



Robert Wright is a partner at the firm, where he has been practicing since 1999. He is one of the firm’s managing partners. He is also a California State Bar Certified Appellate Specialist.

Mr. Wright handles appeals and writs covering a broad range of substantive law, including tort liability and damages, products liability, employer liability and employment issues, assumption of the risk, and issues specific to public utilities. He has presented over 30 arguments before the state and federal appellate courts, including arguments before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and each of the districts of the California Court of Appeal.

Mr. Wright is “AV Preeminent” rated by Martindale Hubbell, and accordingly is listed in ALM’s “Top Rated Lawyers” section for Appellate Attorneys. He has been listed as a Southern California [Super Lawyer](#) in the field of Appellate Law by Super Lawyers Magazine, most recently in 2017.

Mr. Wright’s victories include numerous published decisions on significant legal issues:

*Cuevas v. Contra Costa County* (2017) \_\_ Cal.App.5th \_\_  
[California Court of Appeal decision reversing an award of \$9.6 million for future medical expenses to permit evidence of Medicaid and Affordable Care Act benefits]

*Corenbaum v. Lampkin* (2013) 215 Cal.App.4th 1308  
[California Court of Appeal decision reversing damages awards of over \$3 million and holding that evidence of “billed” but unpaid medical expenses is not admissible to prove future medical damages or noneconomic damages]

*Bruns v. E-Commerce Exchange, Inc.* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 717 [California Supreme Court decision overturning the judgment of the Court of Appeal in a case construing California’s statute mandating dismissal of actions not brought to trial within five years; holding that only complete stays—those that bar *all* activity in a case—are “stays of prosecution” within the meaning of the statute]

*Collins v. Plant Insulation Co.* (2010) 185 Cal.App.4th 260  
[California Court of Appeal decision reversing a \$2 million judgment on the ground the trial court did not allow the jury to allocate fault to a third party with sovereign immunity]

*Kelly v. CB & I Constructors, Inc.* (2009) 179 Cal.App.4th 442  
[California Court of Appeal decision reversing a damages award for discomfort, annoyance, and inconvenience on the ground such damages cannot be recovered for trespass when the plaintiff does not occupy the property at the time of the trespass]

*Perlin v. Fountain View Management, Inc.* (2008) 163 Cal.App.4th 657  
[California Court of Appeal decision holding that a statute authorizing fees when the plaintiff establishes by clear and convincing evidence a defendant’s liability for neglect also requires proof of causation under the same clear and convincing evidence standard]

*State Farm v. Superior Court* (2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1424  
[California Court of Appeal decision reversing order compelling arbitration of uninsured motorist claim; holding that, when insurer has paid its full policy benefits, the insurer is not required to arbitrate the amount of damages caused by the uninsured driver]

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**Education**

- Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington  
*J.D., summa cum laude, 1991*
- University of Virginia  
*B.A., 1987*

**Bar Admissions**

- California
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

*Kazi v. State Farm Fire & Casualty Co.* (2001) 24 Cal.4th 871

[California Supreme Court decision establishing that a claim of interference with an easement right does not give rise to an insurer's duty to defend under a policy covering damage to tangible property]

Before joining the firm, Mr. Wright was a litigation associate with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, where he handled civil litigation, antitrust counseling, and appeals. Mr. Wright received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia and his Juris Doctor from Indiana University School of Law at Bloomington.

Mr. Wright is a frequent contributor to state and national legal publications and a featured contributor to the [Washington Legal Foundation](#) on the issue of Mass Torts-Asbestos. He is also an active member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Amicus Briefs and State Appellate Judicial Evaluation Committees.

### Professional Associations

- [Los Angeles County Bar Association](#) Amicus Briefs Committee
- [Los Angeles County Bar Association](#) State Appellate Judicial Evaluation Committee

### Publications

- The "No-Safe-Level" Theory Is Just as Bad in the Real World as in Litigation (Jan. 2, 2018) Washington Legal Foundation, The Legal Pulse
- Trial Judge Tosses Jury Verdict in Talcum Powder Mass-Tort Suit for Lack of Causation (Nov. 1, 2017) Washington Legal Foundation, The Legal Pulse
- Court Ruling in Pharma Case Calls into Question Consumer Expectations Test's Use in Asbestos Suits (Sept. 29, 2017) Westlaw Journal Asbestos, Vol. 39, No. 25
- Fourth Circuit Upholds Application of Government-Contractor Defense in Asbestos Suit (Aug. 4, 2017) Westlaw Journal Asbestos, Vol. 39, No. 21
- Once Again, the California Supreme Court Refuses to Rule on the 'Every Exposure' Theory of Causation (June 23, 2017) Westlaw Journal Asbestos, Vol. 39, No. 18, pp. 3-4
- California's Medical-Injury Compensation Law Provides a Model for Federal Tort Reform (May 5, 2017) Washington Legal Foundation, Legal Backgrounder
- Reptile Dysfunction: An Appellate Court Disapproves of the Reptile Theory (Mar. 14, 2017) Trials and Tribulations [DRI], Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 3-5
- Can Employees Be On Call On Break? (June 1, 2015) Daily J., p. 5
- Federal Health Insurance Mandates and the Impending Upheaval of the Collateral Source Rule (Jan. 29, 2015) Washington Legal Foundation, Contemporary Legal Note, Number 76
- The Effect of Howell on Personal Injury Medical Cost Recovery (Oct. 2014) Los Angeles Lawyer, pp. 16-19
- Howell Two Years Later: Strategies for Responding to Attempts to Circumvent a Landmark Decision (2014) Verdict, Vol. 1, pp. 19-22
- AB 748: Taming Interest Rates for Public Entities, New California Laws for 2014 (Jan. 21, 2014) Supplement to Daily J., p. 10
- Assumption of the Risk in Boat Racing: A Study in Maritime Jurisprudence (2013) 11 Loyola Mar. L.J. 271
- Measuring Damages to Trees and Pets (Dec. 7, 2012) The Recorder, p. 12
- The Conflict over Medicare's 'Full Reimbursement' Rule (June & July 2012) Medical Malpractice Law & Strategy, Vol. 29, Nos. 9 & 10 [two-part article]
- Howell v. Hamilton Meats & Provisions: A Landmark Damages Case (Winter 2012) Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Vol. XXXIII, No. 2, p. 1
- Sanchez v. Strickland and the Measure of Damages in California for Past Medical Expenses

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(Winter 2012) Legal Insights, p. 15

- Limiting Windfall Damages (Feb. 2012) Medical Malpractice Law & Strategy, Vol. 29, No. 5, p. 1
- The Five-Year Mandatory Dismissal Statute May Be Back In Vogue (Dec. 27, 2011) Daily J., p. 3
- California Decisions - On the Books and Off: Why the Bar Should Remain Attentive to the Benefits of Seeking Both Publication and Depublication (3rd & 4th Quarter 2010) Verdict, p. 37
- Punitive Damages Immunity of Federal Instrumentalities (American Bar Association Winter 2009) The Brief, Vol. 38, No. 2, p. 24
- Determining Whether to File an Appellate Court Writ Petition (Cont.Ed.Bar 4th ed. 2008) Cal. Civil Writ Practice, ch. 17
- California Court: Peer Review Recommendations Not Final (Nov. 2004) Medical Malpractice Law & Strategy Vol. 22, No. 1, p. 3
- International Antitrust Handbook (American Bar Association 1997-1998)