

WILSON SONSINI

Fred A. Rowley, Jr.

PARTNER

Litigation
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FOCUS AREAS

Class Action Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Litigation
Securities Litigation
Strategic Risk and Crisis
Management
Supreme Court and
Appellate

EXPERIENCE

Fred A. Rowley, Jr. is a litigation partner based in the Los Angeles and Palo Alto offices of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. He handles appeals and complex litigation, and serves as co-chair of the firm's nationwide Supreme Court and appellate practice. Fred represents clients ranging from Fortune 100 companies to nonprofit organizations in appeals before federal and state courts across the country. He has argued more than 50 appeals and served as lead counsel in dozens more. He has presented argument before the U.S. Supreme Court, the California Supreme Court, and the Delaware Supreme Court (three-justice and *en banc* panels). Fred frequently appears before the California Courts of Appeal and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Ninth and Second Circuits, and has also presented arguments in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. In 2019, Fred was recognized as one of the "Most Influential Minority Lawyers" by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

Fred's appellate representations cover a wide range of subjects and issues, spanning civil, criminal, and bankruptcy matters. He has particular expertise and experience in labor and employment cases, representing companies in arbitration, discrimination, and class action appeals; in the securities field, representing executives and companies in securities class action appeals; in the banking industry, representing banks in appeals arising out of the 2008 financial crisis; and in the telecommunications and utilities industries, representing industry groups and companies in regulatory and complex litigation appeals. Fred also has an active U.S. Supreme Court practice. For many years, he has co-taught Supreme Court advocacy with Professor Stuart Banner at the UCLA Law School Supreme Court Clinic, which represents indigent criminal defendants in filing *certiorari* petitions.

Prior to joining Wilson Sonsini, Fred was a litigation partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson, where he helped establish and build the firm's appellate practice group. During his time at MTO, he left for four years to serve as an assistant United States attorney in the Central District of California, where he handled criminal appeals, before rejoining in 2006. Following law school, Fred served as a law clerk to the Honorable James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (1997-1998) and the Honorable David F. Levi of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California (1998-1999).

Fred is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and a member of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He is regularly ranked as a leading appellate lawyer in *Chambers USA* and the *Daily Journal*. In *Chambers USA*, clients have described him as "brilliant, rigorous and dedicated" and "extremely smart and an excellent writer," noting that he "will take enormously complex concepts and explain them perfectly." He also received recognition from the *Daily Journal* in its annual review of "Top Appellate Reversals" for his win in *King v. Comp Partners*, 5 Cal.5th 1039 (2018), an important workers' compensation appeal in the California Supreme Court.

Throughout his career, Fred has played a leadership role in civic affairs and bar organizations. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, serving as adviser to the Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the United States, and served for many years on the California Commission

on Uniform State Laws, representing the State of California at a national conference on uniform laws issues. Previously, Fred served as co-chair of the American Bar Association’s Appellate Practice Committee, co-chair of the Central District of California Lawyer Representatives to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, and president of the Federal Bar Association of Los Angeles. He has also served as a member of the California State Bar’s Standing Committee on Appellate Courts and is a past fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Outside the law, Fred is active in the community. He has coached youth baseball and soccer, and served as a president and board member of the Pasadena Southwest Little League. He previously served on the boards of Foothill Family Service (a non-profit that provides counseling and educational services to needy families in the Los Angeles area) and the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (a non-profit that promotes Asian-Americans in politics).

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., Harvard Law School, 1997
Magna Cum Laude; Recipient, Joseph H. Beale Prize for Conflict of Laws; Research assistant to Professor Arthur R. Miller
- A.B., Stanford University, 1993
With Departmental Honors and University Distinction; Phi Beta Kappa; Recipient, Leavelle Prize for Political Theory

Associations and Memberships

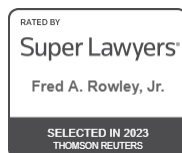
- Fellow, American Academy of Appellate Lawyers
- Member, California Academy of Appellate Lawyers
- Member, American Law Institute
- Member, Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society Advisory Board
- Former member, California Commission on Uniform State Laws
- Former member, Standing Committee on Appellate Courts, California State Bar
- Former co-chair, Appellate Practice Committee, American Bar Association
- Former co-chair, Central District of California Lawyer Representatives to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference
- Former president, Federal Bar Association of Los Angeles
- Past fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Honors

- Regularly recognized as a leading appellate lawyer in *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business* and the *Daily Journal*



- Regularly selected for inclusion to *Super Lawyers*, 2014-2023



- Named among the “Most Influential Minority Lawyers” by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* in 2019
- Recognized by the *Daily Journal* in its 2019 annual review of “Top Appellate Reversals” for his win in *King v. Comp Partners*, 5 Cal.5th 1039 (2018), an important workers’ compensation appeal in the California Supreme Court
- Recognized with a California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY) Award for successfully defending the Norton Simon Museum in a closely watched ownership challenge

Admissions

- State Bar of California

MATTERS

Recent Representations

- Won a major age discrimination appeal before the California Court of Appeal, which vacated a \$30 million compensatory and punitive damages verdict*
- Successfully represented a major web-based dating company in a Ninth Circuit appeal involving the arbitrability of a high-profile sexual harassment dispute*
- Successfully represented a leading toy manufacturer in a securities class action appeal in the Ninth Circuit*
- Persuaded the Ninth Circuit, on interlocutory appeal, to reverse an order certifying a class of oil industry plaintiffs seeking economic damages arising out of a 2015 oil spill*
- Won a major appeal for a leading managed care company before the California Supreme Court concerning California's utilization review system and the scope of pre-emption under the Workers' Compensation Act*
- Successfully represented a national bank in an appeal before the Second Circuit arising from residential mortgage-backed securities litigation*
- Successfully represented the Norton Simon Museum before the Ninth Circuit in a long-running dispute over ownership of two paintings forcibly sold to the Nazis and returned to the Netherlands following World War II; in the latest appeal—the third in the case—the Ninth Circuit affirmed a grant of summary judgment deeming the museum the owner of the paintings*

** Denotes experience at another firm prior to joining Wilson Sonsini in 2021.*