

# Daily Journal

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## TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA 2018

### COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

### ARTURO J. GONZÁLEZ

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP | SAN FRANCISCO

SPECIALTY: BET-THE-COMPANY MATTERS, TECHNOLOGY

González said his approach in high-stakes litigation is to steep himself in his topic and then boil it down to its key components.

“A lot of lawyers focus on the law and the law is important, but in my view what is more important are the facts, what actually happened,” González said.

This approach allowed him to get what he saw as a favorable settlement for his client, Uber Technologies Inc., in a suit brought by autonomous technology company and Google Inc. subsidiary Waymo LLC. *Waymo LLC v. Uber Technologies, Inc.* 17-CV00939 (N.D. Cal., filed Feb. 23, 2017).

“The approach there is to learn the technology as well as the people that built the technology at a high level and then figure out how to explain it to someone who knows nothing about the technology,” González said.

While Uber did have to hand over roughly \$244 million in stock to Waymo and Google, González said the key

to the litigation was avoiding an injunction that the plaintiffs had asked U.S. District Judge William Alsup to issue.

“I think the outcome was very favorable from the client standpoint because the client is still in the game,” González said, noting Uber is still building autonomous vehicles.

“The reason this case settled is because Google understood that Uber was not afraid of a jury verdict.”

González said his strategy was to examine witnesses with an eye to offense and not to be constantly explaining away accusations.

“When I examined Google witnesses it was not defensive, there was a lot of offense in the cross-examinations,” he said.

González said victories during the four-day trial included being able to show that Uber’s advanced sensing technology for autonomous vehicles had been developed independently and to undercut Google’s argument that documents relating to their version of



the technology had been illegally taken and used by Uber.

— Chase DiFelicianantonio