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TOP 40 UNDER 40 LAWYERS



2025



JOSH A. BASKIN

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH
& ROSATI

SAN FRANCISCO

Josh Baskin has practiced commercial litigation for 12 years, handling cases that range from billion-dollar technology disputes to First Amendment matters and environmental conservation. He came to litigation through an unconventional path. He majored in economics and initially planned to apply that knowledge to public policy work. He went to law school with that goal but discovered

a different calling. “While there, I fell in love with litigating cases in the courtroom,” Baskin said.

This year brought several notable outcomes. Baskin served as an integral part of a team that won a complete jury verdict for Google in Los Angeles Superior Court, defeating a \$1.3 billion claim. The plaintiff, ReactX, alleged that Google breached contracts by misusing confidential technology to build two digital advertising products. The case required six weeks of trial involving dense technology and difficult facts. *ReactX LLC v. Google LLC*, 18STCV09674 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Dec. 21, 2018).

Also in 2025, Baskin won an anti-SLAPP motion for Substack in San Francisco Superior Court, securing dismissal of claims that sought to compel the platform to remove a journalist’s post containing information from a sealed police report. The ruling protected content on a platform used by independent journalists. *Blackman v. Substack, et al.*, CGC-24-618681 (S.F. Super. Ct., filed Oct. 3, 2024).

Baskin also represented the Natural Resources Defense Counsel and other con-

servation organizations in a breach of contract action to secure funding for the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, which protects approximately 240,000 acres of land north of Los Angeles. The litigation resulted in a settlement weeks before trial that secured contractually obligated funding and established a process to generate additional funding for the organization.

According to Baskin, winning cases requires a consistent approach regardless of subject matter. “To win, you have to tell a story that reconciles all of the evidence, especially your opponent’s best evidence,” he said.

Baskin identifies two trends shaping commercial litigation.

“All participants in litigation — including clients, courts, and juries — have seen the power of data in other parts of their lives. They increasingly expect to see it in litigation, too, from breakdowns of likely outcomes to analytics-backed evidence,” he said. “Second, we are beginning to see the impact of AI in litigation, and it will become increasingly important as a tool to aid in effective and efficient litigation.”