

APPELLATE AND COMPLEX LEGAL ISSUES LAWYER OF THE YEAR



Jonathan M. Freiman

Chair of the Appellate and Complex Legal Issues Practice Group at **Wiggin and Dana**



ABOUT JONATHAN M. FREIMAN

Jonathan M. Freiman, Chair of the Appellate and Complex Legal Issues Practice Group at Wiggin and Dana, represents companies, foundations, universities, individuals and sovereign nations in complex disputes, including appeals, cross-border disputes and matters involving art and cultural property.

Recent appellate victories include major reversals across the United States: a reversal in the Connecticut Supreme Court, knocking out a \$35 million judgment – believed to be the largest class action judgment ever reversed in the state; a reversal in a much-watched California Supreme Court case, reinstating a \$13.5 million claim; and a reversal in the Georgia Supreme Court vacating a multi-million dollar verdict.

He has represented clients in a variety of art litigation matters, including the defense of title to one of Van Gogh's most famous paintings against a claim that Russia nationalized it in violation of international law; representation of a museum in a dispute over Incan artifacts claimed by a Latin American nation; representation of investors in an art investment fund; and representation of the government of Germany and a Berlin-based consortium of German museums in a case alleging that the sale of a large art collection was the result of Nazi duress.

His representation of sovereign nations and former heads of state includes the successful defense of a former President of Mexico against claims that he violated international law while serving as president; counseling another former head of state facing a civil suit for violation of international law; and representing a foreign sovereign nation in an appeal from a judgment in a civil RICO case.

His commercial litigation experience at the trial level includes the defense of class actions and multiple-jurisdiction actions against insurance companies and banks, including the defense of a bank in a nationwide class action and interrelated state and federal lawsuits involving allegations of culpability for losses caused by Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme, and representation of insurance companies against allegations of violations of the False Claims Act.

Mr. Freiman has written on constitutional law for Lexis and on international treaty-based arbitration in the National Law Journal. He has lectured in Europe, Canada and the United States, at venues including the Federalist Society and a United Nations Expert Roundtable. He co-founded the National Litigation Project (NLP) of the Allard K. Lowenstein Clinic at Yale Law School in 2002, teaching at Yale for five years while directing the NLP's litigation work and serving as a senior human rights fellow. In that capacity, he litigated important cases involving the intersection of civil liberties and national security, including the representation of a U.S. citizen seized and detained incommunicado and without charge in a military prison.

Mr. Freiman received his J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was Senior Editor of the Yale Law Journal, and received a Keck Foundation fellowship in legal ethics and awards from the Florida Supreme Court and the Cuban-American Bar Association. After graduation he clerked for the late Judge Louis H. Pollak, former Dean of Yale Law School.

He is currently a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a Life Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, and a member of the Committee on Art, Cultural Institutions and Heritage Law at the International Bar Association.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Cross-border litigation
- Commercial litigation
- Appeals
- Litigation over art and cultural property
- Representation of foreign sovereigns and former senior foreign officials



FIRM PROFILE

Wiggin and Dana represents clients from around the world from its offices in Connecticut, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Florida. Its attorneys offer a full range of legal services to a diverse client base, including foreign sovereigns, former senior foreign officials, Fortune 50 & Fortune 100 finance, insurance, defense, aerospace, and life sciences companies, hospitals, universities, startups, charitable organizations and high-net worth individuals.

Wiggin and Dana represents clients based in the U.K. and the rest of Europe, frequently working with European law firms whose clients have legal needs in the U.S., ranging from cross-border litigation and international trade compliance to mergers and acquisitions.

The firm's primary mission is to provide its clients with the highest-quality legal services in an efficient, cost-effective and responsive manner to help them achieve their goals. Wiggin and Dana exemplifies the best of the old and new—a proudly independent firm devoted to excellence and dedicated to crafting innovative solutions for its clients.

WIGGIN AND DANA

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