



John A. O'Hara

Partner

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Newport Beach, CA : 949-271-7203

Malcom Gladwell had it right when he asserted that it takes 10,000 hours of serious commitment and practice to get to the top of your field. Sometimes there is just no substitute for experience. Mr. O'Hara's experience includes over 34 years of handling complex and high stakes litigation. He has put in his 10,000 hours and then some.

There are not many construction and business litigation situations that John O'Hara has not seen, analyzed, litigated and successfully resolved. He joined the firm in 1987, just a few years after its inception, and embodies the precept that clients come first. A litigation partner in the firm's Newport Beach and Las Vegas offices, John applies a keen understanding of business realities to meet his clients' needs. He concentrates his practice on civil litigation involving business, construction, real estate, insurance coverage, and class action claims.

Construction and Real Estate Litigation

John represents residential real estate developers in complex, multi-party construction matters and real estate litigation. Closely allied with local and national homebuilders throughout California and beyond, John, along with other members of the firm's construction and real estate litigation teams, provide undivided loyalty to real estate clients. Staunchly representing builders, he effectively resolves the problems that can arise at every phase of construction and land development, to keep projects on track throughout the construction life cycle, with a focus on overall profitability.

Risk Management and Insurance Litigation

In the insurance arena John advises on the complexities of insurance coverage, and tackles insurance industry giants to ensure his clients are treated fairly and receive their policy benefits. He represents corporate and individual policyholders in disputes with insurers, including bad faith litigation. From project inception, John ensures that his developer, homebuilder, and contractor clients have the cost-effective coverage they need to address every contingency. He counsels policyholders on policy terms, determines the full range of benefits, makes the claim, supports the claim, argues the claim and effectively litigates the claim if necessary. Litigation-savvy, he

builds cases and negotiates settlements, having represented multiple clients to maximize insurance coverage, and recovered tens of millions of dollars that policyholders never expected to receive.

Business and Corporate Litigation

Focused on the substantive litigation issues that impact business operations, John works with key players in the real estate development, homebuilding, and construction industries. With regard to business litigation, his experience includes breach of contract claims, partnership disputes, trade secret disputes, fraud claims, franchise litigation, lender liability and unfair business practice claims.

Services

- Business Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Risk Avoidance, Transfer & Management

Awards & Recognition

- Selected to the Southern California Super Lawyers list, 2005-2023
- Selected to the Southern California Super Lawyers Top 50 Orange County Lawyers list, 2008
- AV® Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review
- Selected to the Orange County Best Lawyers list, Construction Litigation, 2016-2025

Professional Affiliations

- Orange County Bar Association
- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- American Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Clark County Bar Association
- District of Columbia Bar Association
- Fellow - Construction Lawyers Society of America

Admissions

- California, 1985
- District of Columbia, 1986
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court, District of Nevada

Education

- The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law(J.D., 1985)
- University of California, Irvine(B.A., 1982)

Matters

Insurance Litigation

Defended dozens of contentious lawsuits by a major insurance carrier seeking to shirk its obligation to defend its insured and/or to seek reimbursement for policy benefits already paid. These action

Recovery of Policy Benefits

Insurance companies never volunteer policy benefits or search for coverage. Instead, they write insurance policies that are confusing and obtuse and sit back and wait to see if the policyholder is w

Client Triumphs in Insurance Bad Faith Lawsuits

We represented a large public company client in dozens of lawsuits initiated by a mammoth insurance company attempting to intimidate the client into walking away from significant insurance policy bene

Arbitration Win in Pacific Coast Residence Fire Claim

Won a significant arbitration award against an insurer who wrongfully denied coverage to the owner of a large seaside mansion that burned down while being leased. The insurer attempted to defeat cov

Business Litigation Trial Rejects Claim and Awards Fees to Franchise Operator

Prevailed in multi-week jury trial representing a franchise operator being sued by a large international corporation. We were able convince the jury that the corporation's true motive for the suit

Construction Litigation Victory for Homebuilder

Successfully defended a builder in a large attached housing construction defect case in Los Angeles where the association was claiming over \$100 million in damages. A substantial portion of the alle

News

Aug 15, 2024 - Firm News

10 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2025 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas

Aug 17, 2023

10 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2024 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas

Jan 25, 2023 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers

Aug 18, 2022 - Firm News

11 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2023 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas

Jan 20, 2022 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers

Aug 20, 2020 - Firm News

12 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2021 U.S. News Best Lawyers in Multiple Practice Areas

Jan 29, 2021 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2021 Super Lawyer List/Greg Dillion Named to Top 50 OC Attorney List

Mar 17, 2020 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Named to 2020 Super Lawyers List

Aug 15, 2019 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to The Best Lawyers in America© and Orange County

Aug 15, 2019 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*© and Orange County

Jan 30, 2019 - Firm News

Nine Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers

Aug 17, 2018 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to Best Lawyers in America© and as Orange County Attorneys of the Year 2018

Aug 15, 2018 - Firm News

Nine Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to The Best Lawyers in America© 2019

Jan 30, 2018 - Firm News

11 Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Recognized as Southern California Super Lawyers

Jun 05, 2017 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to the 2017 Southern California Super Lawyers Lists

Aug 15, 2016 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Listed in The Best Lawyers in America© 2017

Jun 06, 2016 - Firm News

Newmeyer Dillion Attorneys Selected to the 2016 Southern California Super Lawyers List

Events

When: Jan 23, 2020

ND 2020 Annual Seminar

When: Feb 14, 2018

Newmeyer Dillion's 2018 Builder Update

Location: The Pacific Club

Beyond the Office

John was born in Virginia and raised in the Los Angeles area with seven siblings but put down his roots after law

school in Newport Beach in 1986. He and his wife Catherine have raised three children in the community and have been active in school, youth sports, charitable and community activities. When not working, John enjoys music, golf, basketball, politics and two grandkids (so far).