Cooley

Eduardo Santacana

Partner



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San Francisco

Class Action Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Artificial Intelligence

Eduardo is a skilled and strategic litigator who leverages a broad base of experience to deliver results in complex, high-stakes disputes. He represents a diverse array of clients, including technology companies, class action defendants and businesses of all sizes. Eduardo has been recognized repeatedly with industry awards noting his distinctive blend of experience, which uniquely positions him to counsel clients through their toughest decisions and most consequential problems. Eduardo has played key roles on trial teams in major commercial disputes, securing favorable outcomes in consumer fraud class actions, contract litigation and fraud-related claims. He also has significant experience in intellectual property litigation, having defended innovative companies in patent and copyright matters, including obtaining complete dismissal of a copyright suit against a video game developer and defending medical device companies in competitor-driven patent cases.

In addition to his commercial practice, Eduardo is deeply committed to pro bono advocacy. He successfully represented asylum seekers and immigration clients, secured justice for a San Francisco prisoner subjected to excessive force, and served as counsel in a landmark class action challenging the Trump administration's 2017 travel ban. More recently, he secured injunctions on behalf of the San Francisco Unified School District against an agency order seeking to withhold federal funding pursuant to a 2025 executive order by President Donald Trump; and three members of Puerto Rico's Financial Oversight and Management Board challenging their firing in 2025 by Trump.

Eduardo's public service includes his prior role as a commissioner on the San Francisco Board of Appeals, a quasi-judicial body that reviews city permitting and enforcement decisions – experience that deepens his understanding of administrative law and public governance.

Eduardo brings a thoughtful, client-centered approach to every matter, combining sharp legal analysis with a strong sense of purpose and advocacy.

Selected publications and lectures

- Co-author, "Beyond Fair Use: Legal Risk Evaluation for Training LLMs on Copyrighted Text," International Conference on Machine Learning, July 29, 2023

Education

Harvard Law School JD, 2011

University of California, Berkeley Exchange program, 2011

Harvard College BA, 2008

Admissions & Credentials

California

Court Admissions

US Supreme Court

US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

US District Court for the Central District of California

US District Court for the Northern District of California

US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

Rankings & Accolades

Benchmark Litigation: 40 & Under List – West (2025)

Daily Journal: Top 40 Under 40 (2023)

The Recorder: Lawyers on the Fast Track (2023)

Memberships & Affiliations

Legal Aid at Work, board member

Urban Alchemy, board member

American Constitution Society, Bay Area Lawyer Chapter, board member

The Bar Association of San Francisco, judiciary committee