



Richard W. Shelest

Associate

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San Francisco, CA – 415.433.0990

Richard Shelest represents national and international corporate clients in all aspects of civil litigation. His practice focuses on the defense of a broad range of claims involving professional liability, premises liability, and personal injury. Richard effectively handles cases throughout all phases of litigation. His clients include some of the world's largest organizations directly retaining Wilson Elser's services.

During law school, Richard completed the innovative Tech Edge J.D. certificate program, enabling him to understand clients' business and technology needs and challenges in developing defense strategies. He gained valuable experience as an intern at multiple personal injury defense law firms and obtained trial experience in Santa Clara County.

Prior to law school, Richard served as a Naval Flight Officer in the United States Navy for nine years. As an Electronic Warfare Officer primarily assigned to the VAQ-132 Scorpions in Whidbey Island, Washington, Richard flew the EA-18G Growler, the world's most advanced airborne electronic attack aircraft. While actively deployed to Iraq and Syria with the Navy, Richard led multiple combat flight missions during Operation Inherent Resolve. He deployed to other locations while flying with VAQ-132, including Japan, South Korea, and Australia.

Third-Party Crime Litigation

A substantial portion of Richard's practice includes the defense of private commercial security firms against lawsuits arising out of third-party criminal acts, including mass shootings, officer-involved shootings, death in custody incidents, crisis response, and corporate incident investigations. He ably assists in various litigation matters for diverse clients, including a business services company providing security services, security systems, janitorial services, and staffing services to more than half of the Fortune 500 companies in the United States, its territories, and Canada.

Services

- Commercial Litigation
- Complex Tort & General Casualty

Education

- Santa Clara University School of Law (J.D., 2024)
 - Emery Merit Scholar, 2021-2024
 - Tech Edge J.D. Certificate Program
 - Board member, Internet Law Student Organization
 - Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (M.S. Aeronautics, *with Distinction*, 2020)
- United States Merchant Marine Academy (B.S. Marine Operations & Technology, 2012)

Bar Admissions

- California

Awards & Honors

- United States Merchant Marine Academy, O'Gara Award, 2010, 2011
- United States Navy, VT-86 Strike Fighter Top Graduate, 2015