

# Seena Forouzan

## Senior Managing Associate



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## Overview

Seena Forouzan is a senior managing associate in Dentons' San Francisco/Oakland offices and a member of the firm's **Litigation and Dispute Resolution** practice group.

Prior to joining Dentons, Seena served as Of Counsel for a boutique litigation firm. There, Seena's legal practice focused on complex, high-value cases nationwide across a variety of subject matters, including but not limited to: cryptocurrency litigation, regulatory work in cutting-edge industries (digital assets, cannabis), complex frauds, breach of contract, fallout from mergers and acquisitions, adversarial proceedings in bankruptcy matters, federal civil RICO (and related State-equivalents), and issues of first impression in the high-end, luxury timeshare space and in the insurance sector.

He has extensive experience on both sides of the "v" and prides himself on crafting elegant solutions to seemingly intractable problems, with an emphasis on resolving issues before they deteriorate into expensive (and emotional) distractions.

Seena earned his undergraduate degree in 2014, *magna cum laude* from the University of California, Irvine. In 2017, he graduated Emory University School of Law with High Honors, ranked at the top of his class. At Emory, Seena served as the Executive Editor of Emory's Supreme Court Advocacy Program. In that role, he authored and edited several briefs submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. Additionally, Seena was recognized as a member of the Order of the Coif, a distinction reserved for the top 10% of graduates, and received both the Paul Bryan Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Constitutional Law and the Myron Penn Laughlin Award for Best Student Comment. His article, *The Officer Has No Robes: A Formalist Solution to the Expansion of Quasi-Judicial Immunity*, was published in the Emory Law Journal, 66 Emory L.J. 123 (2016), and has been cited by a Michigan Appeals Court, appellate briefs, and various academic articles.

Seena has routinely devoted himself to public service and, in 2022, received the James Madison Freedom of Information Award by the Society of Professional Journalists for his work in public record act cases.

Additionally, in 2022, Seena earned his mediation certification from Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, and is a member of the Association for Conflict Resolution.

# Experience

*Prior to joining Dentons in 2022, Seena represented a diverse array of clients, including*

- Representation of a cryptocurrency exchange in various litigation concerning phishing, market manipulation, breach of fiduciary duty; and in a CFTC investigation into compliance with commodities and securities laws.
- Representation of condominium association in litigation against leading hotelier concerning breach of fiduciary duty, unjust enrichment, fraud, and Colorado's RICO laws stemming from changes to timeshare program—led to successful settlement (first of its kind) and permanent separation of condominium association from hotelier.
- Representation of investors in litigation against leading auditors and valuation companies related to fallout from a Ponzi scheme—led to successful settlements on behalf of investors. Required coordination with Receivership and several related investor groups.
- Representation of timeshare owners against leading hotelier and timeshare company concerning breach of fiduciary duty—led to several successful settlements.
- Representation of high net worth individuals and family office in one-of-a-kind asset seizure concerning the failure to deliver thousands of bitcoin.
- Representation of various Colorado metropolitan districts in litigation against leading real estate developers concerning breach of fiduciary duty and Colorado's state RICO laws.
- Representation of bankruptcy trustee in litigation concerning a decades old oral agreement to raise investment funds—led to successful settlement on behalf of client.
- Representation of leading cloud-based telecom company in litigation concerning failed merger & acquisition.
- Representation of various journalists against various police departments concerning the California Public Records Act.
- Representation of cannabis grower—secured one of the first legal licenses to grow outdoor, recreational use-cannabis in California.
- Advice and counsel to various cannabis companies regarding licensure and corporate growth strategies.
- Ample experience in securities and commodities litigation and regulation, Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering issues, civil RICO, corporate governance, California Public Records Act, fraud, fiduciary duty, and breach of contract

# Recognition

- 2022 *James Madison Freedom of Information Award* for Advocacy by the Society of Professional Journalists
- Order of the Coif
- Paul Bryan Prize in Constitutional Law
- Myron Penn Laughlin Award (Best Student Comment)

# Insights

- Author, "The Officer Has no Robes: A Formalist Solution to the Expansion of Quasi-Judicial Immunity," 66 EMORY L.J 123; cited in *Serven v. Health Quest Chiropractic, Inc.*, 314 Mich. App 245 (2017), appellate briefs and various law reviews

# Activities and Affiliations

- Association of Conflict Resolution
- Coach, Lincoln High School, Mock Trial Program

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- **Commercial Litigation**
- **Litigation and Dispute Resolution**
- **Securities and Shareholder Litigation**

### Industry sectors

- **Insurance**
- **Insurance Litigation and Arbitration**
- **Cannabis**
- **Family Office and High Net Worth**
- **Financial Institutions**
- **FinTech**
- **State, Regional, Provincial, Municipal and Local Government Bodies**

## Education

- Emory University School of Law, 2017, High Honors, Order of the Coif
- University of California, 2014, BA, *magna cum laude*

## Admissions and qualifications

- California
- US District Court for the Central District of California
- US District Court for the District of Colorado
- US District Court for the Eastern District of California
- US District Court for the Northern District of California
- US District Court for the Southern District of California