



C. GRIFFITH TOWLE

PARTNER

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C. Griffith Towle is a Partner of Bartko Pavia LLP in the Litigation Practice. Griff concentrates his practice in commercial litigation, class actions, franchise and related regulatory litigation, business and partnership disputes, real estate litigation, employment law, and intellectual property litigation. Griff is certified as a specialist in Franchise and Distribution Law by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization. He has successfully tried and arbitrated numerous cases involving franchise issues, intellectual property, partnership disputes, contract claims, and business torts. Additionally, he has extensive experience in mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Griff is the former Co-Chair of the Franchise Law Committee of the State Bar of California and has served on the Steering Committee of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Division of the American Bar Association's Forum on Franchising. He is also the Co-Editor of the Franchise Litigation Handbook (1st Edition) published by the American Bar Association, and he previously held the position of Associate Editor for the Franchise Law.

CREDENTIALS

EDUCATION

- University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings), J.D.
- University of California, Santa Barbara, B.A. with honors

BAR ADMISSIONS

- California State Bar

COURT ADMISSIONS

- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
- United States District Court for the Southern District of California
- United States District Court for the Central District of California

RECOGNITIONS

- Named as a Northern California “Super Lawyer” (2013-2025)
- Named in International Who’s Who Legal – Franchise Edition (2007-2025)

INSIGHTS

PRESS RELEASE | 14, MAY 2025

BARTKO PAVIA’S PATRICK M. RYAN OBTAINS \$222 MILLION JURY VERDICT AGAINST WALMART

Press Contact

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS | 23, MAY 2024

C. GRIFFITH TOWLE IS THE MODERATOR AT THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION’S LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

C. Griffith Towle moderates the speech entitled Franchise Litigation — Frequently Arising Issues in Litigation.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS | 12, MAY 2024

C. GRIFFITH TOWLE SPOKE AT A RECENT WEBINAR REGARDING PROVING IRREPARABLE HARM IN LANHAM ACT CASES

C. Griffith Towle spoke at a recent webinar regarding proving irreparable harm in Lanham Act cases after the Supreme Court’s decisions in eBay and Winter.

HONORS AND AWARDS | 15, MAY 2019

THREE BARTKO PAVIA FRANCHISE LAW SPECIALISTS SELECTED FOR 2019 EDITION OF WHO'S WHO LEGAL – FRANCHISE

Chuck Miller and Griff Towle, both litigators, have again been listed in the Franchise edition of Who's Who Legal, an international publication listing the foremost legal practitioners in various areas of business law. Nominees are selected based upon comprehensive, independent survey work with both general counsel and private practice lawyers worldwide. Only specialists who ha...

PRESS RELEASE | 28, NOVEMBER 2018

BARTKO PAVIA LITIGATION TEAM WINS \$223+ MILLION VICTORY FOR ASML IN THEFT OF TRADE SECRETS, BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, AND COMPUTER FRAUD CASE AGAINST XTAL, INC.

On the evening of November 28, 2018, a jury in Santa Clara Superior Court returned a verdict in favor of ASML on all of its five claims against XTAL, awarding \$223 million on the trade secrets claim, \$135 million for inducing former employees to breach their contracts with ASML, \$169 million for aiding and abetting former employees to breach their duty of loyalty to ASML, and \$1....

PUBLICATIONS | 05, APRIL 2016

INJUNCTION RELIEF IN LANHAM ACT CASES POST-HERB REED

Spring 2016 – Motions for preliminary injunctive relief are routinely sought in cases involving claims for trademark infringement. For many years, once a moving party established a likelihood of success on the merits, irreparable harm was presumed and an injunction would usually be issued. This all changed with the Ninth Circuit's holding in Herb Reed Enter., LLC v. Florida Entm't...

PUBLICATIONS | 18, MARCH 2016

C. GRIFFITH TOWLE PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN THE ABTL REPORT ON INJUNCTION RELIEF IN LANHAM ACT CASES POST-HERB REED

The Spring 2016 edition of the ABTL Report – Northern California, Volume 24, No. 3, features an article by C. Griffith Towle on "Injunction Relief in Lanham Act Cases Post-Herb Reed." View a PDF of the article.

PUBLICATIONS | 18, MARCH 2015

C. GRIFFITH TOWLE CO-AUTHORS ARTICLE IN THE FRANCHISING (& DISTRIBUTION) CURRENTS SECTION OF ABA FRANCHISE LAW JOURNAL

C. Griffith Towle co-authored the following PDF article in the Franchising (& Distribution) Currents section of the ABA Franchise Law Journal, Volume 34, Number 4, Spring 2015. The Franchising (& Distribution) Currents section is a detailed review of recent franchise and distribution case law.

PRESS RELEASE | 12, JANUARY 2015

FEDERAL COURT ORDERS DIABLO TO PAY NETLIST ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS

Oakland, California

PRESS RELEASE | 12, JANUARY 2015

NETLIST WINS MAJOR LEGAL VICTORY IN TRADE SECRET, BREACH OF CONTRACT LAWSUIT AGAINST DIABLO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Oakland, California

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author, Franchise Litigation Handbook, Chapter 1 – Initial Pleadings (2nd Edition); American Bar Association, October 2021
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Winter 2020
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Winter 2019
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Effective and Failed Strategies to Compel/Avoid Arbitration"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2018
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Fall 2018
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Judicial Update – Arbitration & Forum Selection Issues"; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2018
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Fall 2017
- Speaker and Co-Author, "The Slippery Sands of Post-Termination Enforcement – Opportunities for Franchisees & Pitfalls for Franchisors; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2017
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Fall 2016

- Author, "Injunction Relief in Lanham Act Cases Post-Herb Reed"; Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL) Report, Northern California, Volume 24, No. 2., Spring 2016
- Speaker, "Irreparable Harm and Trademark Law Demystified!"; Webinar, October 2015
- Panel Moderator, "Franchise Litigation – Frequently Arising Issues in Litigation"; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2015
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Spring 2015
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Winter 2014
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Proving Irreparable Harm – Have the Standards Changed?"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2012
- Co-Editor, Franchise Litigation Handbook (1st Edition); American Bar Association, October 2010
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Fundamentals 201: Stop That Right Now – Preparing For And Winning Injunctions"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2010
- Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Summer 2010
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Incurable Defaults and 'Good Cause' Requirements – Can Sound Drafting Reconcile the Two?"; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2010
- Co-Author, California Franchise Law and Practice, Chapter 12 – Case Law Highlights; CEB, February 2009
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Unconscionability and Franchise Litigation"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2006
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Frequently Arising Issues in Litigation – Handling Defaults and Terminations Effectively and Lawfully"; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2006
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Litigator's Guide to Franchise Terminations – Settlement: Things Every Potential Litigant Should Know About Litigation"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2002
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Keeping the Enforcers at Bay – Handling an FTC or State Franchise Investigation"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2001
- Speaker and Co-Author, "Some Approaches to Litigation Management"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 1999

- Author, "Representing a Franchisor in Litigation with the FTC"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Summer 1997
- Author, "Representing a Franchisor in an FTC Investigation"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Summer 1996

AREAS OF FOCUS

PRACTICES

Intellectual Property
Litigation