



John C. Steele, Of Counsel

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Mr. Steele is a trial attorney with extensive experience in state and federal courts. Mr. Steele also has substantial experience with arbitrations before the American Arbitration Association and FINRA (formerly NASD). Mr. Steele's expertise includes the areas of complex commercial litigation, banking and securities litigation, employment and intellectual property matters, and real property disputes. Mr. Steele has represented Fortune 500 companies, officers and directors, and individuals through trial in a wide variety of disputes involving allegations of unfair competition, breach of contract, fraud, misappropriation of trade secrets, wrongful termination, and discrimination.

Prior to joining Abelson | Herron, Mr. Steele was a partner at Zelle, Hofmann, Voelbel, Mason & Gette LLP and was previously associated with Latham & Watkins LLP (Los Angeles, CA). Mr. Steele is a member of the California State Bar and is admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Central, Northern and Southern District of California.

Highlights of Mr. Steele's Experience Include:

- Obtained complete judgments in favor of national investment service in NASD arbitration hearing;
- Expungement of brokers records in NASD arbitration hearing;
- Defended general partner in suit brought by limited partners alleging fraud and breach of fiduciary duty;
- Represented corporation and its officers in various securities class actions and shareholder derivative suits pending in state and federal court;
- Obtained a \$78 million jury verdict, including \$30 million in punitive damages, on behalf of a start-up biotechnology company after three-month jury trial in the matter of involving unfair competition and misappropriation of trade secrets;
- Defended company in wage and hour class action trial;
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of former officer of large feed and grain distributor in \$30 million breach of fiduciary duty action;

- Represented accounting firm in securities fraud action alleging accounting violations;
- Represented small manufacturing company in prosecution claims relating to misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of confidence and unfair competition;
- Defended software corporation in dispute alleging claims of false advertising;
- Defended private Internet company in employment matters, including claims of wrongful termination, sexual harassment and discrimination.

Education

Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School, J.D. 1995

Brigham Young University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, Philosophy, 1992

Professional Affiliations

Member, American Bar Association

Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association

Member, Los Angeles Inns of Court