



Yakov P. Wiegmann

Partner

yakov.wiegmann@wilsonelser.com

San Francisco, CA – 415.625.9308

Yakov Wiegmann has applied equal parts diligence, passion and careful reasoning to guide his clients through toxic tort litigation involving asbestos, talc, silica, pesticides, benzene and other chemicals, as well as product liability matters involving aircraft components, heavy equipment, child car seats, electronics, scooters, e-bikes, glass bottles and tools. Yakov has represented companies and individuals in matters such as catastrophic personal injuries, business disputes, aviation accidents, consumer fraud claims and trust litigation. Yakov has defended major technology companies in transportation-related matters. He has experience in every aspect of complex litigation from discovery to trial and appeal, as well as in settlement negotiations, arbitration and mediation.

Born in Moscow, Yakov is fluent and persuasive in English and Russian. In the Fall of 2016 Yakov became an adjunct professor at the University of California – Hastings College of the Law, where he teaches Civil Pretrial Practice to third-year students.

Education

- University of California, Hastings College of the Law (J.D., 2006)
 - CALI and Witkin Awards in Criminal Procedure and Animal Law, CALI Award in Negotiation/Mediation
- University of California, Berkeley (B.A. Political Science, 2001)

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

Services

- Asbestos & Talc
- Aviation & Aerospace
- Commercial Litigation
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Israel
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Toxic Tort
- Transportation
- Engineered Stone

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia

Professional Affiliations

- Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada, Member, Board of Directors; Co-chair, Toxic Tort Subcommittee
- University of California – Hastings College of the Law, Adjunct Professor of Law
- Embarcadero YMCA, Board of Managers; Youth Chance High School Advisory Committee, Co-Chair, 2018; Volunteer of the Month, November 2018

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2024-2026
- University of California College of Law, San Francisco, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Excellence in Pro Bono Asylum Award, 2024
- Selected for inclusion in Northern California *Super Lawyers*®, 2025

Languages

- Russian

Past Publications

Co-author, “2 Calif. Rulings Offer Lessons as Foreclosure Crisis Looms,” *Law360* Commentary, Jan. 11, 2021.

Co-author, “Kik Ruling Is a Step Toward Securities Law Clarity for Crypto,” *Law360* Commentary, Nov. 13, 2020.

Co-author, “Amid COVID-19 Closures, Bench and Bar Continue to Wrestle with New Deposition Time

Limit,” Association of Defense Counsel, *Defense Comment Magazine* (Vol. 35 No. 2 /Summer 2020).

Representative Matters

Defended leading technology companies in transportation matters involving multi-sided platforms, personal vehicle sharing and autonomous vehicles.

Defended aircraft maintenance companies, aircraft parts supplier, aircraft owners and a pilot in litigation arising from aviation accidents.

Defended pioneering bitcoin exchange founder against claims of conversion, fraud and breach of contract by alleged cryptocurrency depositors.

Defended toxic tort cases involving allegations of exposure to asbestos, talc, silica, benzene and other substances.

Represented manufacturers of insulation, glass containers, agricultural/construction/lawn-and-garden equipment, pumps, turbines and dryer felts; herbicide and fertilizer distributors; and railroads.

Formulated litigation/negotiation strategy, coordinated discovery responses, managed the defense of toxic tort lawsuits in various jurisdictions and conducted nationwide settlement negotiations.

Engaged in all phases of litigation, including pleadings, written discovery, fact and expert witness depositions, discovery motion practice, motions for summary judgment and other dispositive motions, motions in limine and other pretrial practice, jury selection, trial and appeal.

Prepared and defended expert witnesses, including pathologists, pulmonologists, epidemiologists, industrial hygienists, historians, naval engineers and economists.

Deposed expert witnesses, including pathologists, pulmonologists, occupational medicine specialists, cardiologists, industrial hygienists, naval engineers, asbestos consultants and economists.

Defended juvenile product manufacturer against claims of defects in child car seats, including personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits as well as consumer class action litigation.

Defended leading electronics manufacturer against fire and burn claims; collaborated with origin-and-cause investigators to inspect fire scenes and assess possible causes of fires; worked with electrical engineers to conduct artifact examinations and destructive testing; negotiated with insurance subrogation attorneys to resolve fire claims; defended personal injury lawsuits involving fires and burns.

Defended tool manufacturer in product liability personal injury litigation.

Defended container manufacturer in commercial arbitration arising out of product recall.

Defended video-on-demand technology provider in commercial litigation involving claims of breach of contract, fraud and violation of California's Unfair Competition Law (Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.).

Represented bankrupt manufacturer of asbestos-containing construction materials in

complex litigation to recover funds fraudulently transferred by former parent company.

Represented plaintiffs in personal injury lawsuits involving automobile and motorcycle accidents.

Represented plaintiff in 42 U.S.C. § 1983 civil rights suit, including preparation of a Ninth Circuit appeal and a U.S. Supreme Court petition for writ of certiorari.

Provided pro bono representation to low-income clients, including immigrant families seeking political asylum, tenants in housing disputes and inmate in habeas corpus proceedings.

Represented a global leader in railcar leasing in commercial lawsuit to recover property and enforce contractual obligations.

Defended trustee against claims of undue influence by would-be beneficiary of trustor's estate.

Represented American Civil Liberties Union and the UC Hastings Center for Gender & Refugee Studies in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against Immigration and Customs Enforcement to obtain records regarding the treatment of asylum seekers.