



## JEFFREY M. BLANK

Managing Partner

### ORANGE COUNTY

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Jeff Blank is an esteemed attorney whose unwavering commitment to zealous advocacy and community contributions has defined his illustrious career. Boasting over two decades of experience, Mr. Blank adeptly represents businesses and individuals with precision and finesse.

Known for his complex problem-solving skills, exceptional communication, and fairness, Mr. Blank serves as the managing partner of GRBB, where his practice thrives on the bedrock of referrals and repeat business. Combining empathetic listening with strategic counsel, he provides clients with not only a sympathetic ear, but also compelling business advice tailored to their unique needs and objectives. Mr. Blank's bespoke legal strategies are crafted with precision, ensuring that each client receives personalized attention and unparalleled representation.

Renowned for his astute comprehension and adept navigation of intricate legal landscapes, Mr. Blank particularly enjoys working within the appellate sector and defending complex cases, including class actions, particularly those relating to intellectual property. After an efficacious career and track record, he was hired by Northeastern Law School in 2017 to educate internationally trained lawyers. Since 2017, Mr. Blank has held the honor of educating an Intellectual Property & Technology class in the school's Master of Laws (LLM) program every year. He was then asked to develop and teach an Intellectual Property & Media course in Northeastern's Master of Legal Studies ("MLS") where Mr. Blank teaches non-lawyer professionals who would like to use the law as a means to achieve their goals in environments where legal knowledge is an asset.

Mr. Blank also represents and defends major sports supplement companies and sports and apparel companies against false advertising claims and ADA claims among others. As a real estate broker, he has drawn upon his foundational experience and formal training to build a thriving real estate litigation practice.

Formerly a certified baseball agent, representing professional players helped pave the path for Mr. Blank to represent players in a wide variety of legal matters. Additionally, he represents agents in grievance proceedings and employment contracts.

In addition to the intense negotiation experience Mr. Blank obtained as a baseball agent, Mr. Blank 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. Mr. Blank holds the deep-rooted and proven belief that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) should be explored in each litigation matter before jumping into trial, which can be both emotionally taxing and financially burdensome.

After graduating from UCLA School of Law, Mr. Blank served as an attorney at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, an AM Law 100 law firm. Mr. Blank was a commendable member of the firm's Business Trial practice group in addition to its Real Estate and Land Use Litigation practice group.

### 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

## 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.

Recent accomplishments include successfully trying a business litigation case with partner Norma Garcia Guillen where the Court entered a \$2.7 million judgment in favor of GRBB's client following a bench trial. Mr. Blank and Ms. Garcia Guillen also teamed up to obtain a bench trial victory in a lawsuit involving an ownership dispute concerning a duplex. Mr. Blank obtained 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.

## COMMUNITY

- » Mr. Blank serves on the executive board and on the management board of the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Orange County ("CRF-OC"), a non-profit, non-partisan education organization dedicated to promoting civic literacy, youth leadership, and career awareness among Orange County teens. He is currently co-chair of the CRF-OC's Career Forum Committee, and a member of the CRF-OC Mock Trial committee.
- » Since 2011, 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. In January of 2024, Trabuco Hills High School won Championship Round A for its eighth consecutive victory before falling in Championship Round B and finishing as the county's runner-up.
- » In April of 2024, Mr. Blank's mock trial student Daniel Tinacci was named as the Henry Moore Orator of the Year and received a \$2,500 college scholarship from the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association.
- » 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. Most recently, Mr. Blank served as the presiding judge for four rounds of the 2024 Teach Democracy Mock Trial Championship in Los Angeles and for three rounds of the 2023 CRF California High School Mock Trial Championship in Los Angeles. In 2019, Mr. Blank served as the presiding judge in four rounds, including a semifinal round, of the 2019 CRF California High School Mock Trial Championship in Sacramento, California. Mr. Blank also served as the presiding judge in four rounds, including a semifinal round, of the 2019 Gladiator 1-on-1 Mock Trial World Championship. Previously, Mr. Blank served as the presiding judge in two rounds of the 2019 CRF California High School Mock Trial Championship in Orange County, California, four rounds of the 2016 CRF California High School Mock Trial Championship in Sacramento, California, and one round of the 2015 CRF California High School Mock Trial Championship in Riverside, California.
- » 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 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.
- » Mr. Blank has been an active supporter of KidWorks, a non-profit in central Santa Ana serving at-risk youth and their families.

#### 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.

#### SPEECHES & PUBLICATIONS

- » In 2024, Mr. Blank moderated and spoke on the Sports Panel at CRF-OC's Annual Orange County Career Forum.
- » Since 2017, Mr. Blank is a part-time lecturer at Northeastern University School of Law, developing and teaching an Intellectual Property & Technology course in the school's Master of Laws (LLM) program, a post-graduate law program designed for U.S. or internationally trained lawyers looking for individualized professional growth. Mr. Blank also developed and is currently teaching an Intellectual Property & Media course in Northeastern's Master of Legal Studies ("MLS") where Mr. Blank teaches non-lawyer professionals who would like to use the law as a means to achieve their goals in environments where legal knowledge is an asset.
- » On May 8, 2018, Mr. Blank's blog post regarding the interplay between social media and intellectual property law was published on the Northeastern website. <https://graduate.northeastern.edu/resources/intellectual-property-and-social-media/>
- » In 2014, Mr. Blank served as a speaker on the panel entitled "How Legal Skills Translate Into Sports Agency" at the Chapman Entertainment & Sports Law Symposium.
- » In 2014, Mr. Blank moderated and spoke on the Sports Panel at CRF-OCs 30th Annual Orange County Career Forum.
- » In 2012, Mr. Blank, along with fellow Partner Laura Noroski, presented an interactive seminar on mediation fundamentals to doctoral students at Northeastern University.