



JESSE GESSIN'S CURRICULUM VITAE



Jesse@Gessin.Ltd



Gessin.Ltd

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Gessin Ltd, San Clemente, California

November 2020 • Present

Principal

Representing businesses and individuals in civil and criminal proceedings with a focus on taking cases to trial.

Representative Matters include:

- *Vincent v. Stephens*: Retained as trial counsel for the defense a week before a civil bench trial over allegations of wrongful investments of a \$40,000,000 trust. The case was tried in the historic Anacapa Courthouse in Santa Barbara. After a three-week trial, the court issued a complete defense verdict.
- *Marin v. Buenrostro*: After years of litigation, retained on the eve of trial to represent homeowners in a real estate boundary dispute. After a week-long bench trial, the court issued an injunction in our clients' favor.
- *Sir Richard Starkey (aka Ringo Starr) v. Pacific Coast Holdings IP*: Defense counsel in trademark action filed by Ringo Starr. Case dismissed after defeating summary judgment paving the way for trial.
- *Fewster v. Hoag Hospital*: Achieved extraordinary TRO requiring incapacitated patient to receive life-preserving medical care.
- *Balboa Capitol Corporation v. Parisa Safaei, D.M.D. and Red Rocks Dental*: Entered matter after two years of litigation and obtained in trial court rare reversal of judgment.
- *Ross et al. v. Joseph et al.*: Plaintiffs' counsel in consolidated contract, derivative shareholder, fiduciary duty, and tort matter. Two times a mistrial was declared due to judge recusals in the middle of trial. On eve of the third trial the matter settled.

Keller/Anderle LLP, Irvine, California

February 2017 • November 2020

Partner

High-stakes business trials and litigation for public and private corporations, high-net-worth individuals, municipalities, and start-ups. Matter types include intellectual property, contracts, torts, wills and trusts, breach of fiduciary duty and other civil causes of action. Responsibilities include acting as lead trial counsel, taking and defending depositions, managing preparation of all trial materials, and managing, drafting and arguing dispositive motions.

Representative Matters include:

- *Howard v. A Law Firm*: Lead counsel in breach of fiduciary duty and legal malpractice jury trial centering on trusts and estates and resulting in a multi-million-dollar verdict. Topverdict.com ranks the verdict as the largest breach of fiduciary duty and legal malpractice jury verdict in California for 2018. The verdict stands as one of the most sizeable legal malpractice verdicts in California in the past five years.
- *Chavez v. MassMutual*: Represented MassMutual as part of trial team in a rare successful defense of a class action in a jury trial. Drafted key cross-examinations and opening and closing statements. This case was ranked as one of the top defense verdicts in California for 2018 by California's leading legal publication, the Daily Journal, and one of the top defense verdicts in the United States by the only dedicated courtroom broadcasting network, Courtroom View Network.
- *Core Health and Fitness v. National Union (AIG)*: Handled trial preparations for defense of AIG in multi-million-dollar insurance bad faith action. Case dismissed on summary judgment.

University of California, Irvine School of Law

2015 • Present

Lecturer

Designed and instructed a trial advocacy course centering on trial techniques from the greatest trial lawyers of the last 200 years.

Federal Public Defender, Central District of California

April 2007 • January 2017

& District of the Virgin Islands

Deputy Federal Public Defender

Handled hundreds of cases at all stages of litigation including trials and appeals. Lead counsel in over twenty felony jury trials to verdict with an extraordinary success rate. Achieved dismissal, acquittal, mistrial, or reversal on appeal in over seventy percent of federal felony jury trials, twenty-five percent ending in a jury's total acquittal. Through sentencing and post-conviction advocacy collectively spared clients hundreds of years in prison.

