Deborah L. Stein

Partner

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Los Angeles



Deborah L. Stein is a partner in Gibson Dunn's Los Angeles office. She is a member of the Firm's Litigation Practice Group and Co-Chair of its Insurance and Reinsurance Practice Group.

Deborah is a nationally recognized litigator who clients turn to when everything is on the line. Her practice covers a breadth of high-stakes matters, including insurance coverage, pricing, and business practices disputes; class actions, complex commercial disputes, and financial services litigation; and privacy and cybersecurity litigation. Clients entrust Deborah with litigating their most significant matters because she is strategic, passionate, and "all in." Even in the most fast-paced, contentious litigations, Deborah takes the time to learn and understand her clients' businesses and commercial priorities so she can provide thoughtful, practical advice. Deborah's experience spans multiple industries, including insurance, technology, entertainment, healthcare, and financial services.

Market sources describe Deborah as an "[e]xtremely smart and fearless litigator" who is "very tenacious" and "really focused on her clients' interests." *Chambers USA* recently profiled Deborah as a "brilliant litigator" and noted that she is "a great lawyer who is very impressive on insurance matters." *Benchmark Litigation* has consistently identified her as one of the "Top 250 Women in Litigation" and a "Litigation Star." Deborah has been named a *Law360* Insurance MVP, an award recognizing attorneys who "have distinguished themselves from their peers by securing hard-earned successes in high-stakes litigation." *The Legal 500* has repeatedly named Deborah a "Leading Partner" in Insurance: Advice to Insurers, and the *Daily Journal* has identified her as one of the "Top 75 Women Litigators" in California. Deborah's peers have consistently selected her for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law, and she is likewise identified as one of the "500 Leading Litigators in America" by *Lawdragon*. Deborah was also recognized as "Litigator of the Week" by *The American Lawyer* for securing the dismissal of a high-profile putative class action brought against Universal Music Group.

Deborah's recent experience includes*:

Insurance Disputes:

- Securing dismissal of insurance clients from antitrust litigation alleging unlawful boycotts of the California insurance market;
- Defeating class certification in putative class action seeking death-benefit payouts on lapsed life insurance policies;
- Winning Washington Supreme Court opinion affirming summary judgment in favor of client Mutual of Enumclaw, holding that property policy did not insure business losses resulting from loss of use of property during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Successfully representing Travelers in dozens of cases brought by policyholders

Capabilities

Litigation
Class Actions
Consumer Products and Retail
False Claims Act / Qui Tam Defense
Insurance and Reinsurance
Media, Entertainment, and Technology
Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Data Innovation
Securities Litigation
Tech and Innovation
Trials
White Collar Defense and Investigations

Credentials

Education

New York University - 1999 Juris Doctor
Yale University - 1995 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

California Bar
New York Bar

Clerkships

USDC, Connecticut, Hon. Peter C. Dorsey, 1999 - 2001

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seeking “business interruption” coverage for financial losses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, including securing the first Ninth Circuit published decision on the subject;

- Defending State Farm in class-action litigation across the country relating to the pricing of universal life insurance policies;
- Successfully defending insurers in False Claims Act litigation alleging industry-wide Medicare fraud;
- Successfully securing summary judgment and Ninth Circuit affirmance in insurance bad-faith litigation;
- Obtaining a directed verdict at trial and Ninth Circuit affirmance on behalf of an insurance company against claims by another insurer for equitable contribution relating to hundreds of underlying construction defect claims;
- Achieving summary judgment on behalf of a leading property casualty insurer in a False Claims Act case relating to Hurricane Katrina claims handling practices;

Class Actions, Complex Commercial Disputes, and Financial Services Litigation:

- Securing the dismissal of a putative class action filed by high-profile musicians and estates against the Universal Music Group claiming that they were entitled to damages in connection with a warehouse fire on the Universal Studios lot;
- Obtaining dismissal of a putative consumer class action filed against a leading producer, marketer and distributor of high-quality branded food products;
- Arbitrating a significant dispute between former joint venture partners concerning the dissolution of their technology joint venture and sale of its assets;
- Successfully representing through appeal a financial institution in False Claims Act litigation relating to the federal assistance provided to AIG;
- Defending former officers of Washington Mutual in shareholder and FDIC litigation in federal court in Seattle;

Privacy and Cybersecurity Litigation:

- Defending Facebook in *In re: Facebook, Inc. Consumer Privacy User Profile Litigation*, the multidistrict litigation arising out of the Cambridge Analytica events;
- Successfully defended workers compensation insurance companies in cybersecurity class action litigation, including arguing and obtaining a seminal California Court of Appeal decision rejecting an attempt to repackage an alleged invasion of privacy as a trespass-to-chattels claim;
- Successfully arguing a Ninth Circuit appeal concerning the interpretation and application of the Stored Communications Act in connection with allegations of “hacking”;
- Representing two automobile technology companies in litigation concerning the misappropriation of proprietary automotive data, including pursuit of claims under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and the Defend Trade Secrets Act;
- Counseling private equity investment firm following data breach, coordinating incident investigation, and supervising digital forensics investigation;
- Advising online technology company with respect to practice of data scraping and re-publication; and
- Obtaining court order enforcing and protecting privacy rights following misappropriation of confidential information by client's former employee.

Deborah serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Public Counsel, the nation’s largest provider of pro bono legal services. She also serves on the Global Advisory Board of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF), and was on the

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Board of Governors of the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA) for several years. Deborah is frequently asked to speak and write on insurance coverage issues and has authored a regular column for the *Los Angeles* and *San Francisco Daily Journals*. She previously co-chaired the Cyber Risk and Data Privacy Subcommittee of the American Bar Association's Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee (Section of Litigation). A trusted thought leader in the insurance industry, Deborah was named to *Law360*'s Insurance Editorial Advisory Board in 2015 and 2016.

Deborah received a B.A. from Yale University in 1995, with a double major in political science and studies in the environment. She obtained her J.D., *cum laude*, from the New York University School of Law in 1999, where she served as a Notes Editor on the *New York University Law Review*. Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Deborah was a partner at an AmLaw 50 firm and served as a law clerk for the Hon. Peter C. Dorsey in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

**Includes representative matters handled prior to joining Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP.*

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