



William M. Hake

Senior Counsel

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Bill Hake is a litigation attorney with national trial counsel, mediation and litigation management experience. His practice concentrates primarily in commercial and financial litigation, toxic tort defense, product liability, construction defects, intellectual property, director and officer defense, legal malpractice defense and medical malpractice defense. Bill has handled cases in state and federal courts throughout California and in Texas, Maryland, Hawaii and Colorado.

Bill has managed and defended criminal and financial crimes cases in the investigation and litigation phases of corporate, civil, criminal and SEC matters. His defense work with local firms before he founded Hake Law in 2011 offers a strategic advantage to Wilson Elser's litigation clients. In addition, Bill spent 14 years as lead trial counsel at a firm in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and six years as a trial attorney and partner at another San Francisco firm. He also served in the role of prosecutor as an assistant district attorney for the city and county of San Francisco.

In addition to his prodigious legal career, Bill taught and lectured at Harvard University School of Law for more than 25 years, and at Stanford University School of Law, as well as the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). He has lectured on trial practice, evidence, civil litigation and mediation for the California State Bar Continuing Education Program and the University of San Francisco School of Law. Bill also taught alternative dispute resolution and mediation for the U.S. Department of Justice and in the federal practice program for the federal court in Northern California.

Education

- University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (J.D., 1983)
- San Jose State University (B.S., 1980)

Services

- Asbestos & Talc
- Class Action
- Construction
- Directors & Officers Liability
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Professional Liability & Services
- Toxic Tort
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Accountants
- Government Investigations
- National Trial Team

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of the United States
- Supreme Court of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- 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
- U.S. District Court, District of Hawaii
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas

Professional Affiliations

- Harvard Law School, Lecturer on Law, 2020
- National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel
- Association of Defense Counsel of Northern and Southern California
- DRI
- San Francisco County Bar Association
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Sonoma County Bar Association

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2024-2026
- Selected for inclusion in San Francisco *Super Lawyers*®, 2024
- AV® rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected for inclusion in *Northern California Super Lawyers*, 2016 - 2025
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2018-2023
- Member of America's Top 100 Civil Defense Litigators® 2018