

Thomas J. Speiss III

Los Angeles, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Intellectual Property Law; Apparel & Consumer Products; Hospitality
Industry Law; Aviation Industry Law; Autonomous & Intelligent Systems



Tom Speiss is a Shareholder in Buchalter's Los Angeles office and is a member of the Firm's Intellectual Property (IP) practice group. His practice focuses on global IP strategies and portfolio management.

Mr. Speiss has advised the New Zealand Superannuation Fund (NZSF) in the venture capital space, advising on IP diligence matters. He further has advised the "Innovation Alliance," consisting of NZSF, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, and the Alberta Investment Management Co., where he also advised on IP diligence matters. As lead IP counsel for several companies, Mr. Speiss utilizes his experience with NZSF and its Innovation Alliance partners to work alongside his clients in the daily management of their IP legal costs through strategy development, prioritization and budget management. Mr. Speiss has developed particular skill in global trademark counseling and litigation, including the development and management of trademark portfolios and trademark rights online, as well as related copyright protection.

Prior to attending law school, Mr. Speiss was a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, covering events in Newport Beach, Orange, and Villa Park for the community news section of the *Times*. Mr. Speiss has taught and lectured at UCLA J.D./M.B.A. program, as well as at the undergraduate level, presenting seminars and lectures across a variety of topics, including IP portfolio management and related diligence. Mr. Speiss is a Past Executive Committee Member, State Bar of California, Intellectual Property Section.

Representative Matters

Deals

- Represented the New Zealand Superannuation Fund in its investments in View, Inc. consisting of \$75 million in shares of Series F Preferred Stock from View, Inc., as well as its investment in FloDesign, Inc., advising on IP diligence matters for both transactions.
- Represented the "Innovation Alliance" in the venture capital space, advising on several IP diligence transactions.

Cases

Tom has appeared as counsel in more than 50 Federal Court lawsuits in the United States, all of which concerned Intellectual Property infringement claims. While the majority of his matters have been domiciled in the Central District of California (Los Angeles and Santa Ana), other matters have been filed throughout the United States. Some of his most recent matters include the following,

- *Naked Dog Bistro, Inc. v. Protein For Pets, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 2017-cv-01992 (C.D. Cal. 2018). Tom represented Protein for Pets in a trademark matter.
- *Carver International, Inc. v. SurfSkate Industries, LLC*, Case No. 2015-cv-01348 (C.D. Cal. 2017). Tom represented Carver Skateboards in a trademark and unfair competition matter.
- *S&E Gourmet Cuts, Inc. v. OMC, LLC*, Case No. 2016-cv-02639 (C.D. Cal. 2016), and *OMC LLC v. S&E Gourmet Cuts, Inc.*, Case No. 2016-cv-00833 (W.D. Wisc. 2016). Tom represented S&E Gourmet Cuts, doing business as Country Archer, in a product packaging dispute, based upon claims for trademark

infringement, copyright infringement and trade secret misappropriation.

- *S&E Gourmet Cuts, Inc. v. Tillamook Country Smoker, Inc.*, 2016-cv-01698 (C.D. Cal. 2016), and *Tillamook Country Smoker, Inc. v. S&E Gourmet Cuts, Inc.*, Case No. 2016-cv-01477 (D. Or. 2016). Tom represented S&E Gourmet Cuts, doing business as Country Archer, in a product packaging dispute, based upon claims for trademark and copyright infringement.

Presentations

- Panelist, "Corporate Counsel Roundtable," IP Protection for a Unicorn: Procore's Perspectives, March 21, 2019
- Speaker, "Changing the Game – How to Monetize Your Trademark Cease and Desist Letters," OCTANe, September 12, 2013
- Speaker, "Trademark Licensing – Beyond the Periphery," International Trademark Association (INTA), July 8, 2013

Education

Mr. Speiss earned his J.D from Villanova University School of Law in 1997, and his M.B.A from University of Southern California in 2005. He earned his B.S. from James Madison University in 1993.

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California