MOFO DIVERSITY

TRIAL LAWYERS
YOU SEE A DIVERSE GROUP OF TRIAL LAWYERS. SO DOES THE COURT AND THE JURY.

MORRISON & FOERSTER’S LONG-STANDING LEADERSHIP IN RECRUITING, TRAINING, AND ADVANCING WOMEN, LGBTQ+, AND LAWYERS OF COLOR AND DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES MEANS OUR HIGHLY SKILLED TRIAL TEAMS MIRROR THE DIVERSITY OF THE JUDGES AND JURIES WHO DECIDE OUR CLIENTS’ CASES.

AT MORRISON & FOERSTER, WE DON’T LOOK ALIKE OR THINK ALIKE. FOR THE WORK THAT WE DO—INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM—that’s important.
PIONEERING DIVERSITY IN THE COURTROOM

Arturo González leads a strong group of MoFo trial lawyers who reflect the dramatically increasing diversity of the jurors who decide our clients’ cases. Arturo was a farmworker in California’s Central Valley who became the first in his family to graduate from college. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1985, he became the firm’s first Latino partner at the age of 31. Arturo might also be the first practicing attorney to admit the key to winning cases is not solely about building the case around the law. Much of his illustrious career is attributed to his ability to connect and engage with the jury. This approach has helped him successfully defend four trials in which the plaintiffs sought more than $1 billion in damages, and has contributed to winning four jury verdicts in excess of $10 million each. In the recent Uber v. Waymo trial, he led a MoFo trial team that won a favorable settlement after four days of trial, after defeating a motion for preliminary injunction that sought to halt Uber’s autonomous-vehicle program.

Arturo takes pride in his ability to distill technical and complicated facts into plain English and relatable metaphors that jurors will understand. It is this unique skill that enables him to successfully represent clients on their high-stakes, bet-the-company trial work. For example, when Arturo landed a $36.3 million verdict in Hansen Medical v. Luna Innovations Inc., he was able to persuade the jurors that Hansen Medical was the wronged party by comparing Luna’s breach of contract to an unfaithful partner in a relationship. In Uber v. Waymo, Arturo avoided complicated...

JURIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE INCREASINGLY MORE DIVERSE; OUR TRIAL TEAM REFLECTS THAT DIVERSITY.

ARTURO GONZÁLEZ
jargon and repeatedly emphasized that “these aren’t trade secrets” and “they never made it to Uber.” Arturo recognizes that appealing to the jurors’ moral compass, and building the case around whether something is right or wrong, is fundamental to success in the courtroom.

In addition to blazing new trails for the firm’s clients, Arturo also remains committed to serving the community and has tried nine civil rights cases. Recognizing the importance of ensuring continued diversity in the courtroom, Arturo is committed to mentoring the next generation of diverse trial lawyers at Morrison & Foerster, including Alexis Amezcua, Hon. LaShann DeArcy Hall (now a United States District Court Judge), Diana Kruze, Colette Reiner Mayer, Purvi Patel, Bita Rahebi, and Wendy Ray.

ARTURO IS ONE OF THE FEW LAWYERS IN THE U.S. TO BE A MEMBER OF THE TOP THREE INVITATION-ONLY TRIAL LAWYER BODIES:

• AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS
• AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES
• INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS
DELIVERING SUCCESS FOR OUR CLIENTS

WE HAVE TRIED AND WON HUNDREDS OF BET-THE-COMPANY CASES FOR OUR CLIENTS—THESE SUCCESSES WERE LARGELY DRIVEN BY THE UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES OF OUR TRIAL TEAMS. IN CASE AFTER CASE, OUR DIVERSE TRIAL TEAMS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY UNDERSTAND HOW TO DISMANTLE COMPLEX CASES AND WIN. RECENT EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

We won a defense verdict for LAX in a breach-of-contract action by a contractor claiming millions of dollars in lost profits resulting from the canceled sale of fire trucks to three of the busiest U.S. airports: Atlanta, which settled for $200,000; San Francisco, which settled for $2 million; and our client, LAX, which paid nothing.

Representing Whirlpool, a leading manufacturer and marketer of home appliances, we won a federal jury verdict in Whirlpool’s favor. The jury awarded Whirlpool multi-millions in damages, finding that TST Water, a manufacturer of water filtration products, had willfully infringed on a patent for refrigerator water filters.

The jury determined that Whirlpool’s patent was valid and that TST’s Whirlpool refrigerator-compatible water filters, sold under the brand name WaterSentinel, infringed on all seven claims at issue in the matter.

