WIGGIN
WIGGIN AND DANA

Jonathan M. Freiman

PARTNER

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Jonathan represents clients in complex and high-stakes disputes, including appeals, transnational litigation, False Claims Act matters, and disputes over art and artifacts.

He handles appeals in the U.S. Supreme Court, every federal circuit, and state appellate courts nationwide. He has successfully vindicated clients' most important intellectual property interests on appeal, including defeating a Nobel Prize winner in litigation over the ownership of the patent on the Nobel-winning technology. His victories in major commercial matters include reversals in a nine-figure case in the U.S. Supreme Court and in eight-figure cases in the Supreme Courts of California, Georgia, and Connecticut, where he reversed what was then the largest class-action or commercial judgment ever issued in the state. He has also preserved important judgments for clients, including setting a record for the largest judgment ever affirmed by the Connecticut Appellate Court, and preserving, on alternative grounds, an important patent ruling in the Federal Circuit in a long-running transnational dispute.

Jonathan counsels clients in disputes involving art and artifacts, including claims involving provenance, authenticity, and export law. He has successfully defended a client's title to one of Van Gogh's most famous paintings, garnered a U.S. Supreme Court victory for Germany and the Berlin equivalent of the Smithsonian in a case alleging that a major collection of medieval art was obtained through duress in the Nazi era, and represented Yale University in its litigation with Peru over Incan artifacts from Machu Picchu. He regularly counsels clients on the investigation and resolution of claims involving provenance, cultural property, and authenticity, and he assists museums outside the U.S. in understanding, defending and resolving claims involving U.S. law. Jonathan has taught *Art and Artifacts Law* at Yale Law School, where he was the first practicing lawyer to teach art law, and he is listed in the *Chambers High Net Worth* guide as one of the leading lawyers in the U.S. in Art and Cultural Property Law. The U.S. Copyright Office has cited him in a report to Congress on copyright in the visual arts.

He represents sovereign nations and foreign sovereign officials in pursuing or defending claims in the United States. He has vindicated a former president of Mexico wrongly accused of violations of international human rights law, represented a foreign sovereign nation claiming RICO violations against a U.S. company, and has represented foreign sovereigns on Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act issues. He has represented foreign ambassadors and former senior U.S. officials.

Jonathan has deep experience litigating international disputes in U.S. courts and frequently works with counsel in other nations, whether on coordinated multinational litigation or by advising on U.S. law. His assistance to counsel in other nations includes providing expert testimony on U.S. law in foreign judicial proceedings.

Jonathan was named 2025 Attorney of the Year at the *New England Legal Awards*, organized by *ALM*, the nation's largest legal media company. Among other recognitions, *Chambers USA* ranks Jonathan in its highest band, noting that clients have described him as "absolutely brilliant," "a fiercely bright appellate lawyer who handles high end problems," "a very cost-effective resource in contentious matters," and "probably the very best appellate advocate I have ever seen." *Legal 500's* appellate rankings have reported clients describing Jonathan as "extraordinarily bright and practical…a rare combination and one that provides tremendous value to his clients," "an exceptional advocate," "absolutely outstanding," "knowledgeable, erudite, incredibly articulate and strategically excellent." He is a member of Wiggin and Dana's Executive Committee and an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

Education

- Yale Law School (J.D.)
- Oberlin College (B.A.)

Bar Admissions

- Connecticut
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- US District Court (District of Columbia)

- US District Court (District of Connecticut)
- US District Court (Eastern District of New York)
- US District Court (Southern District of New York)
- US District Court (Western District of New York)
- US Supreme Court

Distinctions

- Albom Award for Excellence in Appellate Advocacy (Yale Law School)
- Lawyer of the Year (Connecticut Law Tribune)
- McQuillan Public Service Award (Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association)
- Senior Schell Fellow, Yale Law School
- Bernstein Fellow, Yale Law School
- Keck Foundation Fellow in Legal Ethics
- Florida Supreme Court Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Lawyering
- Cuban American Bar Association Award

Memberships and Affiliations

- American Academy of Appellate Lawyers
- American Bar Association
- American Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Connecticut Bar Association
- Connecticut Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society
- International Bar Association
    - Committee on Art, Cultural Institutions and Heritage Law

Publications

April 20, 2026
IBM’s $17 Million DEI Settlement: A Watershed Moment for False Claims Act Enforcement

July 8, 2025
DOJ and HHS Form New False Claims Act Working Group Targeting Pharmaceutical Companies, Medical Device Makers, Health Care Providers, and Insurers

June 30, 2023
Supreme Court Update: Moore v. Harper (No. 21-1271)

April 16, 2019
Forensic Science and the Authentication of Two Disputed Artworks

April 1, 2019
New Application of Anti-Money Laundering Rules to Art Transactions

March 21, 2019
‘Soto v. Bushmaster’ Ruling Has Deeper Implications on CT Trade Law
Connecticut Law Tribune

March 15, 2019
Connecticut Supreme Court Ruling in Soto v. Bushmaster Firearms International, et al. Expands Scope of CUTPA

November 17, 2017
US changes the rules for claims of Nazi-looted art against foreign sovereigns and foreign public museums
International Bar Association: Art, Cultural Institutions and Heritage Law

May 1, 2015
Art and Museum Law Update

April 10, 2014
Gathering Facts and Documents Inside the United States for Use in Disputes Outside the United States
TerraLex Connections

April 26, 2013
Is Art Infringement? (Cariou v. Prince, 2nd Cir., April 25, 2013)

July 9, 2012
Defense Can Contact Members Of Proposed Class
Connecticut Law Tribune, Vol. 38, No. 28

May 21, 2012
Judge’s Human Touch Helped Turn Wheels of Justice
Connecticut Law Tribune, Vol. 38, No. 21

September 26, 2007
New Limits To The Corporate Veil?
Connecticut Law Tribune

September 14, 2006
Rivals Have Standing To Sue For Statutory Violations
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April 4, 2006
Jurist, Padilla’s Real Message: The Grace Period is Over

April 18, 2005
A Brave New World For ADR?
The National Law Journal, April 11, 2005

June 1, 2002
Maritime Migrants: Law and Practice
Private Monograph

June 1, 1998
Remodeling McDonnell Douglas
17 Quinnipiac L. Rev. 725

April 1, 1998
Steps Towards a Pedagogy of Improvisation in Legal Ethics
31 John Marshall L Rev. 1279

June 1, 1997
The Problem of Qualified Immunity: How Conflating Microeconmics and Law Subverts the Constitution
34 Idaho L. Rev. 61