



JEFFREY M. BLANK

Partner

ORANGE COUNTY
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Mr. Blank specializes in all forms of commercial litigation, employment litigation and contracts, sports law, all forms of real estate law, and alternative dispute resolution.

Sports Law. A renowned sports law expert, Mr. Blank spearheads the firm's Sports Law Practice Group. As a certified baseball agent and sports attorney, Mr. Blank has represented baseball players in baseball arbitration cases and has handled arbitration work for other baseball agents for their clients. Mr. Blank also represents agents and sports agencies in various matters, including grievance proceedings and the drafting of employment agreements. He has developed an expertise with respect to restrictive covenants. He also has handled a multitude of other sports-law related matters for clients, including California Interscholastic Federation ("CIF") appeals, family law matters, estate planning, and a wide assortment of litigation cases. Mr. Blank also serves as an adjunct professor in Sports Law, most recently teaching the class at UC Irvine School of Law.

Litigation. As a partner in the firm's Commercial Litigation Practice Group, Mr. Blank specializes in class actions and complex litigation matters. He has extensive experience dealing with various federal and state acts, including the Truth In Lending Act (TILA), the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), Consumer Legal Remedies Act (CLRA), California's Unfair Competition Law (UCL), and the new U.S. Food and Drug Administration Regulations applicable to manufacturers of electronic cigarette products, including e-liquids.

Real Estate. Mr. Blank, a licensed real estate broker, is also a member of the firm's Real Estate Practice Group. He has wide-ranging experience dealing with complex real estate matters, including the negotiation of commercial lease agreements and litigation surrounding real estate projects and transactions, including cases involving construction defects, adverse possession, and eminent domain/condemnation.

Alternative Dispute Resolution. Mr. Blank has developed an expertise in mediation, due to his extensive negotiation experience and belief that alternative dispute resolution should be explored in each litigation matter. He earned a certificate under the California Dispute Resolutions Programs Act from the Loyola Law School Center For Conflict Resolution and completed an intensive "Mediating the Litigated Case" course at Pepperdine's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. As a member of the firm's Mediation Practice Group, Mr. Blank helps parties resolve matters before they file a lawsuit and helps other lawyers resolve pending litigation matters for their clients.

Prior Experience. Before joining the firm, Mr. Blank worked as an attorney at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, LLP, one of the top law firms in the country, for over six years. Mr. Blank was a member of the firm's Business Trial practice group and the Real Estate and Land Use Litigation practice group. Mr. Blank also served on the Recruiting Committee for the Orange County office. Additionally, Mr. Blank was in charge of mentoring and handling assignment

ADMISSIONS

- » All courts of the State of California
- » U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- » U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

EDUCATION

- » J.D., University of California Los Angeles, 2001
- » B.A., Communications Studies, University of California Los Angeles, *cum laude*, 1998

coordination for the summer associates in the Orange County office. Mr. Blank was elected by his peers to serve on the firm's Associate Issues Committee.

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

As a certified baseball agent and sports attorney, Mr. Blank has handled complex negotiations and baseball arbitrations. In 2008, Mr. Blank obtained the second largest raise of any major league baseball player through the arbitration process and in 2009, he obtained a contract in excess of \$7 million through the arbitration process for his client Garrett Atkins.

Mr. Blank's most recent accomplishments include a bench trial victory in a lawsuit involving an ownership dispute concerning a duplex, and the obtaining of a dismissal of a lawsuit brought by six operators of medical marijuana dispensaries regarding the constitutionality of a city's total ban on such dispensaries.

Mr. Blank has worked on numerous high profile litigation cases.

- » He was Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton's lead associate on the high profile dispute between the City of Anaheim and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim concerning the team's name change.
- » In a matter of first impression in California courts, Mr. Blank conducted extensive research and carefully drafted briefs arguing that the right to rescind contracts under the Truth In Lending Act does not apply on a class-wide basis. The trial court agreed with Mr. Blank's arguments and the trial court decision was upheld in a landmark decision by the Appellate Court, which held that the right of rescission under the Truth In Lending Act is a personal remedy not suitable for class action treatment. *Laliberte v. Pacific Mercantile Bank* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 1.
- » In a highly publicized eminent domain case, Mr. Blank authored the critical briefs which led to Cottonwood Christian Center successfully obtaining a preliminary injunction against the City of Cypress which was trying to take Cottonwood's land. *Cottonwood Christian Center v. City of Cypress* (C.D. Cal. 2002) 218 F.Supp.2d 1203.

HONORS

- » Mr. Blank was recognized as the CRF-OC Mock Trial Attorney Coach of the Year on February 14, 2014.
- » In December 2014, Mr. Blank was selected as one of the Most Influential People In Orange County by the Orange County Register and was featured in the Laguna Niguel News, an edition of the Orange County Register.

COMMUNITY

- » Mr. Blank has served as a volunteer mediator on the Los Angeles Superior Court pro bono mediation panel and has served as a volunteer mediator with Community Service Programs (CSP) through which he has mediated small claims court disputes in the Orange County Superior Court system. Mr. Blank has also served as a member of the Orange County Bar Association's Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee wherein he has been on arbitration panels hearing cases concerning fee disputes between lawyers and their clients.
- » An active member of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Orange County ("CRF-OC"). Mr. Blank serves as a high school mock trial coach and as a member of the CRF-OC's Career Day committee.
- » For the past six years, Mr. Blank has taught and mentored high school students, serving as the Attorney Coach for the Trabuco Hills High School mock trial team. In December of 2016, the Trabuco Hills High School team won the Orange County mock trial championship in a competition that featured 46 teams from 37 different schools in Orange County.
- » Mr. Blank was recognized as the CRF-OC Mock Trial Attorney Coach of the Year on February 14, 2014.
- » Mr. Blank frequently judges and scores mock trial and moot court competitions at the high school, college, and law school levels, including the UCLA School of Law Moot Court Honors Program Spring Competition in 2013 and 2014, the 2012, 2015, and 2016 UCLA Mock Trial Tournament, the November 2012 UCI Mock Trial Tournament, the 2012 Claremont Regional (American Mock Trial Association Tournament, hosted by Claremont-McKenna), the 2012 and 2014 Opening Round Championship Series (American Mock Trial Association Tournament, hosted by UC Irvine), and the championship rounds of the 2013 and 2014 CRF-OC High School Mock Trial Tournament. Mr. Blank served as a presiding judge in all four rounds of the 2016 CRF California High School Mock Trial Championship in Sacramento, California and as a presiding judge for one round and a scorer for another round of the 2015 CRF California High School Mock Trial Championship in Riverside, California.
- » Mr. Blank is also an active supporter of KidWorks, a non-profit in central Santa Ana serving at-risk youth and their families.