Cooley

Jonathan Patchen

Partner

jpatchen@cooley.com

+1 415 693 2534

San Francisco

Trials
Commercial Litigation
Trade Secret Litigation and Dispute Counseling
M&A Disputes
Law Firm Liability and Malpractice Defense
Class Action Litigation

Jonathan is a nationally recognized trial and appellate lawyer with a distinguished track record in high-stakes tech and commercial litigation. He represents leading companies in complex civil disputes, including trials, arbitrations and appeals, and is known for his strategic judgment, courtroom presence and ability to deliver results in mission-critical matters.

Jonathan has successfully first-chaired jury and bench trials in federal and state courts, arbitrated high-value commercial disputes, and briefed and argued appeals with favorable outcomes. His litigation practice spans a spectrum of issues, with particular depth in First Amendment, trade secrets, intellectual property, breach of contract, fiduciary duty, corporate governance and professional liability disputes. Jonathan has extensive experience on both sides of disputes, having achieved multimillion-dollar results for clients and defeated potentially crippling claims.

With a client base that includes global leaders in consumer brands, biosciences, tech and financial services, Jonathan is a trusted advisor on complex tech-related disputes. He has extensive experience defending against trade secret misappropriation, employee mobility claims and fiduciary duty allegations, often in fast-moving, high-risk environments.

Jonathan combines deep legal acumen with a practical, business-oriented approach, making him a go-to advocate for companies navigating litigation with reputational, operational or financial stakes.

Education

Harvard Law School JD, magna cum laude, 2003

University of Wyoming BA/BS, 2000

Admissions & Credentials

California

New York

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

US District Court for the Northern District of California

US District Court for the Southern District of California

US District Court for the Eastern District of California

US District Court for the Central District of California

US District Court for the District of Colorado

Rankings & Accolades

Litigation Counsel of America, fellow (2024)

Daily Journal: Top Trade Secrets Lawyers (2023)

The Legal 500 US: Recommended Lawyer in Dispute Resolution: General Commercial Disputes (2023 – 2024)

Benchmark Litigation: Litigation Star – Commercial (National, California) (2025)

Memberships & Affiliations

Northern District of California, lawyer representative (2020 – 2024), co-chair (2023 – 2024)

Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), board of governors

Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL), Northern California chapter, membership co-chair

Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, advisory board member

Edward J. McFetridge American Inn of Court

Bar Association of San Francisco, judiciary committee, chair (2017)

Bar Association of San Francisco, executive committee litigation section, chair (2014)

Harvard Law School Association of Northern California, executive committee

California Civility Task Force