

Christina L. Costley

Partner and Chair, West Coast Securities Litigation

Securities Litigation

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Christina Costley is a proven securities litigator and first-chair trial lawyer who has won victories for her clients across a range of complex practice areas, including securities class actions, shareholder derivative cases, intellectual property disputes and criminal proceedings.

A winning record

Securities class actions are must-win cases. Christina is a proven securities litigator who has obtained dismissal, at the pleading stage, of every securities class action and shareholder derivative case that she has defended in the last decade. And she has held that record on appeal, beating back every attempt by the plaintiff's bar to overturn trial court dismissals. She also has an excellent record of defeating requests to enjoin shareholder votes in merger cases and other proxy contests.

Clients value the tenacity and insight she brings to these disputes, noting that “Christina Costley is really tough and smart.” (*The Legal 500*, 2026)

In addition, and unusual amongst the securities bar, Christina has significant courtroom experience, having acted as lead counsel in 15 jury trials.

Christina has also had success defending other forms of complex litigation, including false advertising, trade secrets and software negligence.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Chambers USA*
  - Litigation Securities, 2026
- *Daily Journal*
  - Top 20 Under 40, 2014
- *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*
  - Southern California, 2015–2018

Practices

- Appeals and Critical Motions
- Artificial Intelligence
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- Securities Litigation
- White Collar and Internal Investigations

Industries

- Life Sciences
- Technology

Education

- JD, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law
- BA, University of California, Santa Barbara, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- US District Court, Central District of California
- US District Court, Northern District of California
- US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

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- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Recommended Attorney, 2019, 2022–2024
- *Lawdragon*
  - 500 Leading Litigators in America, 2026–2027

News

- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)
- Katten Lauded in The Legal 500 United States 2023 (June 9, 2023)
- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Center (November 10, 2021)
- COVID-19 Securities Class Actions May Hinge on Disclosures (April 16, 2020)
- California Court of Appeals Affirmed Securities Class Action Win for Katten Client Natera (March 11, 2020)
- Katten Praised in The Legal 500 United States 2019 Guide (June 11, 2019)
- Katten Attorneys Designated as Southern California *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars (June 7, 2018)
- Christina Costley Featured in AHT Insurance's *Annual State of the D&O Market Report* (April 30, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Selected as Southern California *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars (June 5, 2017)
- Katten Attorneys Named Southern California *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars (June 6, 2016)
- Twelve Katten Attorneys Recognized in the 2015 Southern California *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars List (June 8, 2015)
- *Daily Journal* Names Partner Christina Costley to Top 20 Under 40 List for 2014 (January 29, 2014)
- Katten Wins Favorable Ruling for Board of Chinese Company in Nevada Supreme Court (October 15, 2013)
- Katten Names Six New Partners (July 12, 2013)
- Katten Wins Dismissal of Say-on-Pay Lawsuit for AAR Corporation (April 9, 2013)

> ***"Christina will handle questions with the right tailoring for the client and its risk profile and industry. She is also highly responsive." "Christina is a very knowledgeable and competent securities litigator." "She is experienced in securities matters and able to wade through complex issues." "Christina is responsive and produces excellent work quality."***
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> ***Chambers USA* 2026 (California, Litigation: Securities) survey response**

- *IR Update* Interviews Associate Christina Costley for Article on Executive Compensation Lawsuits (January 23, 2013)
- Attorneys Bruce Vanyo, Richard Zelichov and Christina Costley Discuss Say-on-Pay Lawsuits in *Business Law Today* (November 19, 2012)
- Attorneys Bruce Vanyo, Richard Zelichov and Christina Costley Author Article in *The D&O Diary* on "Say on Pay" Compensation (October 31, 2012)

Publications

- Every Prompt Leaves a Record: How Businesses Can Manage Litigation Risk From Everyday AI Use (October 30, 2026)
- Your AI Chats May Be Discoverable: Preservation and Privilege Considerations for Generative AI Prompts and Outputs (October 29, 2026)
- Sometimes It's What You Don't Say That Gets You in Trouble (January 2018)
- Merger Objection Cases: Toothless Tigers (July 28, 2014)
- Proxy Statement Attacks Continue (December 5, 2012)
- A New Wave of Say-on-Pay and Executive Compensation Proxy Litigation (October 29, 2012)
- Stamping Out Merger Objection Cases – Expedited Proceedings: A Privilege Not a Right (September 3, 2012)

Presentations and Events

- Paradigm Shift? Mandatory Securities Arbitration and the Impact of the SEC's Recent Policy Statement for Companies and Investors (December 11, 2025)
- Speaking of AI: What Can You Do to Avoid Trouble in Disclosures, Litigation, and Regulatory Scrutiny (April 3, 2025) | *Co-Presenter*
- Governing Through Regulatory Activism (December 2, 2021)
- Rising Risks of Securities Litigation (NACD Webinar) (February 13, 2020) | *Speaker*
- Legal Series: Say on Pay and Executive Compensation Litigation in 2014 (August 22, 2014) | *Presenter*
- Legal Series: Say on Pay and Executive Compensation Litigation in 2014 (June 12, 2014) | *Presenter*

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- The Gathering Storm: Equity Compensation and 10b5-1 Plans Under Attack (January 15, 2013) | *Moderator*