

James E. Thompson

San Francisco
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Overview

Jim is an accomplished trial lawyer and strategic advisor who represents companies and executives in high-stakes litigation, investigations, and regulatory matters. Drawing on more than 20 years of experience, he handles securities, trade secret, and insurance coverage disputes and advises clients in matters involving the SEC, Department of Justice, and other regulatory bodies.

With significant first-chair experience in jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations, including two trials in the past two years, Jim is trusted to handle complex disputes where the financial, operational or reputational stakes are at their highest. Known for treating each engagement as part of a broader client relationship, Jim invests the time to understand a client's business objectives and long-term goals. He then designs legal strategies that align with those objectives. Jim's thoughtful, hands-on approach, combined with his ability to build rapport with clients, colleagues and opposing counsel, consistently leads to efficient, creative and business-minded outcomes.

Jim's experience includes representing companies and individuals across a variety of industries, including technology, financial services, energy, healthcare and manufacturing. Before joining Benesch, he practiced at a global Am Law 50 firm, where he was counsel in some of the nation's most closely watched securities and trade secret cases.

Jim chairs Benesch's Litigation Hiring Committee, mentors junior lawyers and is an active pro bono advocate for prison reform, among other things. One of his most rewarding moments has been securing the release of multiple inmates, including a man wrongfully incarcerated for more than four decades where Jim had to try the case twice in federal court.

**Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.*

Representative Matters

- Defended Cisco in a multi-million-dollar fraud case and prevailed on summary judgement.
- Recovered over $40 million for a Fortune 500 manufacturing company following a weeks-long arbitration against its insurance carriers. The arbitration panel agreed with our arguments and awarded the maximum amount possible.
- Prevailed on motion to dismiss in a securities case by demonstrating that the alleged “security” was not in in fact a security under the securities laws. Represented one individual and several entities in the Eastern District of California.
- Defended and first-chaired the arbitration hearing for a Fortune 500 San Francisco Technology client where the damages were well over $100 million. The client paid nothing to the claimant.
- Secured a complete “not guilty” verdict for Katherine Mogal on all counts in a high-profile criminal trade secrets prosecution in the Northern District of California.*

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of California – Davis School of Law, 2005, J.D.
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- University of Washington, 2001, B.A. Finance/Information Technology, *cum laude*

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- California
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

Memberships

- Member, State Bar of California
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Association of Business Trial Lawyers

News & Insights

- James E. Thompson mentioned in Law360 Pulse | "Benesch Adds Litigation Partner in San Francisco"
  May 18, 2021 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Adds Litigator to Its San Francisco Office
  May 12, 2021 | Press Releases