



Paul A. Calfo

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OVERVIEW

When there is a battle, stakes are high, and tough challenges are complex, Paul is in his element and ready with the shield—fearlessly defending clients in catastrophic, mass casualty events and high-stakes product litigation with a skillset that exceeds his years of practice.

As part of his extensive products practice, Paul handles a diverse range of products cases from chemical exposure and contamination to heavy machinery and lithium-ion battery fires. His California-based practice includes handling individual cases as well as high-risk injury and wrongful death matters arising from mass casualty events. He also regularly and directly manages state and nationwide coordinated, related, and multidistrict litigation dockets on both coasts, with exposure claims related to chemicals like PFAS.

Paul regularly handles multi-party litigation in Los Angeles County's Complex division. Some of these cases fall under California's Section 36, which provides plaintiffs with various means to rapidly move complex cases to trial within four months. These cases require Paul to compress years of oral discovery, written discovery, and lengthy dispositive motions into a severely truncated timeline. Although such motions are routinely filed by plaintiffs and granted, Paul's dogged refusal to concede has led to courts ruling in his favor, defeating Section 36 motions and resulting in favorable resolution for clients.

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Asbestos Litigation
Product Liability
Toxic Tort

Paul also handles products liability matters for multi-national franchisor corporations. He understands the complex underlying contracts and business relationships of large companies and how those contracts may connect with the potential liability of a complicated component or end-product. He is especially enthusiastic about cases that require him to dive into new products and consult with experts in new industries. To Paul, understanding the unique journeys that shaped a client's business is a passion, and he enjoys working with clients to convey their origin stories to a jury.

A member of the firm's Mass Tort & Product Liability team, Paul was the first associate to join the Los Angeles office after its opening. This situation presented an unusual opportunity to support partners across various teams with a broad array of litigation. Even early in his practice, Paul cut his teeth by representing both plaintiffs *and* defendants in everything from breach of contract, real estate, and premises cases to complex UCC credit lending and corporate ownership disputes. He quickly learned pressure points, transferable skills, and a strategic overview of how best to work up and resolve or push different types of cases to trial. Paul continues to spread his practice between product liability and a variety of complex commercial litigation, and clients appreciate his unique perspective and ability to assist with multiple matters.

Paul handles matters in state court, federal court, and arbitration. He has spent extensive time in the courtroom from the beginning of his career, thriving on litigation strategy, oral argument, and trial. Paul possesses the aptitude for dissecting the most challenging aspects of cases and devising resourceful, efficient, and effective approaches to overcome obstacles.

Outside of the courtroom, Paul is an active member of the firm. He is a frequent mentor to associates and a member of firm committees, and he enjoys guiding new associates so they can realize their full growth potential, with his favorite phrase being, "Get comfortable being uncomfortable; pressure is a privilege."

Paul interned as a member of the White House Counsel's Office before joining the firm, and during his time in Washington, he studied, sat for, and passed the California Bar exam. While at the White House, he participated in the resolution of various policy issues and confronted constitutional questions on the separation of executive and congressional powers. Paul also assisted in preparing federal judicial nominees for congressional hearings at all appellate levels and assisted with executive branch ethics codes as well as legal research concerning executive orders and the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

Born and raised in mid-city Los Angeles, Paul graduated from Loyola High School, where he developed a commitment to public service and forged lasting connections throughout the city, which he actively maintains today through various organizations and clubs.

Experience

- Counsel of record directly managing multidistrict litigation involving thousands of exposure claims.

Experience

- Prepared expert direct and cross examinations at bellwether trial in multidistrict glyphosate litigation, which resulted in a complete 12-0 defense verdict for Fortune Global 500 client.
- Acted as second and third chair in multimillion dollar breach of contract arbitration hearing and dispute between plaintiff client supplier and defendant manufacturer; prepared pre-hearing arbitration briefs, direct and cross examinations of key witnesses, and pre-trial written discovery.
- Managed and handled 13 related cases involving dozens of decedents' estates filing suit due to mass casualty event in California which garnered national and local media coverage..
- Cross-examined hostile experts on theories of methodology, qualifications, testimony to be provided at trial, and peer-reviewed articles on causation.
- Participated in defending corporate persons most knowledgeable at deposition.
- Managed, litigated, and worked up dozens of cases at any given time in various practice areas, including products liability, chemical exposure, real estate, premises, bad faith, and breach of contract.
- Represented national convenience store chain in series of California coordination litigation involving product liability and marketing claims under California products liability law, as well as business issues, including complex franchisee contractual obligations.
- Presented complex, multi-year case tactics, strategies, and pathways to clients in high exposure matters.
- Drafted and argued dispositive motions, including motions for summary judgment and/or summary adjudication in Los Angeles County, leading to favorable resolution.
- Successfully dismissed Taiwanese clients' high-stakes commercial litigation case in Los Angeles County due to a Forum Non Conveniens motion, forcing opposing party to file in the foreign jurisdiction of Taiwan, a decision upheld on appeal.

Experience

- Handled multiple mass tort disputes involving more than 70 defendants, managing, litigating, and working up the defense for several clients simultaneously.
- Handled parcel disputes in federal and state takings, eminent domain, and inverse condemnation matters in pre-litigation phases through communication, liaison, and negotiation with federal and state agencies.
- Mentored peer associates on case management strategy and approach.

Recognition

- Southern California Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2025

Education

- J.D., Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
- B.A., Marquette University
 - *cum laude*
 - Writing-Intensive English and Legal Philosophy

Admissions

- California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit



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