



Robert R. Long

Partner

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Related Services

Litigation ■ Securities Litigation ■ M&A Litigation ■ Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs)

Robert Long is the chair of the Securities Litigation Group. He focuses on shareholder matters, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, regulatory compliance, internal investigations, and director and officer liability. He is an experienced trial lawyer and has substantial experience as lead counsel in matters regarding shareholder disputes, fiduciary duties, and numerous federal agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Justice, and various banking agencies. Robert also advises corporations on director and officer insurance coverage issues.

Robert is recognized in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America*®, and by *Lawdragon* as one of the “500 Leading Litigators in America.” He frequently publishes and speaks on securities, corporate governance, and director and officer liability and has served as a guest lecturer on securities and corporate governance issues at Emory University’s Goizueta Business School and the University of Georgia School of Law. He has been honored by the Burton Awards as a recipient of a “Law360 Distinguished Legal Writing Award.”

Robert graduated from Stanford Law School, where he served as an editor for the Stanford Law Review and class president. He began private practice following a federal district court clerkship.

Representative Experience

Shareholder Litigation

- Representing a biotech company in a series of putative class actions and derivative actions alleging securities fraud and breaches of fiduciary duty.
- Representing a Fortune 400 manufacturing company in a securities class action and related shareholder derivative actions pending in federal court in Georgia.
- Represented multiple public companies in confidential audit committee investigations.
- Represented Coca-Cola Enterprises and certain of its officers and directors in a series of putative class actions alleging securities fraud via channel stuffing, resulting in a total dismissal of all claims.
- Represented a publicly traded pharmaceutical company in an investigation of shareholder derivative claims.
- Represented Comverge and its board members in a series of putative stockholder class actions alleging that the defendants breached their fiduciary duties to Comverge shareholders in connection with the company’s merger with H.I.G. Capital LLC.

- Represented certain present and former directors and officers of CheckFree in related derivative and class action merger suits challenging the \$4.4 billion acquisition of CheckFree by Fiserv.
- Represented former directors and officers of Haven Trust Bancorp in a putative securities class action arising out of private offerings of Haven's stock and alleged claims for violations of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act and state securities law, as well as claims for common-law fraud and negligent representation.
- Represented Heritage Financial and its directors in a putative class action challenging Renasant Corporation's proposed acquisition of Heritage.
- Represented Southside Bancshares in a putative class action challenging its proposed \$307 million acquisition of OmniAmerican Bancorp Inc.
- Represented Savannah Bancorp and its directors in a putative class action challenging SCBT Financial Corporation's \$67.1 million acquisition of Savannah Bancorp.
- Represented Cogdell Spencer and its board of directors in several putative class actions that challenged the company's proposed merger with Ventas Inc.
- Represented Murata Electronics in a putative class action challenging the company's acquisition of RF Monolithics Inc.
- Represented Whitney Holding and its directors in a putative class action challenging a merger between the company and Hancock Holding Company.

Corporate Governance Litigation

- Representing certain former directors and officers of Buckhead Community Bank in a trial against the FDIC alleging negligence, gross negligence, and breach of fiduciary duty.
- Represented an officer of Westernbank Puerto Rico, which was sued by the FDIC for alleged mismanagement of the bank leading to putative damages of nearly \$200 million.
- Represented the former directors and officers of the Bank of Asheville in a lawsuit filed by the FDIC for breaches of fiduciary duty in the alleged mismanagement of the bank.
- Represented the directors and officers of Georgian Bank in a putative shareholder class action for alleged mismanagement of the bank.
- Represented the directors and officers of Community Bank & Trust in a lawsuit filed by the FDIC for breaches of fiduciary duty in the alleged mismanagement of the bank.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "Lessons from COVID Securities Rulings on Dismissal Bids," *Law360*, May 19, 2021.
- "What to Expect from Securities Litigation in 2021," *Law360*, January 11, 2021.
- "Early Securities Class Actions Highlight COVID Litigation Risk," *Law360*, April 9, 2020.
- "Scrutiny Begins for M&A Mootness Fee Settlements," *Transaction Advisors*, October 2019.
- "The Continuing Shift of Merger Litigation to Federal Courts," *Transaction Advisors*, March 2019.
- "The Continuing Shift of Merger Litigation to Federal Courts," *Law360*, December 18, 2018.
- "Trend Sharply Up for Securities Litigation," *Today's General Counsel*, Fall 2018.

- “Insight: Emerging Trends in Securities Class Actions Based on Merger Objections,” Bloomberg Law, October 11, 2018.
- “Directors/Officers Insurance Coverage, Recommendations Evolve,” *MBA Insights*, February 27, 2018.
- “D&O Insurance Coverage Tips For Financial Institutions,” *Law360*, December 6, 2017.
- “Increase in Class Action Securities Fraud Filings Felt Across Industry,” *Inside Counsel*, November 1, 2017.
- “How *CalPERS v. ANZ Securities* Marks Gorsuch’s Arrival,” *Law360*, August 16, 2017.
- “Navigating the Dangerous Waters of CFPB Enforcement,” CFO.com, October 9, 2015.

Presentations

- “The Rise of SPACs: Challenges and Opportunities,” 26th Annual Stanford Directors’ College, June 21 - 24, 2021.

Professional & Community Engagement

- State Bar of Georgia
- State Bar of California
- Georgia Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Education

- Stanford University (J.D., 2000)
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A., 1992)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia
- California