
Jonathan R. Bass

Partner

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Details

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Jon Bass brings the benefit of more than 40 years of high-stakes trial and appellate experience to the Firm's clients. He has represented the owners of professional sports teams in a range of contract, partnership, environmental, and tax matters, defended major real estate developers against challenges to their project approvals, served as counsel to national banks in numerous actions, and, more generally, represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a broad range of cases involving corporate, antitrust, real estate, eminent domain, and general business matters.

He also has successfully defended numerous development project approvals against challenges under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as state and local land use laws.

Jon graduated cum laude from Yale University with a degree in Russian language and literature. He earned his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 1977 where he served on the editorial staff of the California Law Review and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

Notable Representations

Numerous successful defenses of major real estate development projects against challenges under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as state and local land use laws.

Achieved a half-billion dollar reduction in the assessed valuation of an NFL stadium for property tax purposes.

Achieved one of the largest eminent domain awards in California history.

Honors & Awards

Jon is listed in The Best Lawyers in America in Commercial Litigation, Litigation-Land Use & Zoning, and Litigation-Real Estate. In 2012 and again in 2019, he received the "Lawyer of the Year – Real Estate Litigation" award for the San Francisco Bay Area from Best Lawyers. He is recognized by Benchmark Litigation as a Local Litigation Star in the Antitrust, Appellate, and General Commercial litigation categories, and is annually listed as a Super Lawyer in Northern California.

Jon was honored by the California Bankers Association with the 2009 Robert Frandzel Award, given annually "for superior and noteworthy legal assistance by an outside counsel to the California banking industry."

Professional Activities

Jon is a member of the Litigation section of the American Bar Association, Business Law and Litigation sections of the California Bar Association, and the Bar Association of San Francisco. He served as law clerk to Judge Alfonso J. Zirpoli of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California from 1977 to 1978.

Education

J.D., cum laude University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (1977)

B.A., cum laude Yale University (1970)