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20 TO WATCH



UNDER 40

Supreme Passion

Jeremy Rosen will make his fourth argument before the California Supreme Court this year.

But the 35-year-old lawyer at Horvitz & Levy said research, not the court appearances, drew him to appellate law.

"It's like a puzzle," Rosen said. "I enjoy the research and thinking aspects of a legal problem. You can't change the facts or what happened; you have to re-image it and come up with an interesting way to convince a court to reverse an earlier decision."

Barry Levy, a partner at the appellate firm, thinks that Rosen's court appearances are indicative of his legal ability.

"I often think Jeremy's work has a quality that's far beyond his years," Levy said. "He's very creative in his thinking and can step outside the box."

The decision in Rosen's upcoming case, a defamation suit, will hinge on which publications are protected under California's Uniform Single Publication Act.

"It's probably the single brief that I'm most proud of," Rosen said. "If you start trying to draw the lines and use language to limit it to mass media, you're leaving a lot of other smaller publications unprotected."

Using the appeals process to clarify existing law is what makes Rosen passionate about his work. In his first state Supreme Court case at the firm, *Varian v. Delfino*, Rosen reached unanimous victory when the court ruled 7-0 that filing an anti-SLAPP motion automatically stays the trial process.

The decision set a legal precedent that protects individuals sued for constitutionally protected free speech and ensures they aren't unduly burdened with trial costs until a judge hears their appeal.

"I'm proud of this case because it answered an important question," Rosen said. "It reminds the trial courts of the limits of their power, once an appeal has been filed."

Jon Eisenberg, now a partner at Eisenberg & Hancock, supervised Rosen during the *Delfino* appeal when he was an



Jeremy B. Rosen, 35
Horvitz & Levy

Position: Associate

Law school: Duke University School of Law

Recent big case: In December, Rosen argued his third case before the California Supreme Court. The decision will determine to what extent parole evidence can be used to define the terms of a real estate contract.

attorney at Horvitz & Levy.

"He volunteered to work with me after he read the case memo and realized very quickly this was an important issue," Eisenberg said. "The key to being a good appellate lawyer is to know where to spot the issues that a case raises. Jeremy has that ability."

Rosen said that appellate work is an ideal fit with his intel-

lectual interests and lifestyle. The steady nature of the appeals process lets him spend time with his wife and young son.

"It's rewarding, you get to work with bright people, but there aren't the numerous, unexpected deadlines like there are in trial law," Rosen said. "Plus, I drive from Sherman Oaks to Encino; that has to be the best commute in L.A."

— Amanda Becker

Photo: Robert Levins