



## Michael L. Lavetter

Associate

Los Angeles  
+1 213-615-1995

Michael focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, delivering pragmatic solutions to clients' business and legal challenges. He understands clients are looking for thoughtful and skilled guidance at all stages of litigation. Whether advocating for a client as first-chair trial counsel, or working to stave off litigation when possible, Michael has successfully resolved commercial and contract disputes, as well as environmental, products liability, intellectual property, and internet litigation.

Michael focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation matters. Before joining Winston, Michael practiced at three boutique litigation firms in Los Angeles, California. He also worked for an international law firm, where he represented pharmaceutical and satellite television clients in well-publicized litigation. Michael has advised corporate and individual clients in a variety of litigation and regulatory matters.

## Key Matters

*Some of the experience represented below may have been handled at a previous firm.*

- Secured summary judgment for a financial guaranty company in a lawsuit brought by issuers of US\$130M in Select Auction Variable Rate Securities, alleging fraud in connection with the purchase of the bonds and swaps
- Successfully tried a breach of contract dispute concerning the sale of rights to collect revenues from a billboard and secured an award of attorneys' fees
- Regained control of a client's website within days utilizing the dispute protocols of ICANN and domain hosts after foreign hackers hijacked the client's URL
- Recovered a multimillion-dollar settlement in a dispute between U.S., Japanese, and Russian parties over failure to repay financing for a fishing fleet
- Represented employees of an asset management firm relating to an investigation by the U.S Attorney's office, SIGTARP (Special Inspector General of the Troubled Asset Relief Program), and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), concluding with no adverse actions taken
- Obtained a favorable settlement for an owner of music venues and a concert promoter in a suit over the ownership of a popular music festival
- Obtained an eve-of-trial favorable settlement for a hazardous waste remediation and demolition company in a breach of contract suit brought by a subcontractor
- Negotiated an end to all infringing conduct and obtained a favorable settlement for a nightclub owner in a suit for trademark infringement and related intellectual property claims against a celebrity, her manager and business partners, and a competing club owner
- Obtained a favorable settlement immediately after filing a complaint over payment owed to a supplier of ingredients to a major cosmetics manufacturer after computer hackers intercepted and misdirected the original payment
- Obtained dismissal with prejudice in a suit against a luxury real estate agent alleging breach of a termination agreement and misappropriation of trade secrets
- Secured dismissals for a group of potentially responsible parties in an ongoing CERCLA litigation
- Represented a large pharmaceutical company in a nationwide class action lawsuit, including as part of a team implementing and administering a multibillion-dollar settlement of more than 50,000 individual plaintiffs' claims

### **Pro Bono Matters**

- Successfully secured the return of a kidnapped child to her parents under the Hague Convention after she was wrongfully removed from the United States by a relative
- Represented a shelter for battered women relating to an inquiry by the County of Los Angeles and during corporate restructuring

## **Recent Experience**

Winston Serves...

## **Recognitions**

- Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, California State Bar, two-time recipient
- Award of Merit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services, Board of Governors of the State Bar of California

# Activities

- Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association
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## Credentials

### EDUCATION

Michael received his B.A. in anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1994. He received his J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law in 2002.

### ADMISSIONS

- California

## Related Insights & News

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### BLOG

Reason Prevails for McDonald's...

OCTOBER 30, 2023

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### BLOG

Cherry-Picking Epidemiological Data...

MARCH 14, 2023

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### NEWS

2020-2021 Pro Bono...

2020-2021

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### IN THE MEDIA

Winston & Strawn Aids...

JUNE 20, 2021

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### PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Negotiates Settlement with...

MAY 14, 2021

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### IN THE MEDIA

Featured in the *Daily*...

**PRESS RELEASE**

Winston & Strawn Expands...

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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**IN THE MEDIA**

Winston & Strawn’s West...

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

# Capabilities

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- Advertising Litigation
- Appellate & Critical Motions
- Financial Services Litigation
- Class Actions & Group Litigation
- Commercial Litigation & Disputes
- eDiscovery & Information Governance
- Product Liability & Mass Torts
- Securities, M&A & Corporate Governance Litigation
- Trade Secrets, Non Competes & Restrictive Covenants
- Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance
- Intellectual Property
- Labor & Employment