

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MONDAY

TODAY

Questions and Comments

Previous

Next

Bookmark Reprints

NEWS

RULINGS

VERDICTS

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

This is the property of the Daily Journal Corporation and fully protected by copyright. It is made available only to Daily Journal subscribers for personal or collaborative purposes and may not be distributed, reproduced, modified, stored or transferred without written permission. Please click "Reprint" to order presentation-ready copies to distribute to clients or use in commercial marketing materials or for permission to post on a website.

National appellate bar group inducts Reed Smith partner as head

James C. Martin has big plans as head of American Academy of Appellate Lawyers

By Joshua Sebold

Reed Smith LLP appellate leader James C. Martin, who this month became president of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, wants to use his new role to support the wider recognition of certified appellate specialization and an increased focus on oral argument.

Martin, who began his one-year term on Jan. 1, said the organization has been disturbed by the diminishing role of oral arguments in appellate cases over the years and hopes to reverse the trend.

"The number of cases that get oral argument is dropping and has been dropping for the past 15 years or so," he said. "It's down to only a small percentage of the cases in most state and federal courts."

As for the appellate specialty, Martin said that certain states, including California, already recognize appellate work as a designated specialty. But he added that there is still much work to be done to convince other states to embrace the certification.

That would "facilitate better relationships between the appellate bar and courts."

Martin, who works out of Reed Smith's Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and New York offices, and who chairs the firm's East Coast appellate practice, previously served as president of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers and was a founding member and president of the Bar Association of the Third Federal Circuit. He cut his teeth at Crosby, Heafey, Roach & May PC in San Francisco, where his partner Peter W. Davis - another former president of the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers - started an appeals practice. Martin joined as the practice group's second member.

"Peter was very interested in the development of appellate practice as a specialty and very ahead of his time," Martin said.

The appellate practice at Crosby Heafey, he said, played a role in the merger talks between the firm and Reed Smith, and when the combination went through in 2003, he moved to Pittsburgh to begin building the practice on the East Coast.

Founded in 1990, the invitation-only American Academy of Appellate Lawyers intends to recognize top appellate lawyers and promote appeals courts and appellate advocacy. It has approximately 250 members nationwide.

Reed Smith partner Paul D. Fogel, who leads the firm's appellate practice, said Martin has earned the respect of his peers at the firm and on the appellate bar through more than 30 years of practice.

"He's been instrumental in commenting on and working on reforms in the appellate process," Fogel said.

joshua_sebold@dailyjournal.com

Previous

Next

Law Practice

State Bar may begin auditing lawyers' client trust accounts

State Bar leaders largely supported the idea of conducting random audits of lawyers' and law firms' client trust accounts. If approved, initial audits likely would be "probing questionnaires," bar CEO Joseph L. Dunn said.

U.S. Supreme Court

Recess appointments, labor board rulings at stake in high court case

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling could reverse hundreds of labor board decisions and rules, including precedent-changing rulings affecting union organizing drives and collective bargaining rules.

Appellate Practice

Post-argument briefs: a small burden with great benefits

There is an old adage that there are three oral arguments for an attorney: the one that was planned, the one that was given, and the one that the lawyer wishes had been delivered. By **Erwin Chemerinsky**

Litigation

MGA files \$1B state court case against Mattel

The Bratz manufacturer filed a trade secret theft action against the competing toymaker in Los Angeles County Superior Court several weeks after a judge barred the case from moving forward in a federal court.

Corporate Dealmakers

A roundup of recent merger and acquisition and financing activity and the lawyers involved.

Government

Expiration of tax credit could knock wind out of state's renewable energy projects

The loss of the credit, some experts say, could lead to a "black hole" in wind energy projects in the next several years.

Law Practice

National appellate bar group inducts Reed Smith partner as head

James C. Martin, who this month became president of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, wants to use his new role to support the wider recognition of certified appellate specialization and an increased focus on oral argument.

Litigation

Judges, juries to decide definition of "natural" in food labeling cases

The Food and Drug Administration last week denied requests from two California federal judges to provide more guidance about whether a bioengineered or genetically modified ingredient could qualify as "natural."

Corporate

HOME : MOBILE SITE : CLASSIFIEDS : EXPERTS/SERVICES : MCLE :
DIRECTORIES : SEARCH : PRIVACY : LOGOUT

Wilson Sonsini, Orrick handle \$3.2B sale of Nest Labs to Google

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP represented Nest Labs Inc. in the Palo Alto-based startup's sale to Google Inc. Google received counsel from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC in the deal announced Monday.

Law Practice

Government antitrust lawyer jumps to private practice

A DOJ trial attorney who recently handled a marquee price-fixing case involving electronic liquid-crystal displays will join the Palo Alto office of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP, the firm announced Monday.

Litigation

New trial motions against Toyota denied

The jury's decision in the first unintended acceleration case against Toyota Motor Corp. to go to trial in California state court will stand, according to a judge's ruling Friday.

Judge formally denies retrial in singer's wrongful death suit

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge stuck with her tentative ruling and denied a new trial in the wrongful death lawsuit filed by Michael Jackson's family.

Law Practice

Hopkins & Carley names incoming managing partner

Jeffrey E. Essner was elected to a three-year term, replacing William S. Klein, who held the post for 15 years.

Corporate

TCW Group names associate GC

Kevin L. Finch, whose first day was Monday, joins from Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP, where he was a partner in the firm's corporate practice group.

Labor/Employment

NLRB case has far-reaching implications

The recess appointments case heard by the U.S. high court Monday could end up as a major separation of powers decision limiting the extent of presidential authority. By **Scott J. Witlin**

Law Practice

Jury is still out on the full impact of the 'CSI Effect'

Prosecutors report jurors asking questions about mitochondrial DNA, latent prints, ballistics and trace evidence - even when these terms were not used at trial. By **Joseph Sorrentino**

Health Care & Hospital Law

Oakland tragedy and limits on recovery

The events at Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland and in a courtroom in Alameda County have rekindled a debate about the meaning of life and death. By **Bruce G. Fagel**

Judicial Profile

Robert C. Hight

Superior Court Judge Sacramento County (Sacramento)

California Supreme Court

Environmental case could have sweeping impact

The California Supreme Court is stepping into a debate over the reach of the state's bedrock environmental law, the building is broken. By **...**

with Bay Area air pollution regulators over the health risks to people living near freeways.