



## Aaron C. O'Dell

Partner

Dallas

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Aaron focuses his practice on complex, commercial, business, and employment litigation, as well as internal investigations and white collar criminal defense.

Aaron is a trial lawyer in Winston's Securities Litigation Practice with extensive experience litigating cases from their inception through trial, including trying multiple cases and arbitrations to verdict. He focuses his practice on securities litigation and complex, commercial, and business litigation, as well as internal investigations and white collar criminal defense.

## Key Matters

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

### **Business Litigation**

- Co-tried a three-week California Voting Rights Act trial on behalf of a municipal corporation and drafted the subsequent appellate briefs.

- Won summary adjudication for an international corporation in a multimillion-dollar environmental contamination matter.
- Won complete summary judgment for a manufacturer of dental devices in a product liability action.
- Won complete judgment in a breach of contract action brought by a nationally chartered bank.
- Won dismissal with prejudice and an award of attorneys' fees through an anti-SLAPP motion for a Hollywood producer in a breach of joint-venture agreement action.
- Assisted in successfully arbitrating breach of contract and related claims for an international wind turbine manufacturer, which resulted in a favorable result for the client and a global settlement of remaining arbitrations.
- Assisted in successfully arbitrating breach of contract and royalties-related claims for private equity-backed clothier, which resulted in an award for the client and a global settlement of remaining litigation between the parties.
- Successfully litigated a products liability action on behalf of international appliance manufacturer, which resulted in an extremely favorable settlement on the eve of trial.
- Obtained a quick and favorable settlement for national telecommunications company by removing an improperly filed state action to federal court near client's headquarters.
- Obtained a full judgment for an individual creditor against a defrauding party and assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigations in investigating the defrauding party, resulting in a guilty plea.

### ***Employment Litigation***

- Co-tried a 14-day whistleblower and Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) gender discrimination and retaliation trial for a municipal corporation that resulted in a complete defense verdict for the client.
- Successfully mediated a favorable settlement for a municipal corporation in a FEHA age discrimination matter on the eve of trial.
- Successfully litigated million-dollar vicarious liability suits on behalf of an international non-profit, which resulted in favorable settlements for the client.
- Successfully litigated vicarious liability lawsuits in California and Oklahoma on behalf of rehabilitation centers, which resulted in favorable settlements for the client.

### ***Investigations***

- Conducted an independent investigation for the City of Pasadena into Cannabis Ordinance and retail license-approval process.
- Conducted investigation for a multinational engineering firm into potential improper benefits in hiring executives from the government sector.
- Conducted an investigation for the South Coast Air Quality Management District into alleged conflicts of interest.
- Assisted in conducting an internal investigation for the Board of Directors of a corporation into alleged breaches of fiduciary duty and contract related to the Los Angeles Auto Show.

### ***White Collar***

Represented an individual in an investigation of an allegedly fraudulent healthcare billing scheme brought by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Criminal Division, Fraud Section.

- Assisted in representing principals and employees of a corporation in a criminal investigation by NASA's Office of Inspector General and a related civil action.
- Assisted in representing an executive in the financial industry in investigations brought by the DOJ and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

- Assisted in representing an executive of an international financial institution in an internal investigation and subsequent criminal investigation.

### ***Legal Malpractice***

- Represented an Am Law 50 firm in a multimillion-dollar malpractice action that resulted in a favorable settlement for the client.

### ***Appellate Work***

- Drafted appellate briefs resulting in favorable published opinions in federal and state court – *Butler v. Nat. Comm. Renaissance of California*, 766 F.3d 1191 (9th Cir. 2014); *Jauregui v. City of Palmdale*, 226 Cal. App. 4th 781 (2014).
- Drafted a successful petition for writ of mandate to preserve client’s attorney work product from disclosure.

### ***Expert Opinion***

- Assisted in providing expert opinion on reasonability of fees charged by Am Law 200 firm and litigation boutique firms in litigating parallel criminal and civil trials.

## **Recognitions**

- Recognized in the 2024 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Criminal Defense: White-Collar
  - Joseph E. Mahoney Award for Outstanding Leadership
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## **Activities**

Aaron has represented both companies and executives in private securities litigation in California, New York, and Texas and has achieved outstanding results. Some of those results include winning dismissal of actions filed under the Securities Exchange Act at the pleading stage, defeating class certification, and obtaining favorable settlements for clients both before and after summary judgment. Aaron has also successfully represented both companies and executives in securities litigation with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including convincing the Commission not to bring an action against an individual client through the Wells Notice process and obtaining a favorable settlement for a client following summary judgment.

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## **Credentials**

### **EDUCATION**

Aaron earned his J.D., *cum laude*, from Notre Dame Law School in 2011, where he received the Joseph E. Mahoney Award for Outstanding Leadership after serving as both the Chairman of the Notre Dame Honor Council and President of the Notre Dame Moot Court Board. Aaron graduated with a B.A. in political science in 2008 from the University of Texas at Austin, where he received a Business Foundations Certificate.

He served as a Judicial Clerk in the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles.

He is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School, teaching Trial Advocacy.

### **ADMISSIONS**

- California
- Texas

## Related Insights & News

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### PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Helps Afghan National Security Official Who Translated for the U.S. Military to Secure Asylum  
JANUARY 31, 2024

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### RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024  
AUGUST 17, 2023

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### PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Secures Key Victory for Californians Fleeing Domestic Violence  
MAY 2, 2022

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### BLOG

FTC Targets “Influencers in the Wild”  
DECEMBER 7, 2021

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### PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Names 21 New U.S. Partners  
DECEMBER 7, 2021

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### PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston & Strawn Files Amicus Brief in Support of Survivors of Domestic Violence  
JULY 16, 2021

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### IN THE MEDIA

Featured in the *Daily Journal*: Winston Announces Expansion in Los Angeles  
FEBRUARY 18, 2021

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### PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Expands Los Angeles Office with Addition of 18 Attorneys  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

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### IN THE MEDIA

Winston & Strawn’s West Coast Expansion Featured in *The American Lawyer*

## Capabilities

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Litigation/Trials

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Class Actions & Group Litigation

Government Program Fraud, False Claims Act & Qui Tam Litigation

Securities, M&A & Corporate Governance Litigation

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Labor & Employment

Financial Services

Medical Devices

Life Sciences