

Oliver Rocos

Partner



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Practices:

Entertainment, Complex Business Litigation, Class Actions

Oliver Rocos is a partner at Bird Marella. He joined the firm in 2019 after spending five years practicing law at two AmLaw firms, in addition to three years as a barrister in London, England.

He represents a broad range of individuals, media, technology, and financial industry clients in complex commercial disputes involving breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, negligence, and employment claims, as well as securities and regulatory actions. Mr. Rocos is admitted to practice in California, New York, and England & Wales and regularly litigates in state and federal court and arbitration proceedings.

His recent victories include winning highly complex and contentious disputes in state and federal court on behalf of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and his fiancée Lauren Sanchez; securing a complete and final dismissal of antitrust claims brought by subscription-based audio streaming service Pandora against his client Word Collections, Inc., a performing rights collection agency representing songwriters and comedians; prevailing in two federal class actions on behalf of Hyundai Motor America; and securing numerous favorable decisions and settlements on behalf of clients in actions pending in New York, California, and Texas.

Mr. Rocos also helmed a class action lawsuit on behalf of inmates in Lompoc Federal Prison regarding the Bureau of Prisons' failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He succeeded in obtaining a preliminary injunction that led to the transfer of hundreds of prisoners to safer home confinement and improved prison conditions, defeated a motion to dismiss, and negotiated a settlement that ensured a safer environment for prisoners and prison staff. The action vastly improved the lives of those transferred out of Lompoc and those who remained, who had much improved conditions of confinement. The ACLU SoCal awarded Mr. Rocos and his team the 2021 Humanitarian Award, recognizing this extraordinary advocacy.

Among others, he currently is representing billionaire casino magnate Steve Wynn in his defense of a class action securities lawsuit, FFP (Cayman) as trustee of hundreds of millions of dollars in assets related to the 1MDB (1Malaysia Development Berhad) scandal (the largest civil forfeiture litigation brought by the U.S. Department of Justice's Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative), Tesla in its dispute with the California government regarding the advertising of its self-driving technology, and prominent musicians and influencers in disputes pending in New York and Los Angeles.

Mr. Rocos was also recognized among *The Recorder's* Lawyers on the Fast Track list at the 2023 California Legal Awards.

Education & Admissions

- Boston University School of Law, L.L.M., 2013
- College of Law, Postgraduate Diploma, 2008
- Cardiff University, L.L.B., Senior Status, 2007
- Cardiff University, B.A., 2005

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- California, 2017
 - New York, 2013
 - England and Wales, 2008

Notable Matters

Secured a complete and final dismissal of all amended counterclaims against client Word Collections, Inc., a performing rights collection agency that represents songwriters (including Metallica) and comedians (including Billy Crystal, Bill Hicks, and Jerry Seinfeld), in an antitrust action brought by subscription-based audio streaming service Pandora Media, LLC. Bird Marella obtained dismissal of all counterclaims in the case for the second time in April 2023 after securing a complete dismissal in October 2022.

Obtained approval of a class action settlement in a high-profile pro bono lawsuit against the Director of the Bureau of Prisons and the administrators at Lompoc federal prison regarding their failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic in violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Previously obtained preliminary injunction and successfully convinced the court to require prison officials to consider all medically vulnerable, non-violent prisoners and those over the age of 50 for home confinement.

Associations

- President, British American Bar Association
- Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Litigation Executive Committee

Awards & Recognitions

- 40 & Under List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2024
- Lawyers on the Fast Track, California Legal Awards, *The Recorder*, 2023
- Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch, Entertainment and Sports Law, Best Lawyers®, 2022
- Humanitarian Award, American Civil Liberties Union, 2021
- Outstanding Pro Bono Award, Iranian American Bar Association, 2018
- Innovation in Legal Work in Latin America, 2016

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Moderator, Trial Readiness Panel, Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) Litigation Section, April 2024
- Co-Author, "[Ninth Circuit Applies Omnicare to Section 10\(b\) and Rule 10b-5 Claims](#)," with Joshua Hamilton and James Moon, May 2017