We defended Blue Coat, a subsidiary of Symantec Corporation, against Finjan Holdings, Inc., in a 10-patent suit in the Northern District of California relating to network security technology. Our team obtained summary judgment of noninfringement on two of the patents; voluntary dismissal of two patents prior to trial; a noninfringement verdict at trial on two patents; and a finding of infringement, but no willfulness, on two patents, with damages significantly lower than those in prior litigation. The jury was hung on two of the patents, which were retried, resulting in a mistrial followed by a favorable settlement.
A WINNING RECORD

CORPORATE COUNSEL NAMES MOFO BEST OUTSIDE COUNSEL FOR BIG LITIGATION, 2018 SURVEY.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT – BEST LAWYERS RANKS MOFO IN THE TOP TIER NATIONWIDE IN 14 LITIGATION PRACTICE AREAS IN ITS 2017 “BEST LAW FIRMS” RANKINGS.

NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 2016 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY HOT LIST NAMES MOFO TO ITS SELECTION OF 15 FIRMS THAT HAVE “DEMONSTRATED CREATIVE, FORMIDABLE TALENT IN LITIGATION, PATENT PROSECUTION AND DEAL-MAKING.”

ANNUAL 2015 BTI LITIGATION OUTLOOK REPORT RECOGNIZES MOFO AS AN “AWESOME OPPONENT,” ONE OF THE 10 FIRMS THAT IN-HOUSE COUNSEL MOST FEARED SEEING ACROSS THE TABLE IN LITIGATION.

LAW360 NAMES MOFO A TOP LITIGATION POWERHOUSE IN 2016.

LAW360 PUTS TWO MOFO TRIAL TEAMS ON ITS “LEGAL LIONS” LIST IN 2017.

22 INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS AWARDED TO OUR DIVERSE TRIAL LAWYERS BY LEGAL 500, CHAMBERS, AND BEST LAWYERS.

FEATURED IN NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL’S “WINNING” SHOWCASE THREE YEARS IN A ROW.
Joshua Hill, Jr. leads Morrison & Foerster’s white-collar defense practice in San Francisco. Prior to joining the firm, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California. Josh focuses on investigations and white-collar criminal defense, complex commercial litigation, and sports litigation. He brings significant experience representing clients in the pharmaceutical, medical device, life sciences, and energy sectors. 

Chambers USA recognized Josh as one of only two “Up and Coming” lawyers in California focusing on white-collar defense and government investigations in 2017. The Daily Journal named him one of the 2015 “Top 20 Lawyers Under 40” in California.

**MY PHILOSOPHY IS ALWAYS TO ASK QUESTIONS. YOU SHOULDN’T ASSUME, AND YOU SHOULDN’T GUESS. BEING AN ACTIVE LISTENER AND AN ACTIVE QUESTIONER ARE TWO TRAITS THAT MAKE FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRIAL ATTORNEY.**

Joshua Hill, Jr.
Carrie H. Cohen, a former federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and former state prosecutor in the New York State Attorney General’s Office, has a distinguished record of success in the courtroom, handling high-stakes litigation with a focus on white-collar and securities cases. Carrie is an experienced trial attorney—she has tried both civil and criminal cases and argued more than 10 cases to verdict, as well as numerous appeals before the Second Circuit. Carrie has also conducted many complex internal and cross-border investigations and has represented clients before various federal and state prosecutors and regulators. Carrie has been well recognized for her achievements, including receiving the inaugural Shira A. Scheindlin Award for Excellence in the Courtroom in 2016 by the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) and the New York State Attorney General’s Louis J. Lefkowitz Memorial Award for outstanding service, as well as being named one of the New York Law Journal’s “Top 30 Women in Law” and one of the New York Law Journal’s “Litigation Trailblazers” for her significant contributions to the legal community and her dedication to raising the bar for women in the legal industry. Carrie is also a recognized leader in advancing women in the legal profession. She serves as a member of the New York City Bar’s Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, where she created and now co-chairs its global Women in the Profession program. She is also a co-author of the groundbreaking NYSBA report “If Not Now, When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR” and is the former chair of the NYC Bar’s Women in the Profession Committee. She currently co-chairs Morrison & Foerster’s Women’s Strategy Committee.

TRIAL TEAMS NEED TO REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE WITNESSES, JURIES, AND THE BENCH. THE BEST TRIAL TEAMS ARE COMPRISED OF DIVERSE ATTORNEYS WHO CAN CHALLENGE EACH OTHER, QUESTION ASSUMPTIONS, AND HAVE VIGOROUS STRATEGY DEBATES.

CARRIE H. COHEN
“Being a diverse trial lawyer is a privilege and an advantage. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent clients in court, especially given how few from my background are afforded the opportunity for such high-profile clients and matters. Moreover, in my view, having come from a diverse ethnic and socioeconomic background and being a woman and mother to young children, I can talk to and relate to diverse audiences in a genuine way, including witnesses and jurors.”

