



KEITH D. KLEIN

Partner

Los Angeles

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BIOGRAPHY

Keith is a partner serving as an integral contributor to the high-growth corporate, franchise and distribution, and commercial litigation practices. Keith is also a member of the firm's Board of Directors.

He has an international practice and client base, including venture-backed technology and consumer-facing commerce companies, social media platforms, renewable energy development and finance enterprises and hospitality conglomerates. He works across every practice group and office in the firm to deliver pragmatic results tailored to client objectives.

High-Growth Technology Companies

Notably, he created and led the firm's start-up and emerging growth incubator, launched in December 2010 in Santa Monica. He continues to be a prominent contributor to the Santa Monica

Silicon Beach business community serving as outside general counsel for developing companies, angel investors and family offices, and venture and private equity funds. .

Franchising and Distribution

Keith is certified by the State Bar of California's Board of Specialization as a franchise and distribution law specialist and Chambers ranked counselor. He represents franchisors and large franchisees in a broad spectrum of industries, including lodging and hospitality, fast food and fast casual dining, retail and specialty stores, real estate brokerages, and automobile-related servicing systems. He has argued key franchise-related issues before the California Supreme Court and in other courts throughout the country.

Commercial Litigation

As part of Keith's commercial litigation practice, he handles complex litigation matters throughout the country and internationally involving trade secret disputes, frauds and fiduciaries and real estate finance and development.

Keith is the author of numerous articles and publications. He is an author of the book entitled *California Franchise Law & Practice*, first published by the Continuing Education of the Bar in February 2009. He is also an author of a chapter on franchising and the Internet in a book entitled *Collateral Issues in Franchising*, first published by the American Bar Association in 2014.

In addition to serving on the Firm's Board of Directors, Keith is a member of the Board of Directors of client-established Non-profit and charitable organizations and he continues to participate as a Member of the Board of Governors of the City of Hope.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT & HONORS

- *Chambers USA - Franchise* (2023 - 2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America, Franchise Law* (2013-2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America - Lawyer of the Year, Franchise* (Los Angeles), 2020
- *Who's Who Legal: Franchise* (2024)
- *Benchmark: Litigation - Future Star* (2010-2015)
- Certified Franchise and Distribution Law Specialist, State Bar of California

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association

- ABA Forum on Franchising
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- California State Bar, Franchise Law Committee of the Business Law Section, Member

ADMISSIONS

- California, 1996

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, J.D., 1996

University of California-Los Angeles, B.A., 1993

RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

- Franchising
- Structured Finance
- Marketing & Advertising
- Business Speech
- Financial Institutions
- Cryptocurrency & Digital Assets
- Media & First Amendment
- Antitrust
- Private Client
- Real Estate
- Tax & Private Client
- Real Estate Disputes
- Investigations
- Regulation, Compliance & Advisory
- AdTech
- PropTech
- Corporate
- Finance
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Energy Transition
- Litigation & ADR
- Regulatory Franchising

- Transactional
- Payment Systems
- Franchise Mergers & Acquisitions
- Food & Beverage
- Restaurant Practice
- Pubs, Clubs & Restaurants
- M&A & Corporate Finance
- Fintech
- Food & Agribusiness
- Business & Commercial Disputes
- Start-Up & Venture Capital Practice

RESOURCES

PUBLICATIONS

- "Franchise Litigation—Frequently Arising Issues in Litigation," International Franchise Association Legal Symposium, May 2015
- "Ethical Quandaries Associated with Franchise Representation," American Bar Association, Forum on Franchising, October 2014
- Collateral Issues in Franchising: "Internet Issue in Franchising," American Bar Association, 2014
- Santa Monica Annual State of the City, "The Use of Technology and Best New Business Practices," Panelist
- Canadian Bar Association British Columbia Sixth Annual Branch Conference 2011, "Legal Issues in Social Media," Panelist
- Franchise Consumer Marketing Conference 2011, "CMO Panel of the Pros Reputation Management," Panelist
- "Practical Advice for Using Social Media," *Franchise Law News*, 2011
- "Reputation Management, Protecting Your Brand Online," *Franchise Update*, Issue II, 2011
- "Online Best Practices," *Franchise Update*, Issue III, 2011

- "Establishing Your Brand Online: Q&A with Attorney Keith Klein," *Franchise Update*, Issue III, 2011
- "Driving Online Traffic," *Franchise Update*, Issue IV, 2011
- "Dot Complicated," *Franchise Update*, Issue 1, 2012
- "2008 Developments in Franchise Law," Business Law Section of the State Bar of California, 2008 Annual Review
- "California Franchise Law and Practice: California Franchise Relations Act," *Continuing Education of the Bar*, 2009
- "Area Development Agreements-Law & Practice," International Franchise Association Legal Symposium, May 2006
- "A Two Headed Approach to Advertising," *Franchise Update*, 3rd Quarter 2002
- "Controlling Your Brand in an Electronic Age," *Franchising World*, July/August 2002
- "Coping with COPPA," *Los Angeles Business Journal*, July 31, 2000

RELATED INSIGHTS

Awards

Aug 17, 2023

The Best Lawyers in America® 2024

Awards

Aug 19, 2021

The Best Lawyers in America© 2022

Awards

Aug 20, 2020

The Best Lawyers in America© 2021

Awards

Aug 15, 2019

The Best Lawyers in America© 2020

Awards

Aug 15, 2018

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