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THE TRIAL VERDICTS AND APPELLATE REVERSALS THAT CHANGED THE CALIFORNIA LEGAL LANDSCAPE IN 2025

ReactX LLC v. Google LLC

The plaintiff's claims sounded impressive. ReactX LLC, a digital advertising platform, sought \$1.3 billion on the claim that Google LLC developed two of its most successful ad tech products using technology that Google stole from ReactX.

Yet Google scored a complete defense win after Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati's legal team — led by longtime trial partners Colleen Bal and John P. Flynn — executed a sequence of sophisticated maneuvers that narrowed the case and positioned the jury to reject the plaintiff's claim. The team used a combination of surgical discovery, strategic motion practice and careful orchestration of trial themes and witnesses to produce the win.

"Definitely a team effort," Bal said. "We had Tait Graves, a nationally recognized expert in trade secret and confidential information cases, a powerful litigator and a scholar. All of us work collaboratively and as a tight-knit group, and that's a huge advantage."



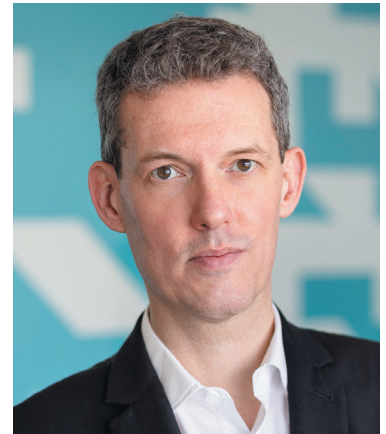
COLLEEN BAL

Before trial, the team obtained deposition admissions from ReactX's head of technology and its retained expert. Those admissions undermined ReactX's theory that it possessed protectable trade secrets or valuable confidential information and contributed to ReactX's decision to voluntarily drop the trade secret misappropriation claim just before jury selection.



JOHN P. FLYNN

When the trial began, the defense used nonsuit motions to eliminate contract and breach of the implied covenant claims. By persuading the court that a single integrated contract governed the parties' relationship, the Wilson Sonsini team transformed what began as a sprawling, multi-claim case into a single-claim dispute.



CHARLES TAIT GRAVES

Flynn credited Bal with the trial presentation of Google's engineers. "One was from the UK — charming, credible and understated in an extremely effective way," he said. "Later, in chambers, the judge said, 'I believe him.'"

And Bal said Flynn was masterful with his cross-examination of ReactX's damages expert. "He completely undid the guy," she said. "John took his hypothetical about a little girl with a lemonade stand and turned it back against him."

"Colleen wrapped it all in a bow with a beautiful close," Flynn said. "In contrast to their hyperbolic and over-the-top presentation."

Bal said she could sense the jury was going their way. It eventually voted 9-3 in Google's favor. "Some were solidly in our corner, nodding and smiling at us. That felt good."

Case Details

CASE NAME	ReactX LLC v. Google LLC
TYPE OF CASE	Misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of contract, and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing
COURT	Los Angeles Superior
JUDGE(S)	Randolph M. Hammock
PLANTIFF LAWYERS	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Colleen Bal, John P. Flynn, Charles Tait Graves, Joshua A. Baskin, Lucy Yen, Andrew Alderette, Stephanie C. Cheng, Kayla Dessel, Katherine G. Ericson, Celine Liu, Sachli Nayeri, Courtney V. Reed, Matthew K. Donohue
DEFENSE LAWYERS	Irell & Manella LLP, Jason G. Sheasby, Christopher T. Abernethy, Anthony Q. Rowles; Freedman Normand Friedland LLP, Velvel (Devin) Freedman

"Prior to trial, John Flynn obtained significant admissions from Plaintiff's lead technologist and its two commercial and technical experts. That likely contributed to Plaintiff dropping its trade secrets cause of action and choosing not to call any of those witnesses to testify. At trial, John also cross-examined Plaintiff's founder and its damages expert, among others. We believe his work had a devastating impact on Plaintiff's case." — Colleen Bal

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