Robert B. Barnett

Partner

Robert B. Barnett has a diverse practice representing national and international corporations and individuals on a wide variety of matters.

Bob represents major corporations in litigation matters, corporate work, contracts, crisis management, transactions, government relations, and media relations. During his thirty years of practice, he has represented clients before almost every executive department and administrative agency in Washington. His clients have included JM Family Enterprises, Toyota, Deutsche Bank, Discovery Communications, Comcast, MacAndrews & Forbes, Revlon, the NBA, Southeast Toyota, Promontory Financial Group, McDonald's Corporation, General Electric, and Toll Brothers, among others.

Bob is one of the premier authors' representatives in the world. His clients have included Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, James Patterson, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Michelle Obama, Laura Bush, Bob Woodward, Sarah Palin, Dick Cheney, Alan Greenspan, Katharine Graham, Ben Bernanke, Paul Ryan, Tim Russert, Barbra Streisand, Jack Welch, Khaled Hosseini, Bill Walton, Mitch McConnell, Jake Tapper, Phil Knight, Mary Higgins Clark, several former U.S. Secretaries of State and Secretaries of the Treasury, numerous U.S. Senators and House members, Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, Queen Noor of Jordan, The Prince of Wales, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, and many others, including journalists, novelists, business leaders, sports stars, politicians, and others.

He is also one of the leading representatives of television news correspondents and producers. His clients include Brian Williams, Lesley Stahl, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Steve Doocy, Brit Hume, Rita Braver, Chris Jansing, Neil Cavuto, Cynthia McFadden, Dana Perino, Peter Alexander, Pierre Thomas, Jim Acosta, Nancy Cordes, Major Garrett, Jeff Zeleny, Jesse Watters, Juan Williams, Byron Pitts, anchors in many major television markets, and producers on virtually every major broadcast on network and cable television.

Bob also represents former government officials in conjunction with their transitions to the private sector. His clients have included Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, John Boehner, Janet Yellen, Madeleine Albright, Alan Greenspan, Ray Kelly, Karl Rove, Ben Bernanke, James Baker, Larry Summers, Donna Shalala, and many former Senators and Congressmen.


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Education
University of Chicago Law School, J.D., cum laude, 1971
University of Wisconsin, B.A., with honors, 1968

Practice Focus
Administrative Law
Arbitration
Civil Litigation and Trial Practice
Commercial Litigation
Contracts
Criminal Defense and Government Investigations
Employment Litigation & Counseling
Employment Relationships, Counseling and Advisory Services
Executive Compensation
First Amendment and Media
Products Liability, Torts, and Medicine
Representation of Authors
Representation of Television Correspondents, Anchors, and Producers
Sports
Supreme Court and Appellate Litigation
highlights Bob’s representation over the years of distinguished government officials, authors, television news correspondents, sports figures, and entertainers.

He also represents many corporate and trade association executives and corporations in conjunction with executive compensation agreements. He has represented senior officers of AT&T, The Carlyle Group, Fannie Mae, Bank of America, McDonald's Corporation, the Recording Industry Association of America, Warner Brothers, the Motion Picture Association of America, Smithsonian Institution, and Deutsche Bank. He also represents many university presidents, deans, and professors.

Bob was ranked Number One on Washingtonian magazine's list of "Washington's Best Lawyers" and as one of "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" by The National Law Journal. He was also named one of the one hundred most powerful people in the entertainment industry by Entertainment Weekly Magazine.


Bob joined Williams & Connolly in 1975 and has been a partner since 1978. He was a presidentially-appointed member of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts from 1994 to 2004 and currently serves as Senior Counsel.

Transactions and Business Counseling

Recognitions
"Media & Entertainment (DC)," Chambers USA, 2004-2019


Ranked #1 on Washingtonian magazine's list of "Washington's Best Lawyers," 2004

Named one of the one hundred most powerful people in the entertainment industry by Entertainment Weekly Magazine

Inducted into Lawdragon magazine Hall of Fame, 2015

Recognized as one of The Best Lawyers in America © for Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law and Media Law, 2006-2018

Admissions
District of Columbia
New York
United States Supreme Court
United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and Fifth Circuits
United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the Eastern District of Louisiana

Government Service
Legislative Assistant, Senator Walter F. Mondale, United States Senate, 1973-1975