



## Matt J. Fletcher

### Partner

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**Matt Fletcher is a first-chair trial lawyer with extensive experience in handling partnership disputes and other business litigation matters.**

Matt handles state and federal court cases involving all types of business disputes, primarily in the areas of shareholder and partnership disputes, fraud and breach of contract cases, real estate litigation, defense of consumer claims, unlawful competition, litigation stemming from mergers and acquisitions, business crisis management, and breach of fiduciary duty claims, but clients also ask for his help in labor and employment litigation and probate and trust disputes when coupled with an underlying family business dispute. Matt also provides strategic advice on how to avoid litigation, including working with corporate attorneys in structuring partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations. He represents publicly traded companies, international automobile manufacturers, privately held corporations of all sizes, high-net-worth entrepreneurs and business owners, commercial and residential real estate developers, large retail-chain stores, trusts, utility companies, and public school districts, private schools, and universities.

A recipient of the Attorney of the Year Award from the Public Law Center, Matt devotes a significant portion of his free time to pro bono clients and local volunteer organizations. He currently serves on the Men's Committee for the annual Rich Saul Memorial Golf Classic – the second-largest golf tournament in Orange County – which benefits Childhelp.

Matt was born in Akron, Ohio, but moved to California shortly after graduating from law school. He found immediate success in Orange County by teaming up with well-known trial lawyer Ed Connor. The firm became best known as Connor, Fletcher & Hedenkamp, LLP (CFH). **After 23 years at CFH, Matt decided to combine forces with Tucker Ellis.** Matt lives in South Orange County, where he enjoys spending time with his family.

### **Education**

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- The University of Akron School of Law (J.D., 1999, magna cum laude; Akron Law Review, Editor-in-Chief)
- The University of Akron (B.S. in Accounting, 1996)

### **State Admissions**

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- California, 1999

### **Federal Admissions**

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- United States District Court, Central District of California
- United States District Court, Southern District of California

### **Service Areas**

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- Business Litigation
- Real Estate
- Estate, Trust, and Fiduciary Litigation

## Experience

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- As lead trial counsel in a partnership dispute involving Beach Cities Scuba, secured a \$28.5 million jury verdict, which has resulted in a judgment that will likely exceed \$30 million with attorney's fees and costs
- Represented an internationally recognized company in a contract dispute, resulting in a \$13.3 million settlement in favor of the client
- Represented Plaintiff in a dispute involving a ground lease signed in the 1960s and involving damages to the premises of more than \$10 million; Defendants agreed to settle on highly confidential terms favorable to the client
- As lead trial counsel, secured a jury verdict in favor of the client in a case arising from a collaboration to develop an innovative autonomous tractor platform
- Represented the founder of a company acquired by an international brand to enforce his rights under complicated acquisition documents; the case was settled prelitigation on confidential and highly favorable terms to the client
- Secured a multimillion-dollar confidential settlement as lead counsel for a private equity firm in a contentious partnership dispute, involving claims of breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of partnership funds, and interference with business operations
- As lead trial counsel, [obtained sudden dismissal](#) of a high-profile lawsuit that Adventure Church filed against the owners of the Tower Theater property in Fresno, California, after [defeating a preliminary injunction motion](#) to halt the \$6.5 million sale the historic property; subsequently won an anti-SLAPP motion dismissing Adventure Church's tortious interference claim after Adventure Church sued the City of Fresno for buying the Tower Theater, seeking over \$10 million in damages; in December 2024, judgment was entered in favor of the City of Fresno and against Adventure Church, with Adventure Church paying \$180,000 in attorney's fees and costs to the City of Fresno
- Served as lead trial counsel defending an entrepreneur featured on "Shark Tank" in a partnership dispute and obtained a favorable settlement for the client following depositions
- Served as lead trial counsel in one of the most complicated probate and trust litigation cases in Orange County's history, which stemmed from representing an owner of a closely held family business
- Prosecuted an array of high-stakes corporate disputes, including fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, derivative shareholder disputes, corporate governance, and conversion claims, resulting in tens of millions of dollars in pretrial settlements
- Represented an Orange County entrepreneur in a shareholder dispute following the sale of his business, succeeding against three prominent law firms, including the largest law firm in the world, when a settlement was reached during trial
- Led a team of attorneys who proved that one of the country's largest general contractors committed fraud by showing it had never intended to honor its contractual obligation to fix defective construction at its sole cost and expense; 18 months after the contractor rejected a settlement offer, it paid \$6.175 million to the client to avoid a jury trial on the fraud claims
- Obtained a major settlement victory of approximately \$24 million for a school district client,

including the complete enclosure of a garbage dump to keep students, teachers, and administrators protected from serious environmental impacts

