

John S. Martel

Founding Partner, Retired

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Education

- University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (L.L.B.)
- University of California, Berkeley (B.A.)

John S. Martel, who joined the firm in 1964, is a veteran of over 100 trials with but four losses. His legal expertise covered a wide range of practices including antitrust and securities litigation, leasing disputes, construction litigation, banking services, insurance defense, and trade regulation.

John tried major cases of all kinds, all across the United States. In 1968, for example, a Richmond, Virginia jury awarded his antitrust plaintiff the highest verdict in the history of the State. In 1978, he represented the Bank of America and its subsidiary in lengthy hearings before an Administrative Law Judge in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. against market concentration charges, obtaining a favorable ruling. In 1979, he was matched against ex-mayor Joseph Alioto in a fraud/antitrust case, and successfully represented the Robert Mondavi Winery in the highly publicized two-month Krug-Mondavi trial. In 1981, John successfully defended the Hearst Corporation, the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* in a three-month federal jury trial involving a landmark antitrust battle.

He was a frequent contributor to law reviews, (including articles such as "Fair Trial vs. Free Press in Criminal Trials", *California Law Review*, 1959 and "Judicial Application of the Newspaper Preservation Act", *Brigham Young University Law Review*, 1984). He lectured at the Hastings' Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy (where he served on the Advisory Council) on the handling of expert witnesses and was a guest speaker and panelist in various other law-related seminars nationwide. John also served as a consultant to other trial lawyers on matters of trial strategy, jury selection, and expert testimony. He was asked to serve as consultant to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in the *Simpson* case and the second *Menendez* case.

The National Law Journal profiled John as among the top 10 trial lawyers in the nation and he was listed for more than a decade in *Best Lawyers in America*.

Memberships and Affiliations

- National Chairperson for the Heritage Committee, American College of Trial Lawyers, 2013
- American Board of Trial Advocates
- Board of Governors, Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Northern California, 1990-1992
- Fellow, Board of Regents, American College of Trial Lawyers, 1994-1998
- California State Chairman, American College of Trial Lawyers, 1985-1986