

Daniel J. Woods

Partner, Los Angeles Office

✉ d.woods@musickpeeler.com

☎ (213) 629-7622

📠 (213) 624-1376



PRACTICE GROUPS

- Litigation
- Labor & Employment
- Financial Institutions
- Business Litigation Group
- International Arbitration and Litigation
- Charter Schools

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, B.A., *cum laude*,
1974

University of Southern California School of Law,
J.D., 1977

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A partner in the Firm's Los Angeles office, Daniel J. Woods is one of the most accomplished and decorated litigators in Los Angeles, indeed, the entire country. The American Bar Association, California Bar Association, Inner City Law Center, Chambers USA and Los Angeles Daily Journal are just some of the publications and peer organizations which have honored Mr. Woods for his work.

Two recent cases highlight Mr. Woods' ability to obtain significant results on behalf of clients. He defeated a \$300 million antitrust claim brought by a prominent litigation firm and obtained a judgment for over \$2 million in defense fees and costs. The case involved an Indian yarn spinner filing a \$300 million Sherman Act Section 1 antitrust lawsuit against Mr. Woods' client, cotton-grower J.G. Boswell Company. In May 2018, Mr. Woods won the arbitration with the three-judge panel ruling in J.G. Boswell's favor on every point and also awarded it over \$2 million in fees and costs.

In *Dexter Street Limited Partnership v. Wells Fargo Bank*, Mr. Woods represented Wells Fargo in a commercial lease dispute. Dexter sought approximately \$8 million in this long-running case. Mr. Woods secured a unanimous jury verdict for Wells Fargo on three of Dexter's four specific claims and

while it found in favor of Dexter on the fourth claim, awarded it only \$1 in nominal damages, based on the suggestion to do so in Mr. Woods' closing argument.

His greatest and most well-known case came when he represented the Log Cabin Republicans in the well-publicized "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" trial which ended the United States Military's discriminatory policy towards the LGBTQ community. The trial took place in the Central District of California in July 2010 and Mr. Woods, on behalf of his client, won a judgment declaring the US military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy to be unconstitutional and an injunction against further enforcement of the policy on due process and First Amendment grounds. Mr. Woods litigated the case over the course of seven years on a pro bono basis, and it was his truly tenacious efforts that even got the case to trial in the first place. Mr. Woods was in attendance when the President signed the official repeal of the policy. For this work, he won high praise from peers, military leaders, members of the LGBTQ community and a score of others.

Mr. Woods has been interviewed by and quoted in several publications, including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Law360, the Los Angeles Daily Journal, the San Jose Mercury News, Benchmark Litigation, the BBC, several national radio stations and more. Over the course of Mr. Woods' career, he's been recognized by The American Lawyer, National Law Journal, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, The Recorder, The Guardian, the Washington Post, NPR, CNN, USA Today and several other publications for his work.

Mr. Woods' recent cases include:

- In *City of Los Angeles v. Charter Holdings*, The City of Los Angeles sued Charter Holdings, an affiliate of Wells Fargo Bank, for breach of a lease, in Los Angeles Superior Court. The dispute involved the City's claimed right to terminate its lease as to several floors in an office building several years early. The dispute had an estimated value of \$7.5 million. Following the completion of discovery and on the eve of trial in March 2016, after Mr. Woods filed a very persuasive trial brief, the City decided to abandon its claims. The City not only dismissed the case, it paid Wells Fargo Bank \$98,000 in attorneys' fees.
- Representing HdL Software, two other entities, and two individuals in a trade secret case brought by Portfolio Recovery Associates and MuniServices LLC. After winning several motions and even obtaining sanctions against opposing counsel, the plaintiffs agreed to dismiss the remainder of the case as the trial date approached.
- Winning an arbitration involving the purchase and sale of a \$30 million home in Beverly Hills, against Nile Miami, who is reportedly building a \$500 million spec home, with a 20,000-square foot master bedroom. In October of 2015, Mr. Woods won a judgment of \$4 million plus attorney's fees and costs in an arbitration in Los Angeles.

In his spare time, Mr. Woods has authored many articles and has, for 20 years, authored the annual update to the California Continuing Education of the Bar's three-volume treatise, *California Civil Procedure During Trial*. Mr. Woods' publications include:

- Author, Annual Updates to California Trial Practice: Civil Procedure During Trial, California Continuing Education of the Bar, 1998 - 2016.
- Co-author, "Understanding the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell," Aspatore Special Report, 2011.
- "Easy Cases Can Make Bad Law – Belaire-West Landscape and Discovery in California Wage and Hour Class Actions," California Litigation Report, July 2008.
- "Employers Prevail in Class Actions Challenging Overtime Pay Exemption Status," California Litigation Report, February 2007.
- "Enforceability of Covenants Not To Complete in California," December 2004.
- He has also been a community leader; a past President of the boards of directors of the Inner City Law Center, Uncommon Good, and the Los Angeles County Bar Foundation. He also volunteered as a judge pro tem in California state courts for 15 years.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Woods has received almost every honor in the legal industry, and has received some of these honors multiple times. The American Bar Association, California Bar Association, The Salvation Army and Inner City Law Center have all recognized and honored Mr. Woods for his work, his achievements and his ability to deliver one-of-a-kind results. Benchmark Litigation named him as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America.

