

Vincent Whittaker

San Diego, California
Shareholder

P (619) 219-8063
vwhittaker@buchalter.com

Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Litigation



Vince Whittaker is a Shareholder in the Firm's San Diego office, where his primary focus is complex business and commercial litigation throughout California.

Mr. Whittaker is an experienced federal and state trial lawyer with approximately two decades of handling high-stakes complex business/commercial litigation. He focuses his practice on a wide variety of commercial business disputes, including lender liability, complex real estate matters, construction disputes, breach of contract, employment discrimination, negligent misrepresentation and fraud, trade secret and unfair competition, as well as shareholder and partnership disputes. He has also served as a devoted legal advisor for small to mid-sized private businesses and governmental agencies.

Additionally, Mr. Whittaker has significant experience handling binding arbitrations and has successfully resolved many complex disputes through other alternative dispute resolution processes, such as early neutral evaluation programs and pre-litigation mediation. As a recognized and respected mediator himself, Mr. Whittaker has handled hundreds of mediations as a neutral during his career.

Mr. Whittaker has sat on numerous non-profit boards throughout his career, and is currently a board member for the Southwestern Growers Committee, who raise approximately \$200,000 per year for at risk youth in the Coachella Valley. He also serves on the Board of Directors for a community bank in Southern California.

Mr. Whittaker was recognized as a "Top Lawyer" (Business & Commercial Litigation), by *Palm Springs Life Magazine*, from 2011-2019.

Professional Activities

- Riverside County Superior Court Discovery Referee, 2008-2015
- Straus Trained Riverside County Civil Mediation Panel Member, 2008-2015
- Riverside County Superior Court Mandatory Settlement Judge, 2006-2012
- The Warren Slaughter Richard Roemer American Inn of Court, 2003-2008 and 2019

Representative Matters

- In 2018, Mr. Whittaker was the lead trial attorney in a 28-day jury trial in Imperial County Superior Court that resulted in a complete defense verdict in favor of his clients, as well as a substantial verdict on behalf of his bank client for the deficiency amount owed by the borrower. In that case, the borrower was seeking damages against the bank, as well as employees and directors of the bank, in excess of \$13,000,000.
- Approximately five weeks after the 28-day jury trial, Mr. Whittaker was the lead trial attorney in Los Angeles Superior Court regarding the shipment of goods overseas in potential violation of U.S. export laws, including International Traffic in Arms Regulations. Mr. Whittaker obtained a favorable outcome for

his clients in light of the \$4,000,000 plaintiff sought to obtain at trial.

- In 2019, Mr. Whittaker returned to the Imperial County Superior Court as the lead trial attorney in a partnership dissociation action. In that matter, the dissociating partner was seeking approximately \$1,000,000 from Mr. Whittaker's client. At the conclusion of trial testimony, the court's preliminary remarks were that the dissociating partner acted *in pari delicto* and breached his fiduciary duties to Mr. Whittaker's client. Before post-trial briefing was submitted, plaintiff dismissed the matter, with prejudice, resulting in no exposure to Mr. Whittaker's client.

Education

Mr. Whittaker earned his J. D. *cum laude* from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where he was the recipient of Trustees Scholarship for Academic Achievement, received High Honors for Trial Practice and was an Editor on Thomas Jefferson's *Law Review*. He earned his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of San Diego. Mr. Whittaker was also a Judicial Extern for the Honorable John J. Hargrove, United States Bankruptcy Court (San Diego).

Bar Admissions

- California