

# Frederic (Rick) Norris

## Partner



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## Overview

Frederic "Rick" Norris is a partner on the complex tort team of Dentons' Los Angeles office. Mr. Norris' practice is focused on litigation in state and federal court involving complex torts, product liability, premises liability and maritime law. He represents companies in the petrochemical, agricultural, construction, aerospace, maritime and automotive industries. He is also local trial counsel for a major talc supplier.

In 2013, Mr. Norris completed the prestigious Trial Advocacy Program (TAP) through the Los Angeles Bar Association. In this program he served as a Volunteer Prosecutor with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. During his time with the District Attorney's Office, Mr. Norris prosecuted two cases to verdict.

Mr. Norris has been included in the *Daily Journals* 2019 40 Under 40 list, which recognizes the most accomplished lawyers in Los Angeles under 40 years of age. He has also been recognized as a "Rising Star" by Southern California *Super Lawyers* for 2014-2019.

## Experience

- Member of California trial team for an agricultural company in lawsuits where plaintiffs claimed their cancer was caused by exposure to herbicides.
- Lead trial counsel for talc supplier to Johnson & Johnson in living mesothelioma matter. After multiple weeks of trial, secured complete dismissal of supplier defendant during plaintiffs' case-in-chief. *Von Salzen v. Imerys Talc America*, Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Lead trial counsel for contractor defendant in living mesothelioma matter where plaintiff claimed defendant installed and removed asbestos-containing refractory material in his presence while serving in the US Navy. After two week trial, verdict entered resulting in only a 1% finding of fault for defendant. *Joseph and Kathryn Houpt v. A.K. Steel Corporation, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Trial counsel for contractor defendant in wrongful death mesothelioma matter where plaintiffs claimed defendant disturbed asbestos containing insulation in decedent's presence causing his mesothelioma. Judgment entered in defendant's favor after a six week trial. *Rose Marie Ganoë, et al. v. Air & Liquid Systems Corp., et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court.

- Trial counsel for premises owner in *Petitpas v. Ford Motor Company*, which was selected by the *Daily Journal* as one of the "Top Defense Verdicts of 2012."
- Trial counsel for major petrochemical company in living mesothelioma matter where plaintiff claimed asbestos exposure at defendant's premises. Nonsuit motion granted in favor of defendant at the close of plaintiff's case. *William Marvin Webster v. 3M Company, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court (affirmed on appeal).
- Member of trial team for asbestos supplier in living mesothelioma matter. Defense verdict after two week trial. *Kalil v. ABB, Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court.

## Appeals

- *Petitpas v. Ford Motor Company* (2017) 13 Cal.App.5th 261. Published decision affirming verdict in favor of defendant premises owner.
- *Murat v. SeaRiver Maritime, Inc.*, Second Appellate District Case No. B247889

## Insights

- Presenter, "It Won't Be Business as Usual When Courts Open After COVID-19," Dentons CLE Seminar, May 8, 2020
- Co-author, "What Attys Should Consider Before Waiving Jury Trial Right," *Law360*, May 8, 2020
- Speaker, "Talc: Evaluating the Key Legal and Strategic Issues," Perrin Conferences, Cutting-Edge Issues in Asbestos Litigation Conference, 2019
- Speaker, "Mock Trial - Opening Statements from the Plaintiff and the Defense," HarrisMartin's California Asbestos Litigation Conference: Trial of a Cosmetic Mesothelioma Case, 2018
- Speaker, "State of the California Market and The Impact of Daimler", ACI - 20th Asbestos Claims & Litigation, 2016
- Contributor, "California Premises Liability Law", *The Recorder*, 2015
- Chapter co-author, "CACI Companion Handbook, 2013/2014", *Hon. Elizabeth A. Baron*, Sept. 16, 2013
- Co-author, "Your Skills: Preparing the Cost Memorandum", *The Recorder*, May 24, 2013

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Litigation
- Product Liability and Complex Torts

### Industry sectors

- Life Sciences

## Education

- Southwestern University School of Law, 2007, JD, *magna cum laude*

- University of California, San Diego, 2001, BA

## Admissions and qualifications

- California
- US District Court for the Central District of California
- US District Court for the Northern District of California