

## Mark G. Parnes

PARTNER EMERITUS

Corporate



### FOCUS AREAS

Corporate  
Corporate Governance

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Former General Counsel**  
Mark previously served as general counsel to Wilson Sonsini, handling risk management, ethical, and other legal aspects of law practice at the firm.
- **Employment Law Litigation**  
Mark led the firm's employment law group for many years, specializing in employment law litigation and counseling, trade secret and employee mobility matters, and general commercial litigation.
- **Pro Bono Leadership**  
Mark managed the firm's pro bono program in partnership with the Pro Bono Committee and was instrumental in integrating pro bono into the firm's culture and practice.

### EXPERIENCE

Mark Parnes joined Wilson Sonsini in 1982, when the firm had just 40 lawyers. Before his retirement in February 2024, Mark served on the management team for nine years as general counsel to the firm's global offices, after having been assistant general counsel for many years. He was responsible for risk management, legal compliance, and ethical issues for the firm and helped guide firm strategy.

Prior to his work in the Office of the General Counsel, Mark was a partner in the litigation department, specializing in employment law litigation and counseling, trade secret and employee mobility matters, and general commercial litigation. He was the practice leader for the employment law group for many years.

Mark also served as an advisor to the Wilson Sonsini Foundation and managed the firm's pro bono program in partnership with the Pro Bono Committee. He was instrumental in integrating pro bono into the firm's culture and practice, ensuring access to justice through partner and associate participation and service.

### CREDENTIALS

#### Education

- J.D., UC Berkeley School of Law, 1982
- B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1978  
*With Highest Honors*

#### Associations and Memberships

- Executive, Claims, and Finance Committees, Attorneys Insurance Mutual Risk Retention Group (AIM)

- Board Member, Joint Venture Silicon Valley
- Founding Member and Board Secretary, Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund
- Board Member, California Bar Foundation
- Board Member, Bay Area Legal Aid
- Board Member, Centre for Living with Dying/Bill Wilson Center
- Board Member, The Metta Center for Nonviolence

### Honors

- The Harry Bremond Award, Wilson Sonsini
- Community Service Awards, Wilson Sonsini
- Community Partner Award, Sky's the Limit Fund
- [Social Impact Award](#), Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund
- Robert G. Sproul, Jr. Award, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Pro Bono Award, LifeMoves (formerly InnVision Shelter Network)
- Pro Bono Award, Bay Area Legal Aid
- AV Peer Review Rating, Martindale

## CLIENTS

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### Select Clients

As part of Mark's commitment to the community, he represented a wide variety of nonprofits concerning corporate and litigation issues, including:

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| ▪ Adolescent Counseling Services                 | ▪ Niroga Institute                                  |
| ▪ Asylum Access                                  | ▪ Peninsula Volunteers                              |
| ▪ Child Advocates                                | ▪ Raising a Reader                                  |
| ▪ Family Connections                             | ▪ Reading Partners                                  |
| ▪ Fresh Lifelines for Youth                      | ▪ Pivotal (formerly Silicon Valley Children's Fund) |
| ▪ HandsOn Bay Area (formerly Community Impact)   | ▪ Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits              |
| ▪ LifeMoves (formerly InnVision Shelter Network) | ▪ Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund                |
| ▪ The Metta Center for Nonviolence               | ▪ Sky's the Limit Fund                              |
| ▪ New Teacher Center                             | ▪ Sustainable Conservation                          |
|  | ▪ UniversalGiving                                   |
|  | ▪ Upwardly Global                                   |