

Theodore J. Boutrous Jr.



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Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr., a partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, is global Co-Chair of the firm's Litigation Group. He also is a member of the firm's Executive and Management Committees.

As *The New York Times* has noted, Mr. Boutrous has “a long history of pushing the courts and the public to see the bigger picture on heated issues.” The *American Lawyer* named Mr. Boutrous the 2019 “Litigator of the Year, Grand Prize Winner” and the Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journals in 2021 named him a “Top Lawyer of the Decade.” According to *The National Law Journal*, which in 2013 named him one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America,” he “is known for his wise, strategic advice to clients in crisis and is a media law star.” He has argued more than 150 appeals, including before the Supreme Court of the United States, 12 different federal circuit courts of appeals, 10 different state supreme courts and a multitude of other appellate and trial courts in complex civil, constitutional and criminal matters. Mr. Boutrous has successfully persuaded courts to overturn some of the largest jury verdicts and class actions in history, including the largest defamation verdict of all time. He recently filed a lawsuit on behalf of actor Ashley Judd against Harvey Weinstein seeking redress for the career-changing harm Mr. Weinstein caused when he defamed Judd to filmmakers in retaliation against Ms. Judd for having rejected Mr. Weinstein’s sexual advances. And Mr. Boutrous recently successfully represented Cable News Network, Inc. and reporter Jim Acosta in bringing First Amendment and Due Process claims against President Donald Trump and other White House officials, forcing the White House to restore Mr. Acosta’s press credentials. Months later, Mr. Boutrous represented Brian Karem, *Playboy*’s White House Correspondent, bringing similar First Amendment and Due Process claims and again prevailing in the district court, and then on appeal, in forcing the restoration of Mr. Karem’s press credentials. Due to his exceptional efforts to help protect and enhance First Amendment rights for all Americans, the Hugh M. Hefner Foundation awarded him with the [First Amendment Award](#) in 2019. He also received the [Distinguished Leadership Award](#) from PEN America in 2019 for his leadership in advancing First Amendment rights and protecting freedom of expression. Most recently, he received the 2020 Freedom of Press Award from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

Mr. Boutrous has extensive experience handling high-profile litigation, media relations and media legal issues. He routinely advises clients on how to respond to especially significant legal problems that attract the media spotlight. Most recently in 2021, *Daily Journal* named Mr. Boutrous as a Top Lawyer of the Decade for his victories in recent years. He was also named the [Litigator of the Year Grand Prize Winner](#) by *The American Lawyer* in 2020. *Am Law Litigation Daily* named Ted Boutrous as a [Litigator of the Week](#) for defeating an attempt by Mary Trump's uncle, Robert Trump, to block the publication of her now-best seller “*Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man.*”

Mr. Boutrous is a frequent commentator on legal issues. His articles include: “[Trump’s Lawsuit Against Bolton Will Fail](#),” *The Washington Post* (June 18, 2020). “[Why Trump’s Frivolous Libel Lawsuit Against the New York Times is Dangerous](#),” *The Washington Post* (February 29, 2020). “[Spare the ‘Dreamers’ a Nightmare by According Them Due](#)

[Process](#)," *Wall Street Journal* (May 2, 2017); ["Why I'll Defend Anyone Trump Sues for Speaking Freely,"](#) *Politico.com* (October 31, 2016); ["Poor Children Need a New Brown v. Board of Education,"](#) *Wall Street Journal* (August 28, 2016); ["A First Amendment Blind Spot,"](#) *Wall Street Journal* (May 27, 2014); ["California Kids Go to Court to Demand a Good Education,"](#) *Wall Street Journal* (January 28, 2014); ["A Radical Departure on Press Freedom,"](#) *Wall Street Journal* (May 23, 2013); ["A Killer's Notebook, a Reporter's Rights,"](#) *New York Times* (April 9, 2013); ["Broadcast 'Indecency' on Trial,"](#) *Wall Street Journal* (January 17, 2012).

Mr. Boutrous is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Women's Media Foundation and its 2015 Leadership Honoree. He serves on the Advisory Board of Reveal for the Center of Investigative Reporting and the Steering Committee of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Mr. Boutrous received his law degree, *summa cum laude*, from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1987, where he was Valedictorian and Editor-in-Chief of the *San Diego Law Review*.