

Jacob C. Gonzales

Founding Partner



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Location

Newport Beach

Practice Areas

Business Litigation

Real Estate

Partnership Dissolutions

Labor and Employment

Trials & Arbitration

Education

J.D., University of Southern
California, School of Law

B.A., San Diego State
University

Bar Admissions

California

Attorney Profile

Jacob C. Gonzales is an experienced and skilled business trial attorney. He handles an extensive range of high-stakes, complex litigation matters including disputes related to real estate, shareholder and derivative suits, breaches of fiduciary duty, corporate governance, employment, and contract disputes.

Before starting his own practice in 2021, Jacob was a partner with the statewide law firm Weintraub | Tobin, and chaired its litigation department. Prior to that, from 2007 to 2014, Jacob was a partner with the boutique Newport Beach law firm Waldron & Bragg. Jacob is an Orange County native, and a graduate of Mater Dei High School.

Jacob is a graduate of USC Gould School of Law, an active member of the State Bar of California, and trained in both facilitative and evaluative mediation approaches. He brings insight, patience, and neutrality to every dispute. He has tried 18 cases to verdict or judgment and served as Judge Pro Tem for the Orange County Superior Court.

Representative Matters as Counsel: Arbitrations/Trials

- Served as counsel for co-owners in a contentious 11-day JAMS arbitration involving highly valuable commercial real estate in Newport Beach, securing a favorable result including a monetary award of more than \$1.5 million and affirmation of pivotal rights.
- Obtained favorable ruling in a complex JAMS arbitration where clients were sued for \$15 million; all claims were denied, and clients were awarded \$2.3 million in attorney fees and costs.
- Successfully defended clients in a multi-month JAMS arbitration with \$15 million at stake; all claims denied, clients awarded \$2.3 million in attorneys' fees and costs.
- Obtained JAMS award for specific performance enforcing tenant-in-common investment agreements.
- Defended a 6-week jury trial involving \$60 million personal guaranty claim and achieved favorable result.

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- Obtained 11-1 defense jury verdict on breach of guaranty action with over \$7.7 million at issue and attorneys' fee award.
- Won \$2.3 million jury verdict for Plaintiff on a commercial lease breach.
- Counsel on landmark appellate decision in *Acquire II, LTD. v. Colton Real Estate Group* (2013) 213 Cal.App.4th 959.
- Secured dismissal at pleading stage of \$100 million derivative suit.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of defendant on a multi-claim case involving punitive damages and ERISA plan claims.
- Obtained summary adjudication in favor of plaintiff and secured a damages award of \$2,625,000.

Affiliations

Goodwill Orange County

Board of Directors and Executive Committee, since 2017

Orange County Hispanic Bar Association

Former Board Member and Chair of Scholarship Committee

Awards

Recognized as a *Southern California Super Lawyer* (2025)
and *Rising Star* (2011-2017)