
Jonathan B. Sokol

Partner

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For over 35 years, Jonathan Sokol has successfully handled complex business disputes for a broad range of clients, ranging from Fortune 100 companies to high-net-worth individuals.

Jon has successfully handled a number of jury and bench trials for clients in state and federal court. His practice focuses on representing clients in entertainment litigation and representing policyholders in insurance coverage and bad faith litigation against insurance companies. Jon also has significant experience representing high-net-worth individuals and major real estate developers and other companies in construction and real estate litigation.

Awards

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Litigation - Insurance (2016–2026)
- *Los Angeles Business Journal*, Leaders of Influence: Insurance, 2026
- Southern California Super Lawyers (2004)

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Central, Northern, and Southern Districts of California

Education

- University of California, Berkeley School of Law (J.D., 1987)
- Tulane University (B.A., 1984)

Services

- Litigation
- Insurance Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Entertainment Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Environment

Real Estate Litigation

Jonathan Sokol represents owners in the pursuit of construction defect claims against general contractors and subcontractors. He also has substantial experience representing developers, general contractors, architects, and engineers in the defense of construction defect cases in both residential and commercial contexts. He has also handled numerous indemnity claims on behalf of developers and general contractors. Jon has over 30 years of experience representing policyholders in insurance coverage and bad-faith litigation against insurers arising out of construction liabilities.

Representative Matters

- Represented developer in defense of construction defect action involving 120 condominium units. Negotiated contributions of client's insurers and subcontractors' insurers to obtain favorable settlement of case.
- Represented developer in defense of construction defect action filed by 150 owners of single-family homes. Negotiated contributions of client's insurers and subcontractors' insurers to obtain favorable settlement of case.
- Represented developer in defense of construction defect action filed by 240 homeowners. Negotiated contributions of client's insurers and subcontractors' insurers to obtain favorable settlement of case.
- Represent owners of single-family home in construction defect action against general contractor and numerous subcontractors arising from major remodel of home.
- Represented owners of single-family home in construction defect action against general contractor arising from major remodel of home.
- Represented general contractor in indemnity litigation against developer arising out of construction of commercial building in Los Angeles. Obtained summary judgment in favor of client.
- Represented one of the nation's largest real estate developers in multiple coverage lawsuits arising out of underlying 15 coordinated construction defect lawsuits in Imperial Valley, California, involving 13 different subdivisions, over 2,200 single family homes and in excess of \$100 million in alleged property damage; negotiated settlements with insurers to fund settlements of underlying litigation.

Intellectual Property Litigation

Jonathan Sokol handles a variety of entertainment and intellectual property litigation matters, specializing in protecting rights owners. He has represented production companies, authors, actors and musicians in high-profile copyright infringement, trademark infringement and unfair competition actions and has counseled clients on all aspects of copyright and trademark law.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS:

- Lil' Joe Records v. Worldwide Pants Incorporated: Represented producer of "Late Show With David Letterman" and "The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn" in the defense of music copyright infringement action involving alleged use of a "2 Live Crew" song as a play-on for guests.
 - FOX Sports South v. TBS and Time Warner: Represented Fox Sports regional sports network in complex litigation against TBS and Time Warner arising out of breach of non-compete agreement with respect to the cable distribution of regional sports programming in the Southeast region of the country.
 - Dr. Seuss Enterprises v. ABC (Disney): Represented the owner of the rights to the works of Theodor S. Geisel (Dr. Seuss) in trademark infringement action against ABC/Disney arising out of ABC's launch of network television series originally entitled "Sam I Am." Matter successfully resolved by ABC agreeing to change the name of the show.
 - Magidon Films, Inc. v. Jaam-E-Jam Network: Represented producer of the film "Baraka" in copyright infringement action against largest Persian television network in the world that aired an infringing music video performed by Dariush that incorporated numerous unauthorized clips from Baraka. Obtained \$400,000 settlement for client.
 - Magidson Films, Inc. v. MTV Networks: Represented producer of the film "Baraka" in copyright infringement action against MTV arising out of show that aired on MTV incorporating infringing material from Baraka. Confidential settlement.
 - Moldex-Metric, Inc. v. Aearo Company: Represented manufacturer of earplug products in complex trademark infringement action against largest manufacturer of earplug products in the world arising out of infringement of client's color design mark for earplugs. Obtained preliminary injunction preventing further sale of infringing products and requiring recall of infringing products. Later obtained confidential settlement for client, including permanent injunction against defendant.
 - Robert Kaufman Company v. Picnic Time, Inc.: Represented leading manufacturer in the U.S. of fabric designs in copyright infringement action against former customer who had knock-offs of client's design manufactured in the Orient. Obtained judgment for permanent injunction against defendant and \$1 million settlement for client.
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Insurance Litigation

