

**James B. Wright**

San Francisco, California  
Shareholder

P (415) 227-3505

F (415) 227-0770

M (213) 400-7448

[jwright@buchalter.com](mailto:jwright@buchalter.com)



James B. Wright is General Counsel to the Firm, as well as a Shareholder and Co-Chair of the Firm's Litigation Practice Group. He is a former Managing Partner of the San Francisco office and past member of the Firm's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Mr. Wright's practice emphasizes commercial, general and financial institutions litigation in federal and state court. He has extensive litigation and trial experience in both jury and non-jury matters during his 40 years of practicing law in San Francisco. Mr. Wright has engaged in extensive alternate dispute resolution proceedings, including mediation and arbitration, in which he has used creative negotiations and trial skills to bring successful resolutions to his clients' disputes. He uses litigation as one approach among many to finding creative business solutions for his clients.

**Jury Trials Defending Financial Institutions**

- 1991 – *Sosnowski v. Bellevue Corporation*, Sonoma County Superior Court (three-month jury trial involving multimillion dollar fraud claim. Nonsuit for lender client after jury trial. Judgment affirmed on appeal).
- 1997 – *Abraham v. Bank of America*, United States District Court, Northern District of California, Case No. C-94-3076 CAL (three-week federal jury trial for breach of fiduciary duty seeking \$120 million; defense verdict for Bank of America)
- 2007 – *Rodriguez v. Ameriquest Mortgage Company*, Pima County Superior Court, Arizona (two-week jury trial seeking \$20.0 million against mortgage lender for alleged fraud. Jury verdict limited to substantially reduced six figure sum)

**Published Decisions**

- *Hisamatsu v. Niroula and Bank of Hawaii*, 407 Fed. Appx. 109 (9th Cir. 2010) [2010 BL 304504]
- *Espresso Roma Corp. v. Bank of America*, 100 Cal.App.4th 525 (2002), 48 UCC Rep. Serv. 2d 265, (2002)
- *Abraham v. Bank of America*, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23052 (N.D. Cal. August 9, 1999)
- *First State Ins. Co. v. Callan Associates, Inc.*, 914 F.Supp. 369 (N.D. Cal. 1996)
- *Ford Motor Co. v. Superior Court*, 35 Cal.App.4th 997 (1995)
- *Bank of America v. Salinas Nissan, Inc.*, 207 Cal.App.3d 260 (1989)

**Publications**

- "California Supreme Court Eliminates Lender Defense to Borrower Fraud Claims," *Buchalter Nemer Lender Alert*, January 2013
- "Pitfalls of Poaching Employees After A Deal Craters," *Mergers & Acquisitions*, April 2007

**Speaking Engagements and Presentations**

- Speaker, "Guaranty Defenses," Special Assets Management Association's Annual Conference, April 18, 2013, Santa Barbara, California.
- Speaker, "California Supreme Court Eliminates Lender Defense to Borrower Fraud Claims," *Buchalter Nemer Teleseminar Series*, January 23, 2013, Los Angeles, California.

- “Compelling Contractual Arbitration,” Buchalter Nemer Teleseminar Series, December 2012, Los Angeles, California.
- Speaker, "The D'Oench (Almost) Bullet Proof Vest to Lender Liability Claims," Buchalter Nemer Teleseminar Series, June 27, 2012, San Francisco, California.
- Moderator, “Dos and Don’ts of Lender Liability,” Special Assets Management Association’s Luncheon, March 1, 2012, San Francisco, California.

Mr. Wright is rated “AV Preeminent” by Martindale Hubbell, was selected as a 2013 Top Rated Lawyer in the areas of Bank & Finance and Commercial Litigation by American Lawyer Media, and has been recognized as a Northern California *Super Lawyer* since 2011. He is a member of the California and San Francisco Bar Associations and a member of the Board of Directors of AIMRRG, a non-profit professional liability risk retention group. He is also a past president of the Belvedere Lagoon Property Owners Association, a private, non-profit homeowners association in Marin County, California.

Mr. Wright earned his J.D. *cum laude* at the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1974, and he received his B.A. with High Honors at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1971. Following graduation from law school, he clerked for the Honorable Ira A. Brown, Jr. in the Law and Motion Department of the San Francisco Superior Court.

#### **Areas of Practice**

Litigation

Financial Institutions Litigation

Real Estate Litigation

Trade Secret Disputes

#### **Bar Admissions**

California

#### **Court Admissions**

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Supreme Court of the United States



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