

Snell & Wilmer



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Main Bio

John is a seasoned litigator with the firm's commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution groups in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada. As former associate general counsel for an international Fortune 500 company he has a deep understanding of what in-house counsel and commercial clients need and expect of their outside litigators: practical business forward advice and efficient, aggressive, and effective litigation strategies.

John's practice ranges from litigating simple and complex cases in various courts and arbitration tribunals across the nation to counseling the c-suite on how to best avoid litigation. His recent caseload is concentrated on E & O and professional liability matters, real estate disputes, business dissolutions, trade secret theft, contracts for the sale of goods and commercial guaranty matters.

Historically, John defended targets of shareholder derivative claims and manufacturers in multi-district products liability cases. He holds an AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell®. John is also named in The Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation (2018-2024).

John's years of in-the-trenches litigation experience also prompts business litigants and their lawyers to select him to serve as the arbitrator over their disputes. He enjoys that occasional role and serves on the American Arbitration Association's (AAA) Commercial Arbitration Panel. John also enjoys teaching future lawyers and sharing his knowledge as an adjunct professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Representative Experience

- Represented a major urban teacher's union at the district and state supreme court in its bid to secede from the largest U.S. national teacher's union in a case of first impression in Nevada.
- Represented a gaming software manufacturer in a complex California based trade secret case involving gaming software and allegations of joint ownership of proprietary intellectual property, fraud, and misappropriation of funds by a former C-Suite executive.
- Represented a multi-national timeshare company against consumer breach of contract and fraud claims in multiple arbitrations seated across the United States.
- Defense of multinational hospitality company against class-action consumer claims filed in U.S. District court on basis of various arbitration and venue agreements.

- Represented a semiconductor manufacturer in a semiconductor supply-chain disruption dispute involving multiple parties and multiple contracts. Mediated utilizing both commercial and legal mediators.
- Represented national lender against both federal and state lender-liability claims of undue delay in funding during Covid-19 pandemic brought by large developer in U.S. district court arising from a large multi-stage, multi-unit housing development.
- Multiple representations of commercial landlords and tenants involving breach of commercial lease contracts and re-negotiation of commercial leases involving force majeure and impracticability.
- Defense of large union in a certified class action arising out of allegations of undue delay in administering medical claims from members of captive health trust administering those claims.

Education

- King's College, London, LLM International Corporate & Commercial Law
- Chicago-Kent College of Law, JD
- Vassar College, AB

Professional Memberships & Activities

- Clark County Bar Association, Board of Governors (2003-2006)
- American Bar Association

Representative Presentations & Publications

- "[SCOTUS Resolves Circuit Split Regarding Staying or Dismissing Lawsuits in the Face of Arbitration Agreements](#)," Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (May 21, 2024)
- "[Nevada Recognizes the Ability of Non-Signatories to Compel Arbitration](#)," Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (February 6, 2024)
- "[SCOTUS Takes Up Circuit Split on Staying or Dismissing Lawsuits in the Face of Arbitration Agreements](#)," Co-author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (January 17, 2024)
- "[Another Win for Arbitration at U.S. Supreme Court](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (June 28, 2023)
- "[RICO Statute May Be Used To Enforce Arbitration Awards by Foreign Nationals Says U.S. Supreme Court](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (June 22, 2023)
- "[Early Support Means Everything](#)," Quoted, Boyd Law Magazine (November 19, 2022)
- "Practical Considerations in Arbitration in the Post-Covid, Post-Brexit and Post- Ruling 28 USC §1782 World," Panelist, Lex Mundi 2022 Litigation, Arbitration and Dispute Resolution North America Practice Group Meeting (September 30, 2022)
- "[U.S. Supreme Court Closes the Door on Foreign Arbitration Discovery in the U.S.](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (June 14, 2022)
- "[U.S. Supreme Court: More Limited Federal Court Jurisdiction Over Arbitration Awards](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (April 1, 2022)
- "[Delaware Court of Chancery Adopts Reverse Veil-Piercing](#)," Author, The Delaware Court of Chancery, Delaware Supreme Court, and Delaware Bankruptcy Blog (June 15, 2021)
- "[Delaware Court of Chancery: Deadlock Can be Genuine Even When Unilaterally Orchestrated](#)," Author, The Delaware Court of Chancery, Delaware Supreme Court, and Delaware Bankruptcy Blog

