

Ronald L. Olson

Experience

RONALD L. OLSON is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP. Mr. Olson has practiced law with the firm since 1968. Mr. Olson also is a director of Berkshire Hathaway, Edison International, City National Corporation, The Washington Post Company, and Western Asset Trusts. He serves as a director of several non-profits, including the RAND Corporation (formerly chair), the Mayo Clinic, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the California Institute of Technology. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Claremont University Center and Graduate School from 1984 to 1994 and Founding Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Southern California Public Radio from 1999 to 2004.

Mr. Olson's practice involves a combination of litigation and corporate counseling. He counsels individual executives and boards of directors in a range of matters, including transactions and corporate governance. Mr. Olson has been the lead partner in numerous high-profile matters where clients have looked to the firm for advice and representation. Most recently, Mr. Olson has represented, among other clients:

- Steven Udvar-Házy and Air Lease Corporation in establishing a new, global airline leasing company.
- The Board of Directors of Yahoo! in connection with Microsoft's proposed takeover and the Google outsourcing contract;
- General Reinsurance, Berkshire Hathaway's subsidiary, being investigated by the SEC/DOJ/NYAG for its involvement with AIG and various finite insurance transactions;
- The Board of Trustees of the Getty Trust in connection with corporate governance and foreign government claims to its antiquities collection;
- Shell Oil Company in its 2006 U.S. Supreme Court victory (*Dagher v. Shell Oil Company*, et al.) and in the pending series of class actions claiming oil companies' liability for the Katrina hurricane damage and global warming;
- Michael Ovitz in the Disney shareholder lawsuit tried successfully in Delaware Chancery Court and affirmed by the Delaware Supreme Court;
- Private equity firm of Michael Eisner, The Tornante Company in its successful proxy fight for control of Topps; and
- Brad Grey, Paramount's Chairman, in a wide array of matters, including executive compensation.

In his earlier years, Mr. Olson's litigation representations included the following:

- For Edison International in the California electricity crisis;
- For Merrill Lynch in the Orange County bankruptcy;
- Lead counsel for Shell Oil Company in CARB gas antitrust cases;
- Co-lead counsel for Universal Studios in trial against Viacom/Paramount for the ownership of USA Network;
- For Salomon Inc. in connection with the Nasdaq antitrust litigation (DOJ and class actions) and the 1991-92 criminal investigation and governmental claims arising from its conduct of treasury security auctions;
- For the Republic of the Philippines against the Marcos family;
- For Alyeska and its oil company owners in the criminal investigation and civil litigation arising from the Exxon Valdez oil spill;
- For the Daily Journal in trial against the Metropolitan News; and
- The Limited in its unsuccessful bid to takeover Carter Hawley Hale.

Mr. Olson also has represented AOL Time Warner in securities actions arising from the merger of AOL and Time Warner; Gemstar-TV Guide International, Inc. in shareholder class actions and derivative cases arising from financial restatements; and Mattel in lawsuits over "Barbie Doll" rights.

Mr. Olson received his B.S. degree from Drake University in 1963, his J.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1966, and a Diploma in Law from Oxford University,

Contact



Office: Los Angeles
Phone: (213) 683-9111
Fax: (213) 683-5111
Email: Ron.Olson@mto.com

Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Corporate Counseling



MUNGER, TOLLES & OLSON LLP

England, in 1967, at which time he was the recipient of a Ford Foundation fellowship. In 1967, Mr. Olson was an attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and in 1968 clerked for Chief Judge David L. Bazelon, United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Mr. Olson was formerly Chairman of the Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary (1991-92), Chairman of the Litigation Section (1981-82), and Chairman of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (1976-86) of the American Bar Association, and was Vice President of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California (1986-87). He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Law Institute. Mr. Olson has received a number of awards for public service and pro bono activities.

Education

- The University of Michigan Law School (J.D., 1966); Order of the Barristers; Assistant Editor, *Michigan Law Review*, 1965-66
- Oxford University (Dipl. L. 1967)
- Drake University (B.S., 1963); Beta Gamma Sigma; Phi Eta Sigma; Omicron Delta Kappa

Clerkships

- Clerk to Chief Judge David L. Bazelon, U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, 1967-1968