Cooley

Peter Adams

Partner



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San Diego

Securities Litigation + Enforcement
Commercial Litigation

Pete's practice focuses on securities litigation, corporate governance and shareholder-related disputes, including the defense of securities class actions, derivative suits and M&A-related cases. He also represents clients in connection with SEC investigations and civil enforcement actions, as well as internal corporate investigations.

His practice includes representing companies such as Qualcomm, GNC Holdings, TEVA Pharmaceuticals, Peregrine Pharmaceuticals, Cricket Wireless, Horizon Pharmaceuticals, Acadia Pharmaceuticals, MannKind Corporation, Auspex Pharmaceuticals and Volcano Corporation.

Pete regularly counsels companies, directors, officers, and principal shareholders on a wide range of issues relating to corporate governance, SEC/FINRA enforcement, insider trading, disclosure obligations, and compliance with federal and state securities laws.

Selected Publications:

- "Ten Recent Delaware Merger and Acquisition Cases Applying *Corwin*," Securities Litigation Journal, American Bar Association Section of Litigation; Vol. 27 No. 1 (Winter 2017); Albert Manwaring, Albert Carroll, William Lafferty, and Peter Adams.
- "From *Aeroflex* to *Trulia:* A Seismic Shift;" Securities Litigation Journal, American Bar Association Section of Litigation; Vol. 26 No. 3 (Spring 2016); Peter Adams, Jeffrey Kaban, and Jeffery Walker.
- "Meaningful Limits on Director Compensation;" Securities Litigation Journal; American Bar Association Section of Litigation; Vol. 25 No. 2 (Winter 2015); Thomas Welk and Peter Adams.
- "M&A Shareholder Suits: A Call for Enhanced Scrutiny of Claims;" Securities Litigation Journal; American Bar Association Section of Litigation; Vol. 23 No. 2 (Winter 2013); Koji Fukumura and Peter Adams.
- "Proxy Season Shakedown: A New Wave of Suits Challenging Compensation Disclosures;" Securities Litigation Journal; American Bar Association Section of Litigation; Vol. 23 No. 2 (Winter 2013); Koji Fukumura, Jessica Valenzuela Santamaria, and Peter Adams.
- "The 'Holistic' Approach to Scienter Under Tellabs," Securities Litigation Journal; American Bar Association Section of Litigation; Vol. 19 No. 2 (Winter 2009) and Commercial & Business Litigation, Vol. 10 No. 2 (Winter 2009).
- "Recent Developments in the Caselaw Governing Damages in 10b-5 Cases," Advanced Securities Law

Workshop 2008, Practising Law Institute, 529-40, 2008.

Peter was named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in 2015 and 2016, and was recognized in 2016 as a Top Attorney Rising Star in San Diego by Los Angeles Magazine.

Education

University of California, Berkeley MA, Economics, 2005

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law JD, 2004

Northwestern University BA, Economics and Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, Phi Beta Kappa, 1994

Admissions & Credentials

California

Court Admissions

US District Court for the Central District of California

US District Court for the Northern District of California

US District Court for the Southern District of California

Rankings & Accolades

Chambers USA: Litigation: Securities – California (2025 – 2026)

The Legal 500 US: Securities Litigation: Defense (2021, 2022, 2025)

The Recorder: Top 100 Litigation Lawyers (2015)

Memberships & Affiliations

American Bar Association (ABA)

San Diego County Bar Association