



JIM HEFFNER PARTNER



Jim Heffner is a litigation partner and Chair of Hahn Loeser’s San Diego Litigation Practice Group, primarily handling high-stakes business disputes, complex commercial litigation, and large exposure employment litigation. He has a unique perspective, representing plaintiffs and defendants in a broad range of disputes.

Jim knows from experience what motivates plaintiffs and defendants. This dual perspective informs his litigation and trial tactics, settlement negotiations, and mediation presentations. Jim’s emphasis on case-specific legal strategy results in efficient and effective tactics often unimagined by the opposition.

Far from a cookie-cutter practice turning out the same case time after time, Jim thrives on variety, flexibility, and creativity. He draws on his passion for the law, deep desire to win, and business acumen to the benefit of his clients, large and small.

Jim’s varied practice has given him substantial experience in litigation involving class-action defense, partnerships and other fiduciary relationships, officer and director liability, contracts, unfair competition, trade secrets, intellectual property, construction and real estate disputes, bad faith insurance claims, and actions for wrongful termination or wage and hour claims, including class action and Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA).

Jim has a long-standing interest in technology and the cutting-edge intersection of technology, business, and the law. He applies his deep understanding of electronically stored information and communications to gain effective litigation advantages. He has mastered the contours of data preservation and production obligations in a variety of contexts and jurisdictions, giving his clients considerable advantages when seeking hard to obtain evidence.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Complete defense at trial on behalf of real estate developer in commercial dispute
- Obtained District Court judgment in favor of numerous defendants in major RICO action and defeated the appeal in the Ninth Circuit resolving the case entirely in defendants’ favor with an award of fees
- Representation of Fortune 500 company in Superior Court through appeal defending a breach of fiduciary duty class action resulting in complete defense and judgment awarding defense fees in excess of \$1 million
- Successful defense at trial of the chairman of the board of publicly traded company against multi-million-dollar contractual interference claim
- Favorable resolution of multiple trade secret matters representing both plaintiffs and defendants
- Successful defense of Fortune 500 retailer company against class action arising out of the sale of diet drug
- Successful defense of major pharmaceutical company against

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PRIMARY PRACTICES

Litigation

Complex Commercial Litigation

Trade Secrets

Non-Competition & Trade Secret Litigation

Tort Litigation

Labor & Employment

Employment Litigation

Labor & Employment Class Action

- product liability claim seeking \$20 million in damages
- Successful defense of two of the world's largest banks against numerous claims for violation of fair credit reporting and fair debt collection laws

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; U.S. District Courts for the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of California

EDUCATION

- University of San Francisco School of Law, J.D., Top 5%, *magna cum laude*, 2006
- Merit Scholarship Recipient; Law Review Senior Staff, Member; 2nd Place Moot Court National Environmental Negotiations Competition; Moot Court Best Oral Argument; CALI Award for Excellence in Corporations, Property, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure; Business Law Association, President and Founder; Dean's Honor Society; Student Senate, Member
- Arizona State University, W.P. Carey School of Business, Business Management, B.S., 2002

AWARDS & HONORS

- Leaders of Influence in Law, San Diego Business Journal, 2024
- SD Metro, Men of Accomplishment, 2022
- SD Metro, San Diego's Top Attorneys, 2021
- Rising Star, San Diego Super Lawyers®, 2015-16, 2018
- Top 40 Under 40 honoree, San Diego Daily Transcript, 2018
- "Top Lawyer," San Diego Magazine, Complex Commercial Litigation, 2018-present
- AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell
- Welsh Inn Presentation Award, 2014-15

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- La Jolla Bar Association, current Board member and past President
- San Diego County Bar Association, Member
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Member
- Welsh Inn of Court, former barrister
- State Bar of California, Member

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Partner, Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, 2016-present; Associate, 2012-15.
- Associate, Morris Polich and Purdy, 2009-12.
- Associate, Reed Smith, 2006-09; Summer Associate 2005.
- USF Law Clinic, Investor Justice Center, 2005-06.
- In-House Counsel Internship, Panalpina Group, 2004.