

# John R. Vales

## Partner



Partner

Short Hills

D +1 973 912 7129

john.vales@dentons.com

New York

D +1 212 768 6792

## Overview

Jack Vales is a litigator and counselor to leading US and multinational companies.

Jack began his legal career more than 21 years ago as a trial counsel in the US Army. He has since developed a sophisticated business litigation practice. Jack represents companies in a wide range of complex disputes, including product liability matters, class actions, and commercial litigation and arbitration proceedings. Jack's capabilities and experience have won him recognition in *Chambers USA*, *Super Lawyers* and *Best Lawyers in America*, with *Chambers USA* noting that clients describe Jack as "very analytical, organized, detail-oriented and a zealous advocate."

Jack's business litigation practice serves companies across several different industry sectors. As a key member of Dentons' Pharmaceutical and Medical Device litigation practice, Jack represents life sciences companies in federal and state court actions throughout the US.

Jack has also long represented insurers in disputes, litigations and arbitrations. A co-leader of Dentons' US Reinsurance practice, he has successfully represented insurers and reinsurers in complex proceedings before arbitration panels and courts. Jack also counsels insurers on business and regulatory matters, with the support of Dentons' global insurance team.

As a partner in the world's largest law firm, Jack finds great fulfillment in connecting clients to talented legal professionals around the globe. He works closely with the Firm's practice groups in several important functional areas, including data privacy, corporate, employment, bankruptcy, tax, and global compliance and investigations, to deliver solutions tailored to his clients' business needs.

A member of Dentons' Latino Professional Network, Jack serves as a practice advisor to associates in the Firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution group. He maintains an active membership with the bars of New Jersey, New York and Texas, and divides his time between the Firm's Short Hills and New York offices.

## Experience

- Lead relationship partner for a preeminent pharmaceutical and medical aesthetics company, serving as counsel to the business in product liability and commercial litigation matters.

- Co-lead relationship partner to a multinational pharmaceutical and life sciences company, including representing the business in a widely publicized mass tort litigation in California.
- Lead relationship partner for a North American commercial lines insurer, supporting the legal department's reinsurance, employment litigation, and business advisory work across the country.
- Outside counsel for several US property and casualty insurers, representing the companies in a wide range of disputes, including reinsurance, commercial litigation and complex insurance coverage matters.
- Lead New Jersey counsel to certain insurers in defense of class action disputes arising from personal lines insurance policies.
- Representation of insurers and reinsurers of life and health insurance business in litigation, reinsurance disputes and business advisory matters.
- Outside counsel to a multinational corporation in support of its global compliance and investigation team.
- Co-lead relationship partner to a multinational corporation in connection with its ADA website compliance litigation throughout the US.
- Representation of companies across several different sectors in commercial litigation proceedings in New Jersey and New York.

## Recognition

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Insurance Law, 2015-2022

*These accolades were conferred by Best Lawyers. Learn more about Best Lawyers' methodology . No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.*

## Honors and Awards

- Recognized in *Super Lawyers*, 2016-2019 and 2021. These accolades were conferred by Super Lawyers. Learn more about Super Lawyers' methodology . No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- Recognized in *Chambers USA*, 2016-2020. These accolades were conferred by Chambers and Partners. Learn more about Chambers and Partners' methodology. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Insurance Law, 2015-2022

*These accolades were conferred by Best Lawyers. Learn more about Best Lawyers' methodology . No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.*

- Selected to Martindale Hubbell's list of "AV Preeminent" lawyers. This rating was conferred by Martindale-Avvo. Learn more about Martindale-Avvo's methodology . No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- *New Jersey Law Journal*, "40 Under 40" (now "New Leaders of the Bar"), 2008. Learn more about *NJLJ's* methodology. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- Meritorious Service Medal, US Army, 2001

