



Martin K. Deniston

Senior Counsel

martin.deniston@wilsonelser.com

Los Angeles, CA – 213.330.8924

Martin Deniston serves professional clients in the areas of employment practices liability, lawyers professional liability, real estate brokers and agents liability, securities agents and brokers liability, and other professional liability matters; commercial/business liability; and insurance-related matters and litigation. Additionally, Marty has extensive trial experience and has tried matters in both state and federal courts, as well as in the arbitration context. He also has experience handling class action litigation.

A world traveler with a strong interest in history and other cultures, Marty brings a broad perspective to the table along with a world view and knowledge that go far beyond the parameters of the law. His willingness to take difficult, high-exposure cases to trial has given him a well-earned reputation for the kind of skill and experience clients want in an adviser and advocate.

Employment & Labor

Marty has extensive experience in all kinds of litigation in state and federal courts and governmental agencies, such as the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. He has represented employers in numerous contexts, including claims for all types of discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, family medical leave issues, wage and hour violations, fraud, class actions, defamation, retaliation and breach of contract. He has advised clients on restrictive covenants in regard to the scope and enforceability of non-compete agreements and trade secrets and confidential information agreements in the context of employment relationships. He also advises and assists employers on employee training issues, employee manuals, and pre-litigation claims investigation and resolution. A 27-year veteran of the firm, Marty counsels employers on how to avoid claims through training and adequate documentation and how to resolve them when they are made prior to litigation. In the litigation arena, he has represented employers in numerous contexts, including claims for all types of discrimination, sexual

Services

- Accountants
- Class Action
- Employment & Labor
- Insurance Agents & Brokers
- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Lawyers' Liability
- Professional Liability & Services

harassment, wage and hour violations, fraud and breach of contract.

Professional Liability

Marty has been handling legal malpractice matters for more than 25 years. The cases he has handled run the gamut from straightforward professional negligence claims to claims involving alleged fraud and ethical violations to malicious prosecution claims. In his practice, Marty has represented lawyers in state and federal court and in arbitration forums.

Marty also handles real estate matters that include breach of contract, leasing disputes, professional negligence, and disclosure and due diligence issues.

In addition, Marty has litigated numerous cases involving professional liability as counsel of record. Those cases have involved the representation of accountants, securities brokers and dealers, real estate agents and brokers, insurance agents and brokers, and escrow agents.

Class Action Litigation

Marty is experienced in developing strategies to deal with class action litigation, often complicated by duplicative and overlapping claims that are filed in multiple courts around the country during the same time period. He has successfully defended class action claims by defeating class certification motions, prevailing at trial and prevailing on appeal.

Commercial Litigation

In addition to traditional business disputes, Marty has extensive experience in handling claims alleging unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices.

Insurance / Bad Faith

Marty has substantial experience advising and defending insurers in coverage and bad faith litigation and has worked with both private companies and numerous insurance companies in the United States as well as with underwriters at Lloyd's of London.

Education

- Pepperdine University School of Law (J.D., 1982)
 - Pepperdine Law Review, literary editor; ABA National Moot Court Team, Moot Court Board
- University of California, Santa Barbara (B.A., *with honors*, 1978)

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- State Bar of California, Litigation Section, Labor and Employment Law Section
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers, Executive Committee (1987–1990)
- American Bar Association, Tort and Insurance Practice Section, Litigation Section, Labor & Employment Section
- National Legal Malpractice Data Center
- Dispute Resolution Services, Inc., Operating Committee, 1987–1990

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in Southern California *Super Lawyers*, 2004, 2006, 2008–2023