



Steven B. Hymas, II

Partner / Executive Committee Member

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Practice Areas

Corporate Law | Emerging Companies & Venture Capital | Food & Agriculture | Intellectual Property & Licensing | Mergers & Acquisitions | Nonprofit/Tax-Exempt Organizations | Privacy & Data Integrity

With over a decade of prior experience working in business and technology, Steve Hymas has a deep understanding of the legal issues clients face in relation to how their businesses work, the technical challenges they face, and how to handle those issues to best address their needs.

Steve brings these skills and unique perspective to representing clients in analyzing and negotiating complex business and technology transactions (such as licensing and distribution agreements, manufacturing and supply agreements, development and hosting agreements, technology acquisitions, and franchise agreements), and intellectual property matters (such as copyright and trademark registration and management, and intellectual property disputes involving patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, and unfair competition). He also represents clients in mergers and acquisitions, and in corporate and securities matters.

In addition to his civilian practice, Steve served in the California National Guard as a Judge Advocate where he served as cyber defense counsel. Steve has also served as trial counsel, trial defense counsel, and counsel to commanders on military law matters. Prior to joining Downey Brand, Steve worked for several years with information technology companies such as Dell-Perot Systems, where he worked as a software engineer, manager, and privacy and quality expert for programs like Six Sigma and CMMI.

Experience

- Serves as a lead attorney in representing one of California's largest grocery chains in business and technology transactions, including several multimillion-dollar transactions involving the redesign of the client's IT infrastructure, websites, and customer programs.
- Represents some of California's largest healthcare companies in drafting and negotiating contracts, including multimillion-dollar information technology agreements and master services agreements.

- Routinely represents clients in matters involving data protection and security, including confidentiality agreements, business association agreements, data retention policies, data testing agreements, agreements involving cardholder data, patient data, and other sensitive information.
- Assists in the representation of clients in intellectual property disputes involving complex technology and intellectual property issues, including the representation of a leading supplier of computer software used by clerk-recorder offices throughout California in a copyright infringement and trade secret misappropriation case that resulted in extraordinary sanctions against the competing software company and a seven-figure recovery for our client.
- Represents our financial institution clients in business and technology transactions, including assisting in the representation of a client in a \$35 million dollar public offering.
- Representing buyer in multi-million dollar acquisition of additional stores for franchise business.
- Representing professional services company in the wireless industry in multi-million dollar stock redemption of certain shareholders.
- Representing buyer in multi-million dollar corporate restructuring involving stock redemption of certain shareholders and purchase of the corporation's assets.
- Representing buyer in multi-million dollar acquisition of IT and delivery services company.
- Represented buyer in \$75 million acquisition of IT and subscription services company.
- Represented sellers in \$50 million dollar stock sale of energy and business solutions business.

Professional & Community Service

- California Army National Guard, Judge Advocate, Judge Advocate General's Corps
- Junior Achievement of Sacramento, Board of Directors, 2020-present
- American Leadership Forum, Mountain Valley Chapter, Class XXVI, 2022-2023
- Leadership Sacramento, Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, Class of 2016
- American Health Law Association, Health Information Technology Practice Group
- International Association of Privacy Professionals
- Rotary Club of Sacramento
- Sacramento Regional Technology Alliance, AgStart Program, Former Member
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Business Law, Intellectual Property Law & Tax Law Sections
- California Lawyers Association, Business Law & Intellectual Property Law Sections

Education

- L.L.M., Taxation, New York University, 2024
- J.D., with great distinction, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, 2008
- M.B.A., Technology Specialization, Arizona State University, 2004
- B.S., with honors, Accounting, Arizona State University, 1997
- B.S., with honors, Computer Information Systems, Arizona State University, 1997

Honors & Rankings

- Best Lawyers in America®, Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2025
- *Super Lawyers*, Northern California Super Lawyers, Business/Corporate, 2023-2025
- *SacTown Magazine* (formerly *Sacramento Magazine*), Top Lawyer, Business/Corporate, Information Technology, Intellectual Property, Mergers & Acquisitions, 2015-2024
- *Sacramento Business Journal*, Best of the Bar, 2019
- Order of the Coif
- Witkin Award in Computer and Internet Law
- Arizona State University, Graduate Certificate/Six-Sigma Black Belt, Statistics, 2005

Speaking Engagements / Events

- *COVID-19 Webinar No. 8: Considerations for Businesses & Employers*, Downey Brand COVID-19 Webinar Series, May 22, 2020
- *COVID-19 Webinar No. 4: Considerations for Businesses & Employers*, Downey Brand COVID-19 Webinar Series, April 10, 2020
- *Stay Out of the Headlines (And Out of Jail) - Preparing for Compliance Under the California Consumer Privacy Act*, Joint Presentation Hosted by Downey Brand, EPIC, Five Star Bank, and Moss Adams, October 2, 2019
- *Cyber Risk Management*, Co-presenter, 2018 Moss Adams Credit Union Conference, July 27, 2018
- *Legal Issues Impacting Financial Institutions*, Presenter, 2018 Moss Adams Credit Union Conference, July 27, 2018
- *Managing Cybersecurity Risks*, Presenter, ACC Sacramento Chapter Luncheon, September 15, 2016
- *Cybersecurity for Your Business*, Joint Presentation with Moss Adams, Precision Public Relations and

Wells Fargo Insurance, May 20, 2016

- *Igniting Momentum a Startup Primer*, Co-presenter, Velocity Venture Capital Entrepreneurial Drive, July 27, 2015

Publications

- *Failure to Follow WIC Stocking Requirements Can Endanger Your Program Status*, California Grocer, Issue 4, September 2015
- *Merchants: Are You Ready for the October 2015 Credit Card Liability Shift?*, California Grocer, Issue 3, July 2015
- *Protecting Against Security Breaches in the Retail Industry*, California Grocer, Issue 6, December 2014