Jonathan Sokol has over 35 years of experience representing policyholders in coverage and bad faith litigation against insurance companies in disputes arising under virtually every type of insurance policy in matters involving environmental contamination, exposure to toxic substances, construction defect litigation, securities-related claims, wrongful termination and other employment-related claims, patent, trademark and copyright infringement matters, employee dishonesty claims under fidelity bonds and commercial property damage claims.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS:

- Represent Northrop Grumman in several insurance coverage matters seeking coverage for costs incurred in responding to various enforcement actions pending around the country involving sites formerly operated by entities acquired by Northrop.

- Represented San Diego Gas & Electric in insurance coverage litigation against its insurers arising out of petroleum and PCB contamination of various sites.
 - In a highly publicized environmental insurance coverage action, represented Paco Terminals against 30 primary and excess insurers during the late 1980s that at the time was the largest insurance coverage case filed in California. Case arose from underlying environmental actions against client arising from copper contamination of San Diego Bay. Obtained \$8.3 in settlements from insurers.
 - Represented Lincoln Properties, a shopping center owner, in the prosecution of insurance coverage litigation against 16 primary and excess insurance carriers in dispute arising out of property contamination caused by the operations of dry cleaner tenants at the shopping center.
 - Represented one of the nation's largest real estate developers in multiple coverage lawsuits arising out of underlying 15 coordinated construction defect lawsuits in Imperial Valley, California, involving 13 different subdivisions, over 2,200 single family homes and in excess of \$100 million in alleged property damage; negotiated settlements with insurers to fund settlements of underlying litigation.
 - Represented a developer in defense cost contribution action against five insurers arising out of insurers' failure to contribute to the cost of defending 15 underlying construction defect lawsuits; obtained summary judgment that insurers obligated to contribute to the cost of defending underlying litigation and negotiated \$750,000 settlement of action.
 - Represented a developer in coverage action regarding excess insurer's obligation to drop down in place of insolvent primary insurers-to settle underlying construction defect litigation; obtained \$650,000 settlement of action before court was to have heard client's motion for summary judgment regarding "drop down" issue.
 - Represented a developer in insurance coverage and bad faith action against commercial property insurer arising out of insurer's refusal to pay insured's claim for a fire loss destroying 1,800 olive trees in residential subdivision valued at in excess of \$1 million.
 - Represented a public utility company in two coverage lawsuits seeking coverage for underlying environmental cleanup actions involving petroleum and PCB contamination.
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Publications

January 13, 2025

Pursuing Insurance Recovery for Wildfire Losses

Greenberg Glusker Client Alert

September 16, 2020

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal Rules that Excess Insurer Cannot Challenge Exhaustion of Underlying Insurance on Coverage Grounds

March 18, 2020

Business Interruption Coverage for COVID-19 Losses

November 13, 2018

California Wildfires - Insurance Reminder

August 21, 2015

Insurance Protection for Losses May Be Freely Assigned in Connection with a Corporate Sale or Reorganization

Greenberg Blawg

August 21, 2015

Insurance Protection for Losses May Be Freely Assigned in Connection with a Corporate Sale or Reorganization

July 10, 2014

Supreme Court to Hear 'Raging Bull' Copyright Case; Could Undercut Favorite Studio Defense

The Wrap

May 19, 2014

Supreme Court Gives New Life to 'Raging Bull' Rights Case

Variety

October 28, 2013

High court looks to knock out 'severe' split

Los Angeles Daily Journal

October 1, 2013

Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Dispute Over 'Raging Bull'

Variety

October 1, 2013

'Raging Bull' copyright fight headed for U.S. Supreme Court

Reuters

September 11, 2013

Record Labels Sue Sirius XM Over the Use of Older Music

The New York Times

August 23, 2013

Turtles' Song Battle Will Spur Suits — If It Clears Hurdles

Law 360

August 14, 2012

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT EXPANDS AVAILABLE POLICY LIMITS TO COVER ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

October 20, 2009

Litigation Update – Fifth and Second Circuits Reverse Dismissal of Private Party Climate Change Lawsuits

