

# Robert J. Romero

San Francisco, CA

Los Angeles, CA

He/Him

 415-263-8119

 [rromero@hinshawlaw.com](mailto:rromero@hinshawlaw.com)



## About Robert

Leveraging 30 years of jury trial experience, Robert defends clients in state and federal court across the country in complex commercial cases, directors and officers liability matters, high-exposure insurance bad faith lawsuits, intellectual property disputes, professional liability claims, and catastrophic loss cases. Robert frequently represents clients in *pro hac vice* in multiple states.

Robert represents lawyers and law firms, securities and financial brokers, real estate professionals, and other clients, including Fortune 50 companies. He has had the good fortune to represent clients who understand that not every case should settle. With their active involvement and the support of a focused, unified team, Robert has been able to level the playing field for clients operating in a challenging climate. He also serves as national counsel to several of Hinshaw's corporate clients in high-exposure, extra-contractual, and alleged punitive damage cases.

Previously, Robert was the legislative assistant to the chairman of the California State Assembly Judiciary Committee.

## Robert's Affiliations

- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- Bar Association of San Francisco, Judiciary Committee, Former Member
- Claims & Litigation Management Alliance
- Defense Research Institute
- Professional Liability Underwriters Society (PLUS)

## Areas of Focus

- Industries:** Banking & Financial Institutions; Financial Services; Insurance; Professional Services; Real Estate
- Services:** Complex Commercial Litigation ; Intellectual Property; Litigation & Trial; Securities
- Initiatives:** Lawyers for the Profession®

## Experience

- In May 2025, a unanimous defense verdict was secured in an insurance bad faith case against an international insurer, venued in the Central District of California Federal Court.
- Obtained a unanimous jury defense verdict in an insurance bad faith case arising from a California wildfire loss, venued in the Northern District of California Federal Court in February 2025.
- In 2023, tried and successfully defended a multi-million dollar fraud and recession action in the Los Angeles Superior Court for an international company.
- In 2021, tried a catastrophic loss case in the United States District Court.
- Successfully defended a national insurer in a breach of contract case arising out of sexual molestation case.
- Successfully defended an international insurer in advertising injury coverage claim stemming from trademark and patent litigation.
- Successfully defended disability insurer in ERISA matter alleging insurance bad faith.
- Obtained a \$6 million dollar unanimous jury verdict in Alameda County, California, in favor of an international company that was affirmed at the Court of Appeal and satisfied, including over \$1 million in post-judgment interest.
- Successfully defended a national insurer in a catastrophic bodily injury and property damage claim arising from the Ka Loko Dam break in Kuai, Hawaii.
- In 2019, successfully defended a multidistrict director and officer case arising out of the fracking, oil, and gas industry.
- Defended and counseled media and other clients in defamation and intellectual property disputes in California and New York.
- Obtained a defense verdict in a million-dollar fraud, negligence, and breach of contract lawsuit, venued in the San Mateo County Superior Court following a three-week trial. The case arose out of various allegations of professional negligence, misrepresentation and included a claim of punitive damages.
- In October 2012, successfully obtained a defense verdict on behalf of a large real estate brokerage in a fraud, breach of contract, and negligence claim following a two-week trial in Alameda County, California.
- Unanimous jury verdict in Los Angeles County in favor of an insurer sued for breach of contract and negligence.
- Verdict in San Mateo County in favor of National Real Estate Brokerage in fraud, breach of contract, and negligence case.

- Successfully defended international insurer in action filed in California and London, alleging bad faith and breach of contract. The case was affirmed by the California Court of Appeal.
- Verdict in favor of a San Francisco landowner in breach of contract case.
- Jury verdict in favor of law firm for professional negligence in the San Francisco Superior Court.
- Successfully defended design professional in a negligence claim arising from a multimillion underlying construction project.
- Unanimous jury verdict in Alameda County, California, in favor of an insurance agent and broker sued for negligence and insurance bad faith.
- Successfully defended a law firm in a malpractice allegation arising from a wrongful termination claim by an airline employee.
- Successfully defended a law firm in a malpractice allegation arising from the mishandling of underlying trademark and patent infringement claims.
- Successfully defended a law firm in a malpractice claim involving allegations of family law standard of care issues.
- Successfully defended an international financial institution in unfair business practices and fraud claims.
- Successfully defended a law firm against allegations of abuse of process and malicious prosecution.

