



contact

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Clients appreciate that I'm quite a well-known quantity in the realm of media law. I have a reputation for mixing tenacity with practicality and common sense. By closely monitoring and studying the newest developments in First Amendment law and keeping abreast of the latest legal trends on both the plaintiffs' and defendants' sides, I'm able to bring this useful knowledge, a wide-angle perspective, and the latest litigation strategies to bear on behalf of my clients.

Highly regarded nationwide for his in-depth knowledge and strategic thinking, media and First Amendment lawyer John Walsh counsels and advocates for clients in litigation involving libel, privacy, and commercial speech issues. John's clients benefit from his four decades of invaluable experience and insights as a trial and appellate litigator and as a preeminent advisor in a great variety of substantive law areas.

In his renowned practice, with its national and international reach, John takes on high-profile cases on behalf of prominent individuals and leading businesses. He also represents major advertisers regarding their First Amendment right to commercial free speech in marketing and promoting their products. Continuing to handle commercial litigation matters, John draws on his background in the corporate, securities, antitrust, contracts, and fraud areas, among others.

John first forged trails in the media law arena in 1979 when he took on a defamation case on behalf of the president of a major oil company. The trial

resulted in a landmark libel jury verdict against The Washington Post. As the media specialty evolves in reaction to the privacy and reputational concerns inherent in content that's readily available to worldwide audiences on the internet, John expands his arsenal. Recently, for example, he successfully persuaded the owners of a dominant search engine to remove results that unfairly connected a client to a major global scandal.

Over the years John has frequently participated in panel discussions and conferences about libel, news gathering, and other First Amendment issues. He has also made many appearances on television news and talk shows to discuss or debate media issues. John believes in treating members of the press and all parties involved in legal matters with cordiality, and he always takes a respectful, professional approach, even during adversarial discussions.

Experience

- Represented an architecture/engineering firm in an employment discrimination claim based on national origin and obtained dismissal of multi-million-dollar breach of contract and malpractice claims.
- Obtained summary judgment dismissal of the shareholder action.
- Advised a broker/dealer on all aspects of employment law and litigation, including breach of contract/fiduciary duty cases, discrimination litigation, employment contracts and policy issues.
- Provide ongoing and on-call employment law advice to a sophisticated financial services firm.
- *William P. Tavoulares v. Washington Post Company, et al*: Attorney for plaintiffs in jury trial. Action for libel by plaintiff against the publisher, editors and reporters of the Washington Post based on two articles published on November 30 and December 1, 1979. It has become one of the leading cases in U.S. libel law. \$2,205,000 jury verdict.
- *Hammer DeRoburt v. Gannett Company, Inc. et al*: Attorney for plaintiff in jury trial. Action for libel against major newspaper organization and subsidiary which published the Pacific Daily News in the Commonwealth of Guam.
- *Prozeralik v. Capital Cities/ABC*: Argued in the New York Court of Appeals on behalf of plaintiff appellee in October 1993 when Capital Cities/ABC appealed the initial \$15,000,000 verdict against it, upheld by the Appellate Division, 4th Department. Obtained key "actual malice" ruling which led to successful retrial and ultimate \$11,000,000 verdict for plaintiff.
- *Slattery v. Morrison-Knudsen*: Completed nine week bench trial representing defendant counterclaimant in a dispute between joint venture partners over performance of a \$50,000,000 contract for the reconstruction of a portion of the Schuylkill Expressway in Philadelphia. \$12,000,000 judgment for defendant counterclaimant.
- *Murray Drabkin, Trustee v. Alexander Grant*: Attorney for plaintiff in action by Bankruptcy Trustee against a national firm of certified public accountants for professional malpractice, breach of contract and fraud in audits of public company for years, 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1980. \$11,000,000 jury verdict for plaintiff.

Presentations

- Mr. Walsh has participated frequently on First Amendment panel discussions, workshops, and television programs

Outside the Office

My wife and I have traveled a great deal internationally, and we enjoy visiting and spending time with our three adult children and seven grandchildren. Although I previously participated in local politics and was a pretty good ball player when I was younger. I'm also an avid reader, particularly of late 19th Century British-Victorian literature.

Practices

Litigation and Disputes
First Amendment and Media Law

Admissions

Bar Admissions

Connecticut
New York

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

Affiliations

Member, The American Bar Association
Member, The New York State Bar Association
Member, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York
Member, The Federal Bar Council
Member, The American Judicature Society

Education

Boston College Law School (JD, Order of the Coif, 1958)
Fairfield University (BBA, 1959)