(April 29, 2021)

- "[Chancery Rules on Equitable Fee Shifting and Indemnity Provisions in Support of Fee Shifting](#)," Author, The Delaware Court of Chancery, Delaware Supreme Court, and Delaware Bankruptcy Blog (February 3, 2021)
- "[Court of Chancery Strips Privilege From Company Attorney-Employee Email Communications Sent and Received via Non-Company Email Accounts](#)," Author, The Delaware Court of Chancery, Delaware Supreme Court, and Delaware Bankruptcy Blog (January 19, 2021)
- "[The Business Litigation Waltz: A Primer for Uninitiated and a Refresher for the Seasoned Campaigner](#)," Moderator, Snell & Wilmer presentation, co-hosted with the Vegas Chamber (November 6, 2020)
- "[Directors Have a Presumptive Right to a Company's Privileged Information Says Chancery Court](#)," Author, The Delaware Court of Chancery, Delaware Supreme Court, and Delaware Bankruptcy Blog (September 1, 2020)
- "[Decisional Advantage and Intelligence: The Intelligence Cycle Through the Lens of Russian Bounty – A Panel Discussion](#)," Moderator, Snell & Wilmer presentation, co-hosted with UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law (July 30, 2020)
- "[Force Majeure, Material Adverse Change, and Other Provisions that Nobody Reviewed Until the COVID Pandemic Occurred](#)," Presenter, Association of Corporate Counsel, Las Vegas Chapter (July 29, 2020)
- "[Force Majeure Clauses and the Impossible and the Impractical](#)," Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (April 7, 2020)
- "[Managing Business Needs During a Pandemic \(Nevada\)](#)," Co-Presenter, Telephone Presentation to Firm Clients (March 27, 2020)
- "[Time to Review Your Non-Competition Agreements in Light of New Nevada Statutory Amendments](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (June 16, 2017)
- "[High Court Says Banks Collecting on Purchased Debt for its Own Accounts Not Subject to the FDCPA](#)," Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (June 12, 2017)
- "[U.S. Supreme Court - Credit Card Disclosure Statute Regulates Free Speech](#)," Co-Author, Nevada Bankers Association Newsletter (April 2017)
- "[U.S. Supreme Court - Credit Card Disclosure Statute Regulates Free Speech](#)," Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (March 30, 2017)
- "[Mandatory Employee Arbitration Heads to the U.S. Supreme Court](#)," Co-Author, Snell & Wilmer Legal Alert (January 17, 2017)
- "Foreclosure: Do you Know the Latest Changes?," Presenter, National Webinar, National Business Institute (August 2016)
- "Piercing the Corporate Veil & Alter Ego Liability CLE," Presenter, National Telephonic Seminar, The Rossdale Group (February 2016)
- "Veil Piercing/Alter Ego Doctrine: How an Entity's Veil can be Pierced and Similar Equitable Remedies Available to Creditors," Presenter, Piercing the LLC or Corporate Veil: Start to Finish, National Business Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada (December 7, 2015)
- "[Q&A with John Delikanakis - Be a counselor for your client, not just a hired gun](#)," Featured, The Sunday/Vegas Inc. (May 17, 2015)

