

Attorney Bio

Michael J. Partos is a partner at WSHB's Glendale office, where he focuses his practice on products liability, subrogation, business litigation, D&O and E&O claims, insurance litigation, general liability defense, toxic torts, maritime, legal malpractice, employment and construction litigation. Michael has handled complex litigation matters for more than 20 years and has successfully prepared and tried cases to verdict in the state and federal courts of Los Angeles County, Ventura County, San Diego County, Placer County, the Central District of California and the Southern District of California. Michael has successfully represented clients on writs and appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, the Second District Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court. Michael serves as a volunteer commercial dispute arbitrator for the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He also volunteers for a number of civic and community causes, including the South Pasadena Public Schools.

Education

University of San Diego School of Law (J.D., 1989)

University of California, San Diego (B.A., 1986)

Licensed to Practice in:

California, Colorado

Practice Areas

Admiralty and Maritime

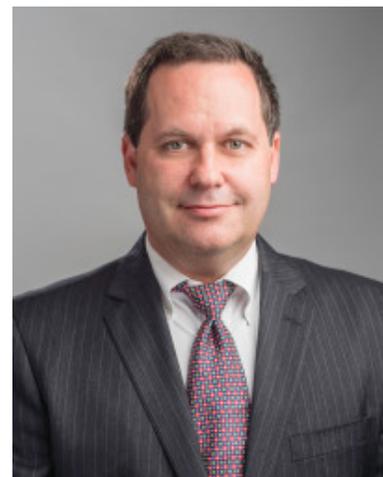
- Represents marine insurers, shipping lines, stevedore providers and terminals in a variety of casualty, personal injury and coverage matters.
- Prosecutes and defends marine subrogation claims for insurers and cargo interests, including substantial claims under COGSA, Carmack, and the Warsaw Convention.

Appellate

- Extensive appellate experience in a variety of matters with multiple appearances before the California and Federal Courts of Appeal.
- Notable appellate cases have included:
 - *Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company et al. v. Equinox Insurance Company et al.* (B218282)

Michael J. Partos

Partner



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- *Marciano v. Fahs et al.* (B220011)
- *Janis et al. v. Hamilton et al.* (B172623)

Aviation Litigation

Commercial and Business Litigation

Construction

- Construction accident, construction defect, and ADA claims defense at both pre-trial and trial levels.
- Multiple successful motions for summary judgment for construction industry defendants.
- Construction employment claims in a variety of contexts.

Employment

- Represents employers in all phases of wrongful termination litigation, including trial.
- Defends employers against claims of discrimination, retaliation, and harassment.
- Provides preventative counseling to employers.

Insurance

- Assist admitted and surplus lines insurers with various coverage matters and coverage litigation arising from disputes over first-party property coverage, contingency risk coverage, third-party liability coverage, high exposure environmental and pollution coverage, and claims of bad faith.
- Trial of insurance coverage / contribution claims.

Product Liability

- Representation of manufacturers and retailers against claims of injuries and wrongful death allegedly due to defects in the manufacture and design of products.
- Service as nationwide product liability counsel for a major Japanese tractor manufacturer.
- Litigation of product-liability cases, including class-action matters, pharmaceuticals, industrial equipment, dietary supplements, appliances, vehicle product claims, aerospace and agricultural equipment.
- Defense of property owners, oil refiners, utilities, builders, developers and contractors in claims for personal injuries and property damage arising out of defective construction materials.
- Defends claims relating to injuries and death due to insufficient warnings, and design and manufacturing defects.

Professional Liability

- Handles professional liability matters involving legal professionals, insurance brokers and agents, appraisers, and real estate brokers and agents.

Property Management and Tenant Litigation

Subrogation

- Handle recovery and subrogation claims arising out of construction activities at both pre-trial and trial level—whether related to fire, substandard construction, collapse, or subsidence.
- Assist numerous business owners and fortune 500 companies with the recovery of uninsured losses.

Toxic Tort and Occupational Exposure

- Extensive experience defending contractors, utilities, and premises owners in personal injury and habitability litigation resulting from exposure to airborne mold spores.
- Mold, asbestos, benzene, diacetyl, heavy metal, and other chemical exposures in residential and commercial settings.
- Defense of clients in cases involving exposure to contaminated soil, underground storage-tank leaks, and emissions from neighboring properties.
- Defense of clients against allegations of personal injury and property damage caused by flooding and exposure to raw-sewage.

Transportation

- Representation of transportation companies, owners, and drivers in personal injury and wrongful death actions involving tractor-trailers.
- Regularly represents logistics and trucking companies in connection with claims for vehicular negligence / wrongful death.
- Trial of both passenger and third-party claims.

Trial & Appellate Results

- [*WSHB Wins Verdict in Subrogation Trial*](#)

Awards & Accomplishments

- Named a Top Attorney by Pasadena Magazine, 2017

Publications

- [*First Fatality Collision Between Self-Driving Vehicle and Pedestrian Marks The Beginning of a New Era of Litigation and Insurance Issues*](#)
- Product Liability Defense: At The Center of The Storm – The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel – Fall 2007 [Commercial Disputes Observer]; November 7, 2007.

- Product Liability Defense: At The Center of The Storm [The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel]; December 1, 2007.
- A Lesson Learned in The Boxing Ring: If Your Employee Violates State Regulations, You May Be the One Fighting to Keep Your Professional License [Orange County Business Journal]; November 22, 2010.

Seminars, Events & Presentations

- 2010 Food Claims and Litigation Conference: Emerging Issues in Food-Related Litigation; Austin, TX; 2/23/2010.

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- California Bar Association
- Los Angeles Bar Association
- Marine Insurance Association of Seattle

Community Activities

- Volunteer Commercial Dispute Arbitrator, Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Volunteer, South Pasadena Public Schools