Among the awards he has received, Mr. Woods was named one of the Top 100 Attorneys in California by the Los Angeles Daily Journal and San Francisco Daily Journal in 2011. In 2011, Mr. Woods was awarded the ABA's John Minor Wisdom Public Interest and Professionalism Award. He received a 2011 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award, and was named a 2010 Attorney of the Year by the Recorder. Mr. Woods was presented with the 2011 "Partner in Mission" award by The Salvation Army. The Log Cabin Republicans presented him with the "President Ronald Reagan Award" for 2011. Mr. Woods received the Katherine Krause Award presented by the Inner City Law Center for outstanding leadership and service to its clients, tenants in slum housing buildings, (2000), and was a recipient of the California State Bar President's Award for Pro Bono Service the same year. Mr. Woods has been selected to the 2016 Irish Legal 100, an annual compilation of the top 100 lawyers in the United States of Irish descent.

Among the publications that have recognized him, Mr. Woods has been recognized as a leading litigator by Chambers USA each year from 2006-2019. The 2019 Chambers USA highlighted that his clients felt "Dan has a presence in the Courtroom" and "is smart and articulate." Chambers USA has also noted Mr. Woods' clients appreciate his ability to accurately predict the outcome of a case and admire his confident trial skills. The Daily Journal recently recognized Mr. Woods in their Top Verdicts of 2018 Supplement for an Antitrust Verdict in the Central District. Mr. Woods has also been recognized as a California "Litigation Star" in Benchmark Litigation for 2010, 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2018 and named a "Super Lawyer" in the Southern California Super Lawyers Edition each year since 2004.

PUBLICATIONS

BUSINESS LITIGATION NOTE

- The Return of Broad Attorney Sanctions--California Code of Civil Procedure Section 128.5 02.18.2015

ARTICLE

- "Let's Make A Record: High Court On Trans Military Ban," Law360 02.08.2019

DECISION

- IV Solutions, Inc. v. Health Net of California, et al., Court of Appeal, Second District Opinion: B268816 04.26.2017

NEWS

- Congratulations to Partners Dan Woods and Adam Weg for being profiled in the Daily Journal's Top Verdicts of 2018! 02.20.2019
- Partner Dan Woods explains the "Supreme Court on Trans Military Ban" for Law360. 02.11.2019
- Congratulations to Partner Dan Woods... 10.04.2017
- Partner Dan Woods was quoted in the National Law Journal regarding the trans military ban. 08.08.2017
- Congratulations to partner Dan Woods for being Ranked in Chambers and Partners USA 2017 06.12.2017
- Congratulations to Partner Dan Woods for being selected to the 2016 Irish Legal 100 07.12.2016
- Partner Dan Woods has again been ranked by Chambers USA for California commercial litigation 06.01.2016
- Dan Woods is a featured speaker at a symposium on March 18th, hosted by Southwestern Law School, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Central District of California 02.24.2016
- Partner Dan Woods quoted in San Jose Mercury News about Charter School Dispute 02.03.2016
- Partner Dan Woods will be speaking on "Arbitration in 2016" at a Judicate West program at the Jonathan Club on January 28th 01.12.2016
- Partner Dan Woods quoted in the October 29, 2015 "Neutrals Supplement" to The Daily Journal 10.29.2015
- Partner Dan Woods is recognized as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America by Benchmark Litigation 10.02.2015
- Benchmark Litigation recognizes partner Dan Woods as one of the country's top 100 trial lawyers 09.11.2015
- Seventeen Attorneys Named Southern California Super Lawyers 01.23.2014
- Dan Woods Rated by Benchmark Litigation 12.11.2013
- Dan Woods Ranked by Chambers and Partners 05.30.2013
- Dan Woods to Speak at Law Day Event 04.15.2013

- Dan Woods To Speak at OUTLaw Dinner 04.02.2013
- Seventeen Attorneys Designated Super Lawyers or Rising Stars for 2013 02.20.2013
- Musick Peeler Profiled in Los Angeles Daily Journal 01.14.2013
- Dan Woods discusses "Don't Ask, Don't Tell -- One Year Later" 10.15.2012
- Dan Woods Interviewed 10.13.2012
- Dan Woods Heads Annual Awards Luncheon for Inner City Law Center 06.14.2012

EVENT

- Chambers USA 2019 has once again ranked Partner, Dan Woods as a Leading Litigator of General Commercial Law in California 05.02.2019

ADMISSIONS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- State Bar of California
- United States District Court for the Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern Districts of California
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- Federal Circuit
- United States Supreme Court
- Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow (2014)
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Inner City Law Center, Board Member (1999-present) and Board President (2006-2012)
- Uncommon Good (2000 to present), Board Member
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Member