## Recognition

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Insurance: Insurer – California, Band 4, 2024 – 2025
- *Northern California Super Lawyers*, 2006 – 2020, 2023 – 2025
- Minority Corporate Counsel Association, *Diversity & The Bar*, Top 16 Rainmaker, United States, December 2008
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV<sup>®</sup> Peer Review Rating

## Credentials

### Education

University of California Davis School of Law, JD, 1988

California State University – Sacramento, BA, 1985

### Bar Admissions

California

### Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

US District Court for the District of Arizona

US District Court for the Central District of California

US District Court for the Eastern District of California

US District Court for the Northern District of California

US District Court for the Southern District of California

US District Court for the District of Hawaii

US District Court for the District of Minnesota

## Interests

### Did you know...

Outside the office, Robert enjoys golf, running, weight training, scuba diving, and most importantly, spending time with his three daughters, who are now young adult professionals making their own way. From the Napa Valley, Robert also enjoys wine and is an avid fan of the (Forever) Oakland Raiders, Oakland Athletics, and still local Golden State Warriors.

### Community/Civic Activities

- Bar Association of San Francisco Managing Partner Circle

## Thought Leadership

### Presentations

- Moderator, “Voir Dire: The Art of Jury De-selection in a Legal Malpractice Case,” Hinshaw’s Legal Malpractice & Risk Management (LMRM) Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 4, 2020
- “Direct Examination; Trial Objections,” California Trial Advocacy, San Francisco, California, August 3, 2016
- “Attorney-Client Privilege in House Counsel Environment,” at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Association of California Insurance Companies (ACIC) General Counsel Seminar, July 22, 2015

Robert’s additional presentations include:

- “Hot Topics in Professional Liability, Medical and Products Liability Law,” Markel Corporation
- “California Fair Claims Settlement Practices Regulations,” Colony Insurance Company
- “Preparing Your Case for Trial, Including Motions in Limine/Deposition Designations,” Practising Law Institute
- “Expert Witnesses—Can’t Live With ‘Em—Can’t Live Without ‘Em. Tips on the Use and Misuse of Experts in Bad Faith and Coverage Case,” American Bar Association’s Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee Meeting
- “Panel Discussion on Professional Development,” American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity Spring Program
- “Insuring the Information Age,” Professional Liability Underwriting Society
- “Is It OK to Be Wrong? Can an Insurer Avoid an Extra-Contractual Liability if its Position is Fairly Debatable?” Hinshaw’s Insurance Services Symposium
- “Indemnity Agreements (Contract & Coverage Issues),” In-House Client Presentation

- “Beyond Bad-Faith and Non-Cooperation: Moving to an Appraisal-Centric Model for Resolving Property Damage Claims,” American Bar Association’s Litigation Section, Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee CLE Seminar
- “Recognizing and Avoiding the Enhanced Risk of Extra-Contractual Exposure,” Hinshaw’s Insurance Services Symposium
- “The Industry Responds to the Economic Storm,” Hinshaw’s Insurance Services Symposium
- “How Not to Respond to Catastrophic Loss,” Hinshaw’s Insurance Services Symposium
- “Litigating the ‘Bad Faith’ Claim,” Hinshaw’s Insurance Services Symposium
- “Electronic Discovery,” Association of Minority Corporation Counsel’s 2nd Annual Continuing Education Conference
- “Mock Trial,” Association of Legal Administrators’ National Conference
- “Cyber-Tort Liability,” Annual International Professional Liability Underwriting Society Conference

## Publications

- Editor, “[Legal Malpractice: The Law Office Guide to Purchasing Legal Malpractice Insurance](#),” *West Group*

## Events

- Robert Romero to Present at PLI’s California Trial Advocacy 2016 Seminar, Aug 3, 2016
- Robert Romero to Present at PLI’s California Trial Advocacy 2015 Seminar, Aug 5, 2015
- Ed Donohue and Robert Romero to Present at ACIC’s 26th General Counsel Seminar, Jul 22, 2015
- Preparing Your Case for Trial, Including Motions in Limine/Deposition Designations, Aug 7, 2013
- Expert Witnesses—Can’t Live With ‘Em—Can’t Live Without ‘Em. Tips on the Use and Misuse of Experts in Bad Faith and Coverage Cases, Mar 1, 2013

## In The News

- Robert Romero Quoted in Law360 Article Discussing Tips For Crafting Attorney-Client ADR Pacts, Mar 10, 2016

## Insights for Insurers Alert

- Insurer Has Duty to Defend Where Complaint Against Insured Potentially Stated a Claim for Slogan Infringement, Nov 16, 2010

## Press Releases

- Hinshaw Earns National Recognition in 2025 *Chambers USA* Directory, Jun 5, 2025
- 2024 Edition of *Chambers USA* Recognizes Hinshaw for its Insurance, Aviation, and Financial Services Practices, Jun 6, 2024

- Hinshaw Names Four New Members of Management Committee, May 18, 2016
- Hinshaw & Culbertson Expands Square Footage in San Francisco Office, Aug 4, 2015
- Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP and Barger & Wolen LLP Announce Merger, Sep 2, 2014

[\*View all of Robert's Insights\*](#)