## Insights

- "10th Circ. Ruling Bolsters Medical Device Preemption Defense," *Law360*, February 23, 2021
- "The Governing Law Selected Could Void an Insurance Contract's Arbitration Provision ," DRI, *In-House*

- "Maritime Opinion Offers Hope For 'Bare Metal' Defense," *Law360*, May 10, 2019
- "NJ Proposes New Surcharge Aimed at Rideshare Consumers," *New Jersey Law Journal*, January 25, 2019
- "Life Insurance Contestability Period Remains Steadfast In NY," *Law360*, July 6, 2018
- "New Jersey State Senate advances insurance bad faith bill," Dentons Client Alert, June 20, 2018
- "Second Circuit reaffirms New York's contestability period for life insurance policies," Dentons Client Alert, June 14, 2018
- "Expanding the Reach of Arbitration Agreements: A Pennsylvania Federal Court Opinion Applies Principles of Agency and Contract Law to Require A Subsidiary-Reinsurer to Arbitrate Under Parent's Agreement," *Bloomberg Law Reports: Insurance Law*, October 6, 2008
- "No FOIA Request? No Problem - N.J. federal court decision threatens to relax Privacy Act protection," *New Jersey Law Journal*, Sept. 29, 2008
- "Consolidated Arbitration Proceedings: A Michigan Federal Court Sets Forth A Framework For Determining Who Should Decide Whether A Consolidated Arbitration May Proceed," *Mealey's Litigation Report: Reinsurance*, May 2, 2008

## Activities and Affiliations

- ARIAS US
- DRI
- Latino Professional Network, Dentons
- The Order of St. Thomas More, Notre Dame Law School

## Presentations

- Moderator, "SPAC-tactual Assent: The Rise of SPACs," AIRROC, July 2021
- Panelist, "Virtual Arbitrations: Temporary Solution or the New Normal," ARIAS US 2021 Virtual Spring Conference, May 6-7, 2021
- Speaker, "Winter CLE Webinar Series for In-House Counsel," Dentons CLE Webinar, January 27, 2021
- Panelist, "Social Unrest Claims and the Impact of the Pandemic on Court Proceedings, Insurance Claims, and Juror Attitudes," AIRROC webinar, September 2020
- Moderator, Emerging Risks and Associated Opportunities for Insurance Runoff Transactions in the Captive Market, AIRROC Summer Membership Meeting and Education Day, July 17, 2019
- Speaker, "Arbitrability: The Power of Arbitrators to Determine Gateway Issues," ARIAS-U.S. Spring Conference, May 10, 2019
- Co-host of the annual Gotham Insurance Symposium in New York
- Panelist, "Current issues impacting reinsurance disputes in the US," Gotham Insurance Symposium, October 25, 2018
- Moderator, "The Role of Pre-Hearing Security in Reinsurance Disputes," 4th Annual NY Reinsurance Conference, September 13, 2017
- "Reinsurance Dispute Developments in the US," Gotham Insurance Symposium, Dentons, April 20, 2016

- "Developments in New Jersey and New York Insurance Law," Gotham Insurance Symposium, Dentons, April 22, 2015
- "Business Interruption Claim Considerations Arising From Superstorm Sandy," Property Claims Network, March 11, 2013

## Memberships

- Member, Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Insurance Litigation and Arbitration
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Litigation
- Fraud, Corruption and Asset Recovery
- Product Liability and Complex Torts

### Industry sectors

- Coverage Counseling and Defense
- Financial Institutions
- Life Sciences
- Reinsurance
- Risk Management
- Insurance Regulation
- Property, Casualty and Liability Insurance
- Life Insurance and Annuities
- Accident and Health Insurance
- Insurance
- Bad Faith Defense

### Region

- United States

## Education

- Notre Dame Law School, 1997, JD

- University of Notre Dame, 1994, BA, Government

## Admissions and qualifications

- New Jersey
- New York
- Texas
- US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- US District Court for the District of New Jersey
- US District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- US District Court for the Southern District of New York