- "Representing Your Client in Federal Court: Recent ABA Opinions, Conflicts of Interest, Appropriate Client Communications, Confidentiality and Metadata," Presenter, National Business Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada (November 2014)
- "[Insights: How to Reduce the Risk of Litigation](#)," Nevada State Bank webinar, Presenter, Las Vegas (July 2014)
- "[Nevada Supreme Court's Recent Decision Addressing Confidentiality of Public Employee Retirement System Records and Requests Under Nevada's Public Records](#)," Appearance on Ralston Reports (at 18:46), Las Vegas Channel 3 (November 19, 2013)
- "Representing Your Client in Federal Court: Recent ABA Opinions, Conflicts of Interest, Appropriate Client Communications, Confidentiality and Metadata," Presenter, National Business Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada (November 15, 2013)
- "Delaware Forum Decision Good for Companies and Shareholders, Too," Today's General Counsel (October/November 2013)
- "Discovery in a World With Electronic Discovery: Cases at the Intersection of Electronic Discovery and Various Public Records Acts," Law Seminars International, Las Vegas, Nevada (October 9, 2013)
- "What's the Deal with Deal Litigation in Nevada?" Presenter, Las Vegas Chapter, Association of Corporate Counsel (2012)
- "Avoiding the Deadly Sins of E-Discovery," Presenter and Co-Host, Nevada State Bar CLE (April 7, 2011)
- "It's a Slow, Painful Cure for Las Vegas' Commercial Real Estate Market," Author, In Business Las Vegas (October 22, 2010)
- "The Enforcement of Gambling Debt - A Brief Overview," Lecturer, University of Nevada, Boyd School of Law (2008, 2009, 2010)
- "Legal Strategies for a 'Down' Real Estate Market: Failed Real Estate Projects, Supply Chain Disruption and Breached Commercial Leases," Presenter, Las Vegas Chapter, Association of Corporate Counsel (2009)
- "SOX, The ABA Model Rules & the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct: Legal and Ethical Duties of Nevada Lawyers," Presenter, Las Vegas Chapter, Association of Corporate Counsel (2007)
- "How to Hire & Fire," Author, Nevada Chapter, Multilaw & Kluwer, London (2005)
- "New Standards for Professionals Under Sarbanes-Oxley," Presenter, National Hospitality Law Conference, Hilton School of Hotel Management, University of Houston (2004)

Reported Cases

- *George L. Brown Insurance Agency v. Star Insurance Company*, 237 P.2d 92 (Nev. Sup. Ct. 2010)
- *Anvui, LLC, A Nevada Limited Liability Company v. G.L., LLC, A Nevada Limited Liability Company*, Supreme Court of the State Nevada (July 26, 2007)
- *Palace REIT v. Betty Engelstad*, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (April 14, 2005)
- *Sandie Knutson and Dennis Knutson v. Allis-Chalmers*, United States District Court for the District of Nevada (February 23, 2005)
- *Antonio Badillo, et al., v. The American Tobacco Company*, United States District Court for the District of Nevada (June 29, 2001)
- *Sabine Young v. County of Clark*, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (September 24, 1998)

- *Ciaffone v. Eighth Judicial District Court of State of Nevada*, Supreme Court of Nevada (October 1, 1997)
- *Michael J. Padgett v. William O'Sullivan, et al.*, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (September 15, 1995)

Professional Recognition & Awards

- AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell® (2024)
- The Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation (2018-2024)
- Mountain States Super Lawyers®, Business Litigation (2012-2020)
- Legal Elite - Top Southern Nevada Attorneys, Nevada Business Magazine (2019)
- Benchmark Litigation, Future Star – Nevada (2017-2018)

Community Involvement

- University of Nevada-Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, Adjunct Professor (2023-Present)
- Columbia County Historical Society of New York
 - President, Board of Trustees (2023-Present)
- Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance
 - Chairman, Board of Directors (2016-2018)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada
 - Chairman, Board of Directors (2016-2018)
- The Justice Michael L. Douglas PreLaw Fellowship Program
 - Advisory Board (2019-2023)
- Be Engaged Business and Education Partnership
 - Clark County School District Mentor (2017)
- Lake Las Vegas Rowing Club
 - Founding Member and Secretary (2016-2018)
- The Salvation Army
 - Executive Committee, Advisory Board, Las Vegas (2001-2010, 2015-2017)
- 50 Hour Club, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (2015)
- Honor Roll, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (2014, 2018)
- Beverly Green Neighborhood Association
 - President (2001-2003)

Previous Professional Experience

- Park Place Entertainment Corporation, Associate General Counsel
- Nebraska Supreme Court, Judicial Clerk

Bar Admissions

- Illinois (inactive)
- Nevada

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of Illinois
- Supreme Court of Nevada
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court, District of Nevada