- Secured jury acquittals for numerous clients charged with federal felonies, including bribery, gun possession, drug trafficking, threatening a federal officer, immigration offenses and other crimes.
- Obtained a rare immediate release order for client serving a federal mandatory minimum life sentence based on successful post-conviction proceedings.
- Obtained dismissal of all charges for several clients after successfully litigating motions to suppress evidence and motions to dismiss.
- Won reversal of conviction and judgment of acquittal for bank fraud client.
- Achieved dismissal of all charges based on novel constitutional challenge for client who was witnessed by law enforcement throwing away forty-five thousand pills of ecstasy during a high-speed chase.
- In high profile double homicide case against two brothers achieved dismissal after defense motion based on prosecutorial and police misconduct.
- Defended tax preparation company owner in largest federal tax fraud scheme of its kind in United States history.
- Obtained judgement of acquittal on all charges for pilot charged with alien smuggling.
- Designed legal strategy to declare the government's continued prosecution of medical cannabis businesses illegal under an appropriations law. The legal strategy has since been used by attorneys in high-profile cases and featured in the New York Times and other national media.
- Secured reversal of conviction in drug trafficking case by federal court of appeals based on ground-breaking theory of prosecutorial misconduct.

Private Civil Practice, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands September 2005 •
March 2007 *Summer Associate and Associate - Dudley Topper Feuerzeig LLP (now Dudley Newman Feuerzeig LLP)*
Associate - The Brusch Law Firm

Dudley Newman Feuerzeig is an offshore litigation boutique that specializes in commercial, admiralty and international insurance defense. Managed discovery, researched legal issues, wrote memoranda, non-dispositive and dispositive motions including for dismissal and summary judgment. The Brusch Law Firm was a trial-focused criminal defense and personal injury law firm. Handled all aspects of litigation for the personal injury practice and responsible, as second-chair, for preparing criminal defense cases for trial.

EDUCATION AND TRIAL ADVOCACY CERTIFICATIONS

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC
Juris Doctor with honors, May 2005

University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA
Bachelor of Arts with distinction and department honors, History and Communications,
December 2000

Western Trial Advocacy Institute, Laramie, WY, 2010
Certification in Trial Advocacy

National Criminal Defense College, Macon, GA, 2010
Certification in Trial Advocacy

HONORS AND BAR MEMBERSHIPS

Honors - Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America - Orders of Veritas and Certus: An invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society with membership limited to 3,500 Fellows, representing less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers • Member, Trial Lawyer Institute and Diversity Law Institute • Member, Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum • *The Best Lawyers in America*, S. Naifeh & G. Smith • *Los Angeles Magazine*, Southern California Super Lawyer in Business Litigation • *Benchmark Litigation* "Future Star" • *The Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals*, "Top Defense Verdicts" • *TopVerdict*, Top 100 Plaintiff's Verdict in California • California Lawyer's Association, Jury Instruction Committee and Access to Justice Committee Member • Orange County Jewish Bar Association, Director • Orange County Bar Association, Community Outreach Committee Member • American Bar Association, Member

Bar Memberships - California (State Bar Specialization in Criminal Law), Virgin Islands, and Federal Courts

PUBLICATIONS

- *Bit by Bit: Breaking Down the Ninth Circuit's Frameworks for Jury Misconduct in the Digital Age* (Nevada Law Journal)
- *"Were They Lying?" Questions: A Practitioner's Look at the California Rule Versus the Federal Rule* (Orange County Bar Association Journal - "Orange County Lawyer")
- *Ban the Billable Hour: Alternate Fee Arrangements in Business Disputes* (Orange County Business Journal)
- *Using a Centuries-Old Trial Attorney Technique to Create Extraordinary Efficiencies in the Discovery Process for Business Disputes* (Orange County Business Journal)
- *Is Uncle Sam Judgment-Proofing Your Qui Tam?* (Orange County Lawyer)
- *Why You Should Hire a Trial Attorney for a Case That Will Never Go to Trial*, with Jennifer Keller (Orange County Business Journal)
- *The Waning Days of Sunshine in the Securities Class Action Plaintiffs' Paradise*, with Jennifer Keller (Orange County Business Journal)
- *Could the Feds Make a Felony Case Out of a Lost Lunch Receipt?* (Best Lawyers - "Legal Insights")