



Sean M. Monks

Partner

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San Diego, CA – 619.881.3332

San Francisco, CA

Sean Monks is a veteran trial lawyer recognized for success in all stages of litigation. He handles complex commercial matters such as state and federal derivative actions, misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair competition, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and related business torts. Sean also defends corporations and their officers and directors before the SEC and Department of Justice, and in shareholder litigation. He represents clients in trade secret and non-compete litigation, consumer class actions, and other disputes among business partners.

To avoid or mitigate litigation risks, Sean advises clients on best business practices and corporate compliance matters. Among his clients are government contractors, biotech and pharmaceutical companies, and manufacturing companies.

Although he has extensive trial experience, Sean has not limited his work solely to trial-level litigation. An adept appellate attorney with numerous published opinions under his belt, Sean has filed more than 25 appellate briefs and engages in oral argument.

Sean continues to serve in the Marine Corps Reserves. In law school, Sean was National Champion in the William Daniel Mock Trial Competition, the ABA Ethics Mock Trial Competition, and Regional Champion in the ABA Arbitration Competition.

Commercial Litigation

Equipped with superior courtroom results, Sean demonstrates equal success in meeting client objectives through arbitration and other types of alternative dispute resolution. Sean strives to accelerate resolution through procedural dismissals, substantive dismissals, successful tenders and negotiated settlements. He does not hesitate to try high-exposure cases in court, and handles smaller matters with rigor and discipline.

Defending businesses and corporations in contract, warranty and liability actions, Sean

Services

- Commercial Litigation
- Class Action
- Directors & Officers Liability
- Government Investigations
- Securities

also provides clients with innovative and timely strategic counsel to facilitate better-informed decisions, resolve complex legal challenges and achieve specific business goals.

Securities Litigation

Sean regularly defends corporations and their officers and directors in disputes involving the alleged violation of state and federal securities laws. He represents his clients in SEC investigations and enforcement actions as well as in shareholder class-action litigation, derivative actions, mergers and acquisition litigation, and proxy contests. Sean also represents investment advisers and broker-dealers in industry and customer arbitrations before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

Trade Secret and Non-compete Litigation

Preeminent among the business cases Sean has litigated are those involving trade secrets and non-compete claims. He contests cases alleging violations of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act and breach of fiduciary duty, business interference torts, and breach of non-competition agreements.

Education

- University of Houston Law Center (J.D., 2011)
- Rice University (B.A., 2008)
 - Trustee Board Scholarship, College President, Rice Rugby Football Club Captain

Bar Admissions

- California
- Texas

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of the United States
- Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Professional Affiliations

- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- San Diego Military Advisory Council
- San Diego Defense Lawyers

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America® Ones to Watch™*, 2026
- Navy Commendation Medal, 2016, 2018
- Joint Appellate Advocacy Training, Board Member
- Naval Justice School, Honors Graduate

Languages

- Spanish