

# Stephen D. Raber

## Partner

Steve Raber focuses on trial work, arbitration, and civil litigation all over the United States. He has significant experience as lead trial counsel in a variety of matters, including products liability, real estate, and business disputes. He also has defended clients in many consumer class action cases. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the premier legal association in America composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada.

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, California, Steve graduated from UCLA *magna cum laude* in 1982, where he played on the varsity golf team. He received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1985. Steve joined Williams & Connolly in 1985 and served on the firm's six-member Executive Committee from 2012 to 2015. Previously he spent 8 years on the firm's hiring committee (1994-2002) and supervised the summer associate program during that period. He is a member of The Barristers, and co-founded the Celiac Disease Program at Children's National Medical Center.

## Representative Experience

Though all cases vary and none is predictive, Steve's experience includes:

- Trial counsel for Merck in the Vioxx litigation. His team won the first defense verdict in *Humeston v. Merck*, a case featured in *The National Law Journal* as one of its "Top Defense Wins of 2005." Steve tried two additional Vioxx cases in Los Angeles Superior Court in which the court declared a mistrial after the jury was deadlocked 7-5 in Merck's favor. The *San Francisco Daily Journal* described the outcome as a surprising win for Merck because it occurred in a court referred to as a "plaintiff lawyer's playground."
- Lead counsel for Genentech in litigation involving Raptiva, a prescription biologic treatment for moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis that was voluntarily withdrawn from the market. In the 10 bellwether cases selected for trial, the California state court granted summary judgment for Genentech in 7 cases and dismissed another case. These rulings led to a favorable global settlement of the litigation.
- Lead counsel for Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company in a consumer class action lawsuit in the Northern District of California. The court



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## Education

University of Virginia School of Law,  
J.D., 1985  
University of California at Los Angeles,  
A.B., magna cum laude, 1982: Phi  
Beta Kappa; Mortar Board

## Practice Focus

Products Liability, Torts, and Medicine  
Food, Beverage & Pet  
Arbitration  
Civil Litigation and Trial Practice  
Class Action  
Commercial Litigation  
Criminal Defense and Government  
Investigations  
Real Estate

## Recognitions



Fellow, American College of Trial  
Lawyers

rejected claims that the labeling of certain Wrigley products was misleading and dismissed the case with prejudice, holding that the claims were expressly preempted by FDA regulations. *Gustavson v. Wrigley Sales Co.*, 2014 WL 60197 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2014).

- Lead trial counsel for a Virginia real estate developer in a dispute over development rights to the Stafford Marketplace in Stafford, Virginia. After a week-long trial, the court ruled in favor of Steve's client, clearing the way for him to develop a 780,000 square foot shopping center and residential project. *Garrett Dev. Corp. v. Staffordborough-Reston LLC*, Chancery No. 00-591 (Cir. Ct. Stafford County).
- Lead trial counsel for a chemical manufacturing company in a case brought by five landowners who alleged that the company had contaminated their groundwater. The court entered judgment in favor of Steve's client following a jury trial in Baldwin County, Alabama. The plaintiffs had claimed damages and remediation costs in excess of \$100 million.
- Lead trial counsel for AstraZeneca in the first MDL case alleging injuries caused by Seroquel, a second-generation antipsychotic medication. At the deposition of plaintiff's expert witness on medical causation, Steve obtained admissions that resulted in summary judgment being granted for AstraZeneca the week before trial.
- Lead counsel in a California class action brought against a client that owns veterinary hospitals nationwide. The federal district court in Santa Ana, California granted the motion to dismiss all of Plaintiffs' claims, finding that no reasonable consumer could have been misled by the client's Wellness Plan contracts.
- Lead arbitration counsel for the owners of a real estate investment firm in a case alleging violations of non-compete agreements and unauthorized use of trade secrets.
- Trial counsel for a global power company in a commercial fraud case involving the sale of oil leases. The jury awarded \$19.85 million to Steve's client in Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Lead counsel for an FBI agent who was fired in retaliation for helping his fellow Hispanic FBI agents win a class action lawsuit against the agency for violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. *Mata v. FBI*, 71 F.3d 513 (5th Cir. 1995), *cert. denied*, 116 S. Ct. 1877 (1996).
- Trial counsel for the plaintiffs in a personal injury case arising from a fireworks experiment in an elementary school classroom. The jury returned an \$11 million verdict in favor of Steve's clients. See *District of Columbia v. Howell*, 607 A.2d 501 (D.C. 1992).

"Winning Litigator," *The National Law Journal*, 2018

"Products Liability (Nationwide)," *Chambers USA*, 2008-2019

## Admissions

District of Columbia, California, and Virginia  
United States Supreme Court  
United States Court of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Federal Circuits  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the Central, Eastern, Northern and Southern Districts of California, the Eastern District of Virginia, the District of Colorado, and the District of Maryland

