

## 2015's **TOP 100** Lawyers in California

### LITIGATION

## THEODORE J. BOUTROUS JR.

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP | LOS ANGELES

CIVIL RIGHTS, APPELLATE AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, CLASS ACTION

**B**outrous' burgeoning docket never fails to track the significant issues of the day: the power of public unions, e-commerce price fixing, educational reform, and the sharing economy.

After successfully arguing to overhaul California's teacher tenure system in Superior Court last summer, Boutrous is now handling the union's appeal of the decision in the 2nd District.

"It really is a gratifying thing to do to represent students who just want a better education. To achieve a victory that could affect the lives of hundreds of thousands or millions of California students is really something that is meaningful as a lawyer," he said.

Boutrous also won a big case for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in July, when a federal appeals court said the retailer can refuse to let shareholders vote on a proposal that would subject the company's sales of high-capacity assault rifles to stricter board oversight. Shareholders attempted to use proposals to dictate which stores could sell certain products.

"The implications of the decision are very important," Boutrous said. "In recent years, companies have really been flooded with shareholder proposals that either go to something that touches on the running of the business like what products to sell, or they use the shareholder process to make some broader point about society.

"Dialogue is good, but here are proper channels for having it and that's what this case has been all about."

In another case involving education, Boutrous is representing teachers in a suit alleging that union membership rules are unconstitutional.

"We're arguing that people who want to be in the union shouldn't have to fund political causes that the union leaders decide they want to support," he said.



"It's healthier for organizations to not force people to endorse their view or take a hike. It's not good for the unions, it's not good for the teachers, and it's not good for the students."

>> Andy Serbe