

John (Jack) S. Pierce

San Francisco, CA

He/Him

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About Jack

With almost five decades of trial work, Jack maintains a broad national practice focusing on complex litigation. He has handled a wide variety of cases involving complex business litigation, defense of corporations and their officers and directors in cases involving corporate financial claims, professional liability matters, prosecution of commercial misappropriation and fraud cases, *qui tam* cases, international business disputes, anti-SLAPP suit matters, attorney fee disputes, insurance coverage matters, mass tort litigation, international maritime law, and construction contract disputes.

Jack has served as an expert witness, consultant, and arbitrator in a wide variety of legal fee disputes. He also serves as a consultant and legal fee expert in cases involving issues such as intellectual property disputes, business litigation matters, mass tort litigation, PFAS cases, PCB cases, breast implant litigation, intellectual property matters, commercial disputes, environmental coverage disputes, recording royalty disputes, and mass asbestos litigation.

He is nationally recognized for his service as an expert witness in the areas of legal fee disputes, fee and cost allocation, legal ethics, and lawyers' legal and ethical responsibilities that arise from the tripartite relationship between insurers, insureds, and defense counsel. He has argued related issues before state supreme courts in many jurisdictions across the country.

Jack's Affiliations

- The State Bar of California
- The Fellows of the American Bar Association, Fellow
- American Bar Association, Torts and Insurance Practice Committee; International Law & Practice Committee

- Association of Marine Underwriters
- Bar Association of San Francisco
- Maritime Law Association of the United States, Proctor

Areas of Focus

Industries: Construction; Financial Services; Insurance; Professional Services

Services: Complex Commercial Litigation ; Complex Tort & General Casualty; Environmental ; Insurance Coverage Litigation & Counseling; Intellectual Property; Labor & Employment; Litigation & Trial

Initiatives: Lawyers for the Profession®

Recognition

- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rating

Credentials

Education

University of California Hastings Law, JD, 1976

University of Notre Dame, BA, 1970

Bar Admissions

California

Languages

French

Interests

Did you know...

An active lacrosse player, Jack has competed at the collegiate, club, and World Game levels with Team USA and other international teams. He was co-captain of the University of Notre Dame's lacrosse team. In 2013, he was inducted into the US Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Northern California Chapter, as a member of the Class of 2012.

His alternate career path would be as a landscape architect or a professional Irish storyteller (which might include a tad bit of genetically enhanced embellishment).

Thought Leadership

Presentations

- “Evaluation of Attorneys’ Fees in Complex Litigation,” New York, New York, June 2016
- “ETHICS – Ethical Dilemmas in the Tripartite Relationship Including Issues Unique to Insurance Defense Staff Counsel Operations,” Claims & Litigation Management Annual Meeting, roundtable discussion, Boca Raton, Florida, April 2014
- “E-Billing, E-Strategy, E-Discovery,” Council on Litigation Management, Litigation Management Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York, October 2013
- “Are Lawyers’ Fees Fair and Reasonable in All The Circumstances,” International Bar Association, Annual Conference, Dublin, Ireland, October 2012
- “Rethinking Legal Fees in Lean Times,” Council on Litigation Management, 2010 Annual Conference, Ponte Vedra, Florida, March 2010
- “The Fee Dispute Case & The Fee Expert,” National Association of Legal Fee Analysis seminar, “Attorney Fee Disputes in a Volatile and Uncertain Economy,” San Francisco, California, March 2009
- “How to Conduct Fair and Effective Qualitative Legal Audits,” The Council on Litigation Management, Annual Conference, “Bulletproofing the Defense Alliance,” Phoenix, Arizona, March 2009
- “Economics of Litigation Management,” The Council on Litigation Management, Litigation Management Training seminar, San Francisco, California, December 2008
- “Litigation 101 for Insurance Professionals,” The Council on Litigation Management, Litigation Management Training seminar, San Francisco, California, December 2008

Publications

- Contributing Author, “Insurance Practices and Coverage in Liability Defense, Second Edition,” *Wolters Kluwer Law & Business*, December 2013
- “Insurance Issues Facing the Cruise Line and Travel Industries,” *AM Best Podcasts*, March 11, 2013
- Contributing Author, “Defending the Insured,” Aspen Publishers, Inc., 2004 - 2006 and 2008
- “Millennium Crisis: Casualties on Both Sides in the Unholy War Between Insurers and the Defense Bar Over Issues of Staff Counsel, Legal Audits and Billing Guidelines,” Mealey’s Attorney Fees Conference, March 2000
- “Ethics or Economics? The Ethics of Insurer-Imposed Billing Guidelines and the Propriety of Permitting Billing Statements to be Received by Third-Party Auditors,” Mealey’s Conference on Attorney Fees, February 1999
- “A Practical Approach to Implementing Recovery Under Buss,” *Underwriter’s Report*, September 1997
- “Disclosure of Protected Communications and Documents to Legal Auditors,” *Journal Of Legal Auditing*, Vol. 1, Spring 1996
- Co-Author, “How to Use a Legal Audit Report,” *Legal Audit Review*, Vol. 2, May 1994
- “Recent Developments in Attorney Fee Disputes,” 7 *U.S.F. Mar. L.J.* 205, Nov. 1994

In The News

- Janis Meyer and Jack Pierce Quoted in Law360 Article on Preparing Clients for Legal Bills, Aug 5, 2016