



Christopher Miles Kolkey Senior Associate

621 Capitol Mall | 18th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

916.520.5320 | Direct
ckolkey@downeybrand.com

Practice Areas

Appellate & Writ Practice | Complex Business Litigation | Construction Litigation | Intellectual Property Litigation | Trust & Estate Litigation

Christopher Kolkey has a wealth of experience with all phases of litigation and is a passionate advocate for his clients.

With innovative strategy and efficient execution, Christopher assists his clients in resolving disputes cost-effectively, always aimed at achieving the most desirable outcome. Christopher has litigated cases on two continents, both the west and east coasts, in state and federal courts, as well as before arbitration panels. He has taken and defended depositions, drafted and argued dispositive motions, and tried cases. His clients include multi-million dollar companies, small and medium-sized businesses, and individuals.

Experience

- Defended labor union in class action lawsuit filed in the wake of the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 11*, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018). Successfully drafted motion to dismiss, and successfully drafted opposition to motion for preliminary injunction.
- Defended a family member against a claim filed by trustee in federal court arising from alleged breach of quasi-contract. Successfully drafted and argued motion to dismiss on statute of limitations grounds.
- Second chair for arbitration over breach of contract, delivering the opening statement and direct-examining key witnesses. The client prevailed at arbitration on his breach of contract claim.
- Represented eight defendants in complex civil RICO case for \$27 million against Taiwanese creditor, drafting 80-page motion for summary judgment, and managing millions of pages of written discovery with over 40 depositions on two continents and hundreds of discovery disputes before two court-appointed special masters. The defendants reached a favorable settlement for even less than the cost of trial.
- Represented Relativity Media against Netflix over breach of contract. Christopher's representation included researching, drafting, and arguing an opposition to Netflix's demurrer, which the Court overruled. Law360 published an article on May 16, 2017 about the high-profile hearing. See <https://www.law360.com/articles/924515/netflix-fights-bankrupt-film-studio-s-suit-over-streaming>.
- Second chair for arbitration in Georgia over alleged breach of employment agreement, direct-examining

and cross-examining witnesses.

- Represented individual against insurance broker in lawsuit involving breach of contract and fraud claims. He drafted motions to compel discovery responses and opposed the insurance broker's demurrer, all of which were successful.
- Researched and drafted successful motion for summary adjudication in a breach of contract lawsuit for over \$1.6 million. The Los Angeles Daily Journal reported about the first-of-its-kind ruling, which relied, in part, on a 150-year old case.

Professional & Community Service

- Leadership Sacramento, Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation, Class of 2021
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Probate and Estate Planning Section
- Sacramento Metro EDGE
- UCLA School of Law, faculty-selected writing adviser for first-year law students
- *UCLA Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs*, Chief Production Editor

Education

- J.D., University of California at Los Angeles, School of Law, 2014
- B.A., *magna cum laude*, History, University of California at Los Angeles, 2011

Honors & Rankings

- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Blogs

- *Lights, Cabin, Action! A Showdown Over Jurisdiction and Venue*, January 11, 2021
- *En Garde! A Trust's Revocation Method May Not Be Enforced Unless It Explicitly States It's the Exclusive Means of Revocation*, July 29, 2020
- *Trustees May Not Need Lawyers to Seek Instructions from California Courts, But the Do-It-Yourself Approach Remains Hazardous*, April 27, 2020
- *Mind Your Notice in California – Even Remote Contingent Beneficiaries May Need to Be Served*, March 19, 2020
- *Don't Rely on a Post-It® Note to Amend Your California Trust*, October 28, 2019
- *California Probate Administration Is No Time for Napping*, July 2, 2019
- *Free Rider No More — When Can a California Trust Beneficiary Shift Legal Fees to Other Beneficiaries?*, February 6, 2019