

# Julian W. Poon

## Partner

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Los Angeles



Julian W. Poon is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson Dunn, Co-Chair of the firm's nationwide Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, as well as the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

Julian is a seasoned appellate and trial-court advocate who appears regularly before federal and state appellate courts in California, including the Ninth Circuit, the California Supreme Court, and the California Court of Appeal, as well as other state and federal appellate and trial courts around the nation. Since 2012, he has been repeatedly re-appointed by the Chief Justice of California to serve on the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions.

*Chambers USA*, a publication that identifies and ranks the most outstanding lawyers, has ranked Julian for 13 consecutive years. Clients describe him as a "highly analytical" and "extremely professional" appellate practitioner with "a commanding level of knowledge and experience." One client shared, "Julian Poon is simply incredible. His writing skills are great. He's fantastic, energetic, dives into the issues, and his oral advocacy is impressive." Another noted that he is "the mastermind of his cases, very intelligent and was able to understand the difficult concepts quickly." He is praised for providing "great guidance and sound advice as well as insight strategy on how to best position [a] case," and for being "relentless in his advocacy."

He has also been recognized by *BTI Client Service All-Stars* as one of a select nationwide group of attorneys delivering the best client service, winning praise for his creativity and excellent communication in offering alternative viewpoints. Since 2024, *The Best Lawyers in America*® has recognized Julian as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" for his exceptional work in Appellate Practice. *Benchmark Litigation* has recognized him as a "Litigation Star" since 2015, *Lawdragon* has named him one of the "500 Leading Litigators in America" and "500 Leading Global Litigators," and *Legal 500 US* has ranked him among the top appellate litigators in the country.

Julian has also been featured in the Los Angeles *Daily Journal*'s annual "Top Verdicts" list for winning top appellate reversals in 2024, 2023, 2021, 2018, 2016, and 2014. His featured accomplishments include:

- Persuading the California Supreme Court to restore trial court authority to impose discovery sanctions under the Civil Discovery Act.
- Vindicating the First Amendment associational rights of an investor-owned utility in a precedential California Court of Appeal decision.
- Persuading the Ninth Circuit to order judgment against a plaintiff class on nine-figure wage-hour claims.
- Securing complete vacatur and class decertification in a high-stakes fraud and

## Capabilities

Appellate and Constitutional Law

Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice

Class Actions

Crisis Management

Energy Regulation and Litigation

Insurance and Reinsurance

Litigation

## Credentials

### Education

Harvard University - 1999 Juris Doctor

Stanford University - 1996 Bachelor of Arts

### Admissions

California Bar

### Clerkships

US Supreme Court, Hon. Antonin Scalia, 2000 - 2001

US Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit, Hon. J. Michael Luttig, 1999 - 2000

unfair competition case.

- Obtaining full reversal of an eight-figure summary judgment and attorneys' fee award in a cross-border dispute.
- Winning a unanimous affirmance in the California Supreme Court in a malicious prosecution case.
- Convincing the Los Angeles Superior Court to vacate a record-breaking \$178 million wrongful death verdict.

**Other representative matters Julian has handled include:**

- Winning a nine-figure arbitration-related dispute for a real-estate developer in the Ninth Circuit.
- Reducing a \$30 million punitive damages award to \$10 million in a wrongful termination case.
- Overturning federal designation of "critical habitat" under the Endangered Species Act.
- Achieving an 87% post-trial reduction in a wrongful termination verdict.
- Winning a construction law and attorneys' fees dispute in the California Court of Appeal.
- Securing an eight-figure appellate win for a utility against a transportation agency.
- Dismissing a multistate indemnification dispute on personal jurisdiction grounds.
- Winning a precedent-setting appellate costs decision.
- Prevailing in False Claims Act appeals in the Ninth and Eleventh Circuits.
- Obtaining a writ in a statewide wage-and-hour class action involving adjusters.
- Winning a California Supreme Court reversal in a tax case involving emission credits.
- Vacating a \$14 million false advertising verdict and securing Ninth Circuit affirmance.
- Reversing summary judgment and fees in a multistate insurance dispute.
- Winning key appellate decisions on U.S. discovery in foreign proceedings (28 U.S.C. § 1782).
- Obtaining interlocutory review of class certification in a major wage-and-hour case.
- Winning a patent case involving sports equipment in the Federal Circuit.
- Securing a favorable loss causation ruling from the Tenth Circuit.
- Winning a corporate disclosure dispute in the Arkansas Supreme Court.
- Defeating nationwide and statewide wage-and-hour class actions without discovery.

Prior to joining the firm, Julian clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge J. Michael Luttig of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1999, where he received the Fay Diploma (first in class), served as a Note Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, and earned the Sears Prize in both 1L and 2L years. He earned honors in Economics and Public Policy from Stanford University in 1996, graduating with distinction and Phi Beta Kappa.

Julian is admitted to practice before all California state and federal courts, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, D.C., and Federal Circuits, as well as the U.S.

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