Russell Balikian

Partner

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Washington, D.C.



Russell Balikian is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson Dunn. He practices in the firm's Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group and Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Group. He represents clients in high-stakes litigation before the Supreme Court of the United States and other federal and state courts across the country, as well as in major proceedings before administrative agencies. R?ussell was named a Top 25 Telecommunications Attorney of 2025 (*Attorney Intel*), recognized as a Rising Star in Telecommunications (*Law360*, 2024) and One to Watch in Appellate Practice (*Best Lawyers*, 2023).

Russell has extensive experience in administrative law, especially in the telecom and technology sectors. He regularly represents clients challenging or supporting agency rules and orders, and he defends companies against enforcement actions by federal regulators, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Russell brings the capabilities of an appellate attorney to all stages of the case, from building the record before the agency to litigating the case in court.

Russell also has nationwide experience litigating appeals and dispositive motions in high-profile matters, including putative class actions, major commercial disputes, and mass-tort cases. He has represented clients at every level of the federal and state judiciary. Russell also advises clients on appellate strategy and critical legal issues.

Representative Matters:

- Represented wireless trade association in successful appellate challenge to FCC's 2024 "net neutrality" order (Sixth Circuit). Previously represented same association seeking Supreme Court review of FCC's 2015 "net neutrality" order (SCOTUS).
- Representing major mobile carriers in appellate challenge to FCC orders imposing $92 million in penalties regarding location data (D.C. Circuit; SCOTUS).
- Representing U.S. Chamber of Commerce as amicus curiae in appeal concerning the scope of the TCPA's private right of action (Seventh Circuit).
- Representing successor of chemical manufacturer as appellate counsel in nationwide tort litigation.
- Won appeal upholding constitutionality of 2025 amendments to Delaware General Corporation Law (Delaware Supreme Court).
- Won reversal of bench-trial decision rejecting $421 million breach-of-contract claim (E.D. Virginia).

Capabilities

Appellate and Constitutional Law
Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice
First Amendment and Free Expression
Mass Torts and Product Liability
Trials

Credentials

Education

Yale University - 2012 Juris Doctor
Taylor University - 2009 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

District of Columbia Bar

Clerkships

US Supreme Court, Hon. Clarence Thomas, 2018 - 2019
US Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, Hon. Greg Katsas, 2018
US Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, Hon. Diane S. Sykes, 2012 - 2013

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- Won dismissal of class action alleging that major financial-services company made misleading disclosures about a leading investment product (N.D. California). Won affirmance on appeal (Ninth Circuit).
- Won complex appeal holding that class action against numerous financial entities was impermissibly extraterritorial, and that plaintiff lacked antitrust standing and failed to allege proximate cause for RICO claim (Second Circuit). Successfully opposed petition for certiorari (SCOTUS).
- Won injunction holding that federal law preempted Puerto Rico's debt-restructuring act (D. Puerto Rico). Twice won affirmance on appeal (First Circuit; SCOTUS).
- Successfully intervened on behalf of satellite operator in support of FCC order transitioning C-Band spectrum for 5G wireless deployment (D.C. Circuit).
- Filed amicus brief on behalf of U.S. Chamber of Commerce in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* (2024) addressing the separation-of-powers problems associated with reflexive *Chevron* deference (SCOTUS).

Russell clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas on the Supreme Court of the United States, Judge Gregory G. Katsas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and Judge Diane S. Sykes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He received his law degree from Yale Law School, where he was Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law & Policy Review*. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Taylor University with a bachelor's degree in both Political Science and Biblical Literature.

Russell is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia.

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