society

CLERKSHIPS

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Andrew J. Guilford, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

ADMISSIONS

- California

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
 - U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
 - U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
 - U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California
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PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “The Limits of “Sole Discretion” in Contracts,” co-author, [Today's General Counsel](#), August/September 2017.
 - “Adding an Alter Ego to a Judgment: How Long Can You Wait?,” co-author, *Association of Business Trial Lawyers Report: Orange County*, Volume XIX No. 2, Summer 2017.
 - “Cuozzo And The Limits Of Patent Office Discretion,” co-author, *Law360*, May 1, 2016.
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS

- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
 - Markey Inn of Court
 - Orange County Bar Association
 - Orange County Federal Bar Association
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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*, Woodward/White, Inc., 2023-2025