wkps | waters | kraus | paul | siegel

Michael L. Armitage

PARTNER

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Mike Armitage is a partner at Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel in the firm's Los Angeles office and a key member of the firm's nationally respected trial team. His work has resulted in some of the firm's most notable verdicts, including record verdicts and settlements for individuals who have been harmed by toxic exposure, dangerous and defective products, and negligent corporate practices.

Mike is a member of the firm's international practice, which represents clients from around the world and helps them pursue justice in U.S. courts. That includes representing sailors and maritime workers from other countries who have been exposed to dangerous substances like asbestos while in U.S. ports. Mike and the WKPS team are widely known for their work in this highly complex form of litigation and their track record for fighting to keep these disputes in the U.S. civil justice system where victims have the best chances for obtaining justice.

Born in Surrey, England, Mike began his career practicing maritime transportation and commercial law before shifting his focus to personal injury and product liability cases after joining the firm in 2000.

Mike plays leadership roles in the plaintiffs bar and in complex mass tort litigation. That includes serving as liaison counsel on Bench-Bar Committees for asbestos and complex litigation issues before the Los Angeles County Superior Court. He is regularly invited to co-chair or speak at national and international conferences on asbestos and mass tort litigation.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for Justice

Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles, Board of Governors

Maritime Law Association of the United States, Proctor Member

HONORS & AWARDS

Southern California Super Lawyers, Thomson Reuters, Legal, 2006-2026

Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers, The National Trial Lawyers, 2025

Top Rated Lawyers list, Martindale-Hubbell®, 2020

The Best Lawyers In America, 2006-2010

Southern California's Top Rated Lawyers, Martindale-Hubbell®

AV® Preeminent™, Martindale-Hubbell®

Order of the Coif

Member, Moot Court Board, Tulane University

Senior Fellow, Legal Research and Writing Program, Tulane University

PRO BONO & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board of Trustees, Vistamar School, 2012-2021

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Asbestos

International

Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices

Products Liability

Qui Tam Whistleblower / False Claims Act

Toxic Tort

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, 1991

Louisiana, 1987

U.S. Supreme Court, 1993

U.S. Court of Appeals
- 5th Circuit, 1988
- 9th Circuit, 1992

U.S. District Courts
- Central District of California, 1991
- Northern District of California, 1991
- Southern District of California, 1991
- Eastern District of Louisiana, 1987
- Middle District of Louisiana, 1987
- Western District of Louisiana, 1987

EDUCATION

Tulane University, J.D., cum laude, 1987

Tulane University, B.A., magna cum laude, with Honors in Political Science, 1984

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HIGHLIGHTS

Michael Armitage Receives Super Lawyers 2020 Designation

"Top-Rated" Attorney Makes 2019 Super Lawyers List

Michael Armitage Named on 2018 Southern California Supers Lawyers List

Southern California Super Lawyers 2017

Whistleblower Claims Lead to $30M Settlement for CDI

2016 Southern California Super Lawyers®

Recent Mass Tort Developments

Southern California Super Lawyers 2013

Family of Mesothelioma Victim Awarded $15.25M by Los Angeles County Jury

Jury Awards $12.6M to Homeowner with Intermittent Exposure to Asbestos

Silvestro v. Bondex International et. al.

Behshid v. Bondex International et. al.

PUBLICATIONS & SPEECHES

Author, *Recent Mass Tort Developments*, Advocate (Jan. 2013)

Frequently-Invited Co-Chair and Speaker, National and International Asbestos and Mass Tort Seminars and Conferences, including Co-Chair for BVR Legal's/Mealey's 2008 National Asbestos Litigation SuperConference

Author, *Shipowners' Liability for Longshoremen Personal Injuries: The Supreme Court Blocks the 'Importation' of Unseaworthiness*, 7 U.S.F. Mar. L. J. 67 (1994)

Author, *Judge John Minor Wisdom and the Constitutional and Judicial Approaches to Racial Desegregation*, unpublished Tulane University Honors Thesis (1984)