

Daily Journal

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Top

100

Lawyers
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100 | **THEODORE J. BOUTROUS, JR.**

GIBSON, DUNN &
CRUTCHER LLP
LOS ANGELES
LITIGATION

Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.'s string of successes as a top litigator remained focused on appeals, media, crisis management and transnational cases for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP.

He enthusiastically cited a late July 2022 oral argument he conducted in person without masks before a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel as a positive indication that the pandemic frustrations felt by trial lawyers may be waning. "There's some normalcy coming back," he said.

His effective advocacy for journalists won him a 2021 Freedom of the Press Award from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. That was atop his win for Apple, Inc. in its showdown with Epic Games Inc. and his \$3 billion judgment for Hewlett-Packard Co. against Oracle Corp. over a contract dispute.

Boutrous' First Amendment efforts include his having filed on behalf of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and 32 media groups an amicus brief supporting the Center for Investigative Reporting in its defense of a defamation suit by charitable organizations claiming defamation over the center's allegations of misuse of funds.

In early August, a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel affirmed a district court's grant of the center's anti-SLAPP motion to strike the complaint.

The panel largely adopted Boutrous' position in defense of applying state anti-SLAPP laws in federal court. *Planet Aid Inc. et al. v. Reveal, Center for Investigative Reporting et al.*, 21-15690 (9th Cir., op. filed Aug. 11, 2022).

Boutrous said he's now on the steering committee at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "We are ramping up their legal team to protect reporters. The *Planet Aid* opinion we got from the 9th Circuit is one result, and it was a good one from judges across the ideological spectrum."

Boutrous also represents Mary Trump in defense of a \$100 million suit by former President Donald J. Trump over her alleged breach of a confidentiality agreement. And he is defending MSNBC's Joy Reid in a defamation suit. "The harassing of journalists goes on," Boutrous said.

In the Hewlett-Packard case, Oracle's appeals to the state Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court were rejected, leaving Boutrous' win for Hewlett-Packard intact. "They wired \$4 billion — the judgment with interest — to our client. It was the biggest sum I've ever seen," Boutrous said. *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. OracleCorp.*, H044371 (6th DCA, op. filed June 14, 2021).

— John Roemer