- Represented a large commercial real estate developer in defense of a specific performance action; aggressively defended the case and obtained a substantial attorney's fee award for expunging the lis pendens and resulting in early settlement, allowing the client to proceed with the sale of the building to a third party
- Secured a multimillion-dollar settlement for a family office in a dispute over a long-term ground lease, where the opposing side sued to invalidate the ground lease; as a result of a cross-complaint against the plaintiffs, the client received a settlement of approximately \$10 million, recovering damages for the attempt to invalidate the lease and attorney's fees
- Represented an engineering limited liability company and two of its members in an ownership dispute with one of the former members; after 18 months of litigation, the case settled for \$200,000 less than the client had offered to pay the plaintiff before the lawsuit was filed
- In a fraud case against a development company, obtained a judgment in favor of the client and recovered \$113,000 in attorney's fees from the plaintiff
- Defended fraud and breach of fiduciary duty claims using successful deposition strategies that showed that the defendant had done nothing wrong; once the corporate assets were divided, the client realized a gain on his pre-litigation share of the corporate assets of more than \$10 million
- Secured a multimillion-dollar judgment following the prosecution of a wrongful termination claim in a nearly four-month jury trial
- Obtained a \$2 million settlement for a client in a contentious breach of contract action over performance and payment agreements
- Successfully defended multimillion-dollar fraud and mortgage litigation actions, including a case in which the plaintiff alleged fraud and unfair business practices against the client – a national home-building company – and sought over \$1 million in damages; after the depositions of key percipient witnesses, the plaintiff dismissed the lawsuit with prejudice, and the client paid no money to the plaintiff
- Prosecuted a trust litigation dispute on behalf of the trustees of a multimillion-dollar family trust; achieved a full settlement of the trust litigation that required the beneficiaries to confess the trustees had not breached their fiduciary duties, and then obtained a significant settlement against the trust's attorney in the malpractice action
- Defended a real estate developer in arbitration involving a dispute over the ownership of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of real estate; presented evidence to the Orange County Superior Court showing that the arbitrator had misrepresented his background to the parties, resulting in removal of the arbitrator and ultimately resulting in victory on all claims raised in the arbitration
- Deeply involved in the prosecution of a land use dispute on behalf of two school districts; after extensive litigation, the clients received a settlement of more than \$60 million

## Publications & Events

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### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Client Confidentiality and the Difficulty Complying with Ethical Requirements in a Digital Age,” mylawcle.com (December 2022)
- “New Statutes, New Rules, and New Cases: What Every Business Litigator Needs to Know in 2021,” Orange County Bar Association Business Litigation Section (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)
- “#COVID-19: What Lawyers Want You to Know,” Orange County Bar Association (May 2020)

### MEDIA

- “How Empowering Junior Associates Drives Success in High-Stakes Business Disputes and Trial Outcomes,” *Daily Journal* (April 2025)
- “The Case for More Contingency-Fee Work,” *Legal Management* (November–December 2024)
- “What Should Midsize Firms Consider When Contemplating a Merger?“, Law.com Pro-Mid-Market (March 2024)
- “Church Seeks Restraining Order to Block \$65 Million Tower Theatre Sale,” *GV Wire* (May 2022)
- “Straight Shooters,” *Los Angeles & San Francisco Daily Journal* (February 2020)

### Honors

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- The Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America (2026)
- Southern California Super Lawyers® (2024)
- Attorney of the Year, Public Law Center (2003)

### In the Community

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- Orange County Bar Association
  - » Business Litigation Section, former Chair
- The State Bar of California
- Celtic Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Rich Saul Memorial Golf Classic, Men’s Committee