SCHWARTZ SEMERDJIAN
Attorneys at Law

JOHN A. SCHENA

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

Business & Commercial Litigation

Directors & Officers Liability

Employment Litigation

Trademark Infringement, Trade Secret Misappropriation & Unfair Competition Litigation

John is an experienced litigator with over fifteen years of practice in Southern California. John's practice is focused on business disputes, with an emphasis on fiduciary duty, contract, commercial torts, and trade secret matters. John has successfully prosecuted and defended actions to final judgment on behalf of both public and private entities, as well as individuals. He has first-chaired more than a dozen jury trials, and prevailed to verdict on bet-the-company cases in both court and arbitration. John has also prevailed on multiple post-award appeals. John's efforts have resulted in his clients affirmatively recovering tens of millions of dollars and incalculable savings in defense.

John's unique skill is his ability to reduce complicated matters into clear and concise presentations for both opposing counsel and, if needed, the judge and jury. While no two cases are alike, there are efficient principles that can be applied to every case to identify the core issues that control the decision-making process. Understanding the push-pull, and not simply working up the case, has led to great results in both high-profile matters and small stakes disputes. The majority of John's business comes from referrals from past clients and opposing counsel who have appreciated his work and approach.

Some of John's representative matters include:

- Granted summary judgment resulting in dismissal of misappropriation of trade secrets claim against executive-level employee who founded a competitive business.
- Prevailed after an eight-week jury trial on behalf of a seller alleged to have made misrepresentations during the sale of a business.
- Awarded a verdict after a six-week jury trial on behalf of company whose executive breached fiduciary duties by selling corporate assets for personal use.
- Jury ruled in his client's favor after an employee alleged retaliation for complaints regarding wage and hour violations.
- Prevailed at arbitration, where a shareholder alleged breach of fiduciary duty by corporate officers resulting in failure to make distributions.
- Received summary judgment in favor of a municipal client alleged to have engaged in taxpayer waste, with the ruling upheld on appeal.

John received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill and his juris doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law. John is active in the local San Diego community and takes pride in giving back both through his legal representation and charitable efforts. He lives in the San Diego neighborhood of South Park with his wife, Charlene, and their three children.

EDUCATION

- University of San Diego School of Law (J.D., 2009)
  - Managing Editor of the San Diego Journal of Climate & Energy Law
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A., 2005; Biology, Political Science)

MEMBERSHIPS

- Downtown San Diego Partnership
  - Downtown Planning and Public Policy Committee
- San Diego County Bar Association
- State Bar of California
- State Bar of North Carolina

AWARDS

- Super Lawyer, 2019-2026, *Super Lawyers*
- San Diego Rising Stars 2016-2018, *Super Lawyers*
- Best of the Bar 2015 & 2017, *San Diego Business Journal*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Board of Directors, Bosh Bosh, Inc., 2015-2017
- Board of Directors, Compassion It, 2014-2016