


# STUART D. TOCHNER

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## Contact

(310) 621-1034   
stuart.tochner@gmail.com   
Los Angeles, CA 90034 

## Professional Summary

Senior employment lawyer with nearly four decades of experience, specializing in litigation and advisory roles for employers ranging from Fortune 500 companies to startups. Proven track record at Ogletree Deakins and Musick Peeler & Garrett, excelling in trial and advice work. Skilled in negotiation and strategic litigation, with a passion for helping clients achieve best employment practices.

## Experience

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### SHAREHOLDER ATTORNEY

Aug 2009 - Present

OGLETREE DEAKINS — Los Angeles, CA

- I am a senior employment lawyer at Ogletree. Most of my time is spent handling employment litigation, usually single plaintiff, on behalf of employers. I represent these clients in both state and federal court, and before administrative agencies. My practice includes wrongful termination, sexual harassment, retaliation, whistleblower, and discrimination cases, as well as wage and hour disputes, and other employee discipline and personnel practices matters. I further specialize in representing employers in litigation arising from employee non-competition agreements and trade secret misappropriation matters, either as plaintiff or defendant. I regularly advise companies on best employment practices. My clients include companies ranging in size from Fortune 500 companies to small startups. I also have significant experience representing private colleges and universities.

### PARTNER

Nov 1995 - Jul 2009

MUSICK PEELER & GARRETT — Los Angeles, CA

- I was hired into the Labor Department at Musick Peeler & Garrett in November 1995, and I immediately began specializing in employment law. I learned substantive employment law during my first year at Musick. From 1995 until 1998, I served as an associate. I performed senior tasks from the beginning—running cases on my own, and strategizing with clients. I first chaired my first trial. I made partner in 1998, and served in that position until my departure in 2009. Beginning in 1995, I fully assumed the responsibilities of a partner. I brought a number of clients to the firm, I ran litigation with the assistance of associates, I tried cases, and I developed an expertise of representing private colleges and universities in employee, student, and faculty disputes. Our clients at Musick were small to large companies, as well as public utilities and private colleges and universities.

### ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Sep 1993 - Oct 1995

LAWRENCE SILVER & ASSOCIATES — Los Angeles, CA

- This was the smallest firm I worked for. I had been awarded a Dorot Fellowship the previous year (1992-1993), and spent that year in Israel working at CNN. Upon returning to Los Angeles, I commenced my role as an associate at this firm. I wrote and opposed motions, including summary judgments, and continued to argue motions in court. I took and defended numerous depositions, and took greater responsibility in handling cases on my own, and in setting strategic direction for cases. Our clients tended to be small to

medium sized companies, including several independent auto dealerships.

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY**

**Sep 1988 - May 1992**

**NEBENZAHL & KOHN — Los Angeles, CA**

This firm handled complex civil litigation, and I continued performing the work of an associate here. I wrote and opposed motions, including summary judgments, and continued to argue motions in court. I also appeared for general court appearances. Nebenzahl and Kohn specialized in the representation of thrift and loan associations, so I developed an expertise in matters relating to the automatic stay in bankruptcy; I would often move the court for relief from the automatic stay.

**ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY**

**Jul 1986 - May 1988**

**NEIMAN BILLET ALBALA & LEVINE — Los Angeles, CA**

This was my first law firm. I was trained here. I learned to write briefs, take depositions, draft discovery, and attend court appearances. I was trained with care and with humor. I generally worked with a senior associate (David Lash, now the national pro bono director at O'Melveny). The firm's approach was to throw me into the fire; I attended court on my first day as a lawyer, and I took my first deposition within the first week. I wrote and opposed substantive motions, including motions for summary judgment. Although a small firm, Neiman Billet's caseload was sophisticated; we handled complex commercial and civil litigation, and significant amounts of real estate litigation. Our clients tended to be small to medium sized companies and investors.

## **Education**

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**JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.)**

**May 1985 | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — Los Angeles**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**May 1981 | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY — Berkeley, CA**