

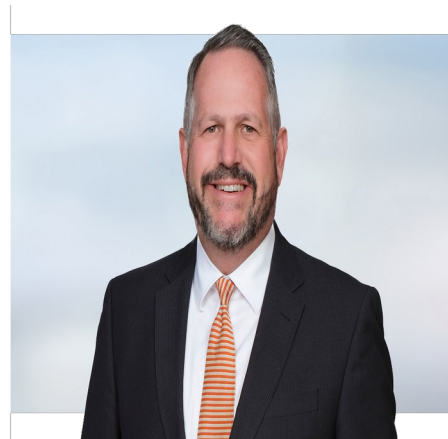
Kent J. Schmidt

Partner

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Southern California – 714.800.1445

Palo Alto



Kent represents clients in a wide variety of complex litigation matters primarily in California, but also around the country – and advises businesses on avoiding the risks of U.S. Litigation.

As a Partner in the Southern California office, Kent's practice includes virtually all types of general business litigation, with emphases in unfair business practices, trade secret litigation, consumer class actions, consumer data privacy, product liability, securities litigation, shareholder disputes, commercial disputes, Prop 65 environmental claims, and labor and employment matters. Kent is an experienced First Amendment lawyer, representing clients on both sides of defamation cases and other matters involving free speech, including California's unique anti-SLAPP statute.

He is a zealous and creative courtroom advocate, equally accustomed to representing plaintiffs and defendants in complex litigation matters.

A distinguishing feature of Kent's practice is his focus on litigation avoidance and prevention, including advising clients and collaborating with other lawyers on reducing the risks of recurring litigation claims. Drawing on over 25 years of commercial litigation experience, he advises companies and collaborates with lawyers around the world on understanding their U.S. litigation risk profile, exploring ways to implement changes to business models and practices to reduce litigation claims.

He is author of *U.S. Business Litigation Risks: A Comprehensive Guide for Business Owners and the Attorneys Who Advise Them* (Globe Law and Business 2d ed. 2025), as well as host of SharkCast, a related podcast. (More information available at litigationrisks.com.) His book on U.S. business litigation risks has led to collaboration with lawyers around the world and the release of country-specific adaptations for [Italy](#) (2025), [France](#) (2026) and [Brazil](#) (forthcoming). Kent is a frequent speaker on topics relating to US litigation risk assessment and management, particularly for businesses outside the

Education

- William Howard Taft University, Witkin School of Law (J.D., 1998)

Bar Admissions

- California

U.S.

Select Experience

Recent and Ongoing Work

- Defended medical services company and its directors and officers in a dissenter's rights claim brought by medical doctor dissatisfied with the terms of a merger agreement, prevailing on all claims after bench trial. (Riverside Superior Court 2021)
- Obtained motion for summary judgment in defeating \$10 million fraud claims against cannabis company in connection with asset purchase agreement of distribution company. (Los Angeles Arbitration 2023)
- Defended private equity client against claims brought by an ousted CEO against the company and two of its executives, wherein the filing of an anti-SLAPP motion led to voluntary dismissal of breach of fiduciary duty and all remaining claims. (Orange County Superior Court 2024)
- Defended medical device company in connection with claims by former CEO asserting right to royalties from post-termination licensing transaction. (Orange County Superior Court 2026)

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern District of California
- U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Member, International Bar Association, Class Action Committee Officer
- Member, Legalmondo
- Member, International Association of Defense Counsel
- Member, Association of Fellows and Legal Scholars of the Center for International Legal Studies.

Accolades

- Thomson Reuters, "Stand-Out Lawyer," 2024
- Dorsey, *Partner of the Year* — One of six partner recipients selected by associates in the firm based on mentoring efforts throughout the year, 2010
- *Southern California Super Lawyers*®, "Rising Stars," 2005-2007

SharkCast

July 15, 2026

PFAS for Food and Agribusiness Companies

March 31, 2026

Effective Collaboration Between In-House and Outside Counsel

February 24, 2026

Employment Claims in the UK and US, A Comparison of Two Common Law Regimes

December 11, 2025

How Cybersecurity Standards and False Claims Act Heighten Litigation Risks

September 24, 2025

How AI is Reshaping US Copyright Law

August 25, 2025

Heightened Employment Litigation Risks in the Era of Social Backlash

July 7, 2025

Litigation Risks Arising from Hidden or “Junk” Fees

February 18, 2025

The National Advertising Division’s Connection with Identifying and Avoiding Consumer Litigation Risks

January 8, 2025

Understanding the Intricacies of Internal Investigations

December 12, 2024

Key Strategies for Employers to Avoid Pitfalls in Employment Law

September 5, 2024

The Nuances of Antitrust Law

July 29, 2024

Dealing with Hostile Adversaries in Contentious Litigation

July 1, 2024

Navigating the New FTC Rule Against Non-Compete Provisions

June 20, 2024

The Tidal Wave of Website Privacy Class Actions and Mass Arbitration Claims

May 2, 2024

Climate Change Disclosures – How Regulatory Compliance Leads to Future Litigation Risks

Insights

October 16, 2025

CARB Seeks Public Comment and Delays Rulemaking on California Climate Reporting Laws, While Statutory Deadlines Loom

May 6, 2025

Federal Court Curbs California's Proposition 65, Giving Some Relief to Businesses Selling Products in California

July 25, 2024

US Mass Arbitrations Present New Challenges Prompting Re-Examination of Class Action Waivers

March 20, 2023

Dorsey Returns as an Organization Member to MAPLE, Represented by Partners Sarah Robertson, Marc Kushner, and Kent Schmidt

November 23, 2022

Schmidt, Gutierrez, and Magid Counsel for Niagara Bottling

June 30, 2021

"No Concrete Harm, No Standing" – Supreme Court's *TransUnion v. Ramirez* Decision Clarifies Federal Court Standing Requirements for CCPA and BIPA Class Actions

March 3, 2021

CCPA Class Actions and Standing Requirements

July 27, 2020

Dorsey Kent Schmidt Comments on No Wave COVID Class Actions, Yet

June 16, 2020

Dorsey Partners Schmidt and Goldstein Comment on Concert Venues Reopening

June 3, 2020

Dorsey Partner Kent Schmidt Comments on Colleges COVID Legal Issues

May 21, 2020

Dorsey Partner Kent Schmidt Comments on Can Hollywood Get COVID-19 Insurance

April 27, 2020

California's Sweeping Price-Gouging Statute Presents Unique Risks to Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Distributors and Retailers of Food and Consumer Products

April 23, 2020

Dorsey Partner Kent Schmidt Discusses COVID-19 Impact on Employment Law

April 2020

Dorsey Partner Kent Schmidt Comments on Canceled Contracts

April 14, 2020

Dorsey Partner Kent Schmidt Discusses Potential Cannabis-COVID19 Legal Claims