Alexis Amezcua, Litigation Partner

“As the son of parents who immigrated to this country 50 years ago, I believe that diversity in the legal profession and amongst trial lawyers, in particular, is important to ensure that the rights and perspectives of minorities are protected and represented in our courts and our legal system. It is important not only for our clients, but also for other litigants, jurors, judges, and decision-makers, to see and hear from diverse trial attorneys. The fact that there are so many accomplished diverse trial attorneys here at MoFo is a testament to the firm’s commitment to this shared value.”

Rudy Kim, Chair, Palo Alto Litigation

“My upbringing helps me relate to folks from various backgrounds, from employees at the very foundational levels of the organization all the way up to the C-suite. I bring to my work an appreciation for the opportunity to be a lawyer and the perspective that everyone can add value and that everyone’s views should be considered. My life experience helps make me a more credible and effective advocate, whether it be in a courtroom or a business meeting, and it is the defining factor in the lawyer I am today.”

Eric Akira Tate, Co-Chair, Global Employment & Labor Group

“The ability to connect with all types of jurors in the courtroom is an important advantage. As a woman of color who also spent considerable time motivating people from all walks of life in my prior career as an organizer, I have a unique ability to relate to jurors and witnesses, to communicate complicated technical and business issues in everyday language, and to gain jurors’ trust.”

Wendy Ray, Chair, Los Angeles Litigation

“Being a diverse lawyer means understanding—and, when necessary, challenging—stereotypes and assumptions. Being a diverse lawyer also means helping other diverse lawyers understand and challenge these same stereotypes and assumptions, and mentoring them so that they can be the best lawyers they can be.”

Richard Hung, Co-Chair, IP Litigation Group

“Being able to bring different perspectives, approaches, and styles to trial teams allows us to best present our clients’ cases to judges and juries. In my experience, jurors and judges pay close attention to the make-up of a trial team, maybe because they connect better with a diverse attorney or perhaps because they like to see and hear from people of different backgrounds and genders. Regardless of the reason, we serve our clients and the legal community most effectively when we try cases with diverse trial teams.”

Jamie Levitt, Co-Chair, Commercial Litigation & Trial Group
ESPECIALLY IN HIGH-TECH LITIGATION, THERE ARE VERY FEW WOMEN IN THE ROOM, LET ALONE THE COURTROOM. STORIES OF JURORS’ EYES GLAZING OVER WHEN FACED WITH TECHNOLOGY IN A PATENT CASE ARE TOO MANY TO COUNT, SO MY ABILITY TO BRING A DIFFERENT VOICE AND A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE TO BREAK UP THAT MONOTONY IS A HUGE ADVANTAGE IN THE COURTROOM.

Colette Reiner Mayer,
IP Litigation Partner
DIVERSITY WINS IN THE COURTROOM

WE HAVE A TRACK RECORD OF WINNING HIGH-STAKES LITIGATION. FROM COMPLEX CONSUMER CLASS ACTIONS TO SHAREHOLDER DISPUTES TO BET-THE-COMPANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CASES TO WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS, OUR FULLY INTEGRATED AND DIVERSE PARTNERS AND SENIOR COUNSEL WORK ACROSS OFFICES AND PRACTICES TO POSITION OUR CLIENTS FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME.
Tritia Murata
Los Angeles

Eric Pai
Palo Alto

Julie Park
San Diego

Purvi Patel
Los Angeles

Lisa Phelan
Washington, D.C.

Penelope Preovolos
San Francisco

Bita Rahebi
Los Angeles

Wendy Ray
Los Angeles

Tina Reynolds
Northern Virginia

Jennifer Schmidt
San Francisco

Sylvia Rivera
Los Angeles

Janie Schulman
Los Angeles

Julia Schwalm
Berlin

Nicole Serfoss
Denver

Stefani Shanberg
San Francisco

Nicole Smith
Los Angeles

Louise Stoupe
Tokyo

Eric Akira Tate
San Francisco

Jennifer Lee Taylor
San Francisco

Claudia Maria Vetesi
San Francisco

Mark Whitaker
Washington, D.C.

Anna Erickson White
San Francisco

Christine Wong
San Francisco
OUR DIFFERENCES MAKE US BETTER

WE ARE ACCOMPLISHED LITIGATORS WHO COME FROM DIVERSE SOCIAL, ETHNIC, AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS. WE BELIEVE THAT CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES MAKES US BETTER TRIAL LAWYERS, AND, IN TURN, WE ARE BETTER ABLE TO SERVE OUR CLIENTS AND COMMUNITIES.

220 DIVERSE LITIGATORS AND COUNTING.

750 FIRST-CHAIRED JURY TRIALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.