



Reginald Roberts, Jr., Partner
rroberts@sandersroberts.com

Reginald Roberts, Jr. is a co-managing partner of Sanders Roberts LLP and a trial lawyer. His litigation practice focuses on employment matters, general liability defense, and business litigation cases. Mr. Roberts and his legal partner left the big firm practice to form a law firm of their own to deliver the highest quality legal representation, and vigorous advocacy, while also lending their skills to issues of social justice. In recognition of the superior legal work, and outstanding case results, in 2016 the Daily Journal selected Sanders Roberts LLP as one of the Top 20 Boutique Firms in California.

Mr. Roberts is a skilled trial lawyer, litigator and negotiator. Recently, Mr. Roberts served as lead trial counsel in a high-profile whistleblower employment case, covered widely by the media. The case was complex because of legal issues, client sensitivities to media reporting, and the potential exposure as Plaintiff demanded about \$30,000,000 and hired two renowned plaintiffs' law firms to try the case. After a week of *voir dire* jury selection and three weeks of trial, Mr. Roberts and his trial team secured a 12-0 defense verdict in favor of his client. Prior to securing this defense verdict, within a time-span of only 16 months, Mr. Roberts tried cases in federal court, state court, and in the Office of Administrative Hearings. He achieves favorable results consistently for his clients including an employment matter in which he served as lead defense counsel for a religious institution in a multi-party employment dispute involving a prominent church, and a former pastor who accused the church of misconduct and sued for over \$20,000,000.00. He prevailed on an Anti-SLAPP motion effectively ending the case. He also recovered attorney fees for his client. Mr. Roberts has achieved similar success in general liability matters with over \$1,000,000 at issue.

In recognition of his legal skill, outstanding case results, and vision to create and manage a recognized litigation firm, in 2013 the National Bar Association recognized Mr. Roberts as one of the Top 40 Under 40, an award given to the top 40 attorneys in the nation under age 40.

In July 2015, the Los Angeles Daily Journal profiled Sanders Roberts LLP in an article titled "Broad Reach, Grand Ambitions." The legal publication recognized the firm for its legal accomplishments and ambition as a rising boutique litigation firm in California. The firm counts among its clients Ford Motor Company, the Los Angeles Unified School District, Southern California Edison, Facebook, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc., the City of Los Angeles, the Rising Realty Group and a host of other businesses and individuals.

In 1998, Mr. Roberts began his legal career working at a boutique litigation firm, Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt, in downtown Los Angeles where he defended both public and private sector clients in various litigation matters including employment cases, dangerous condition of public and private property cases, and personal injury cases ranging from trip and fall to wrongful death matters. There, he gained extensive experience litigating matters from start to finish in both state and federal courts. Mr. Roberts served as lead counsel in employment law cases, general liability defense matters, and in civil rights cases involving high profile police misconduct issues. Mr. Roberts served as lead counsel for plaintiffs in a case and garnered a recovery of over \$1,200,000 as a young attorney.

In 2006 Mr. Roberts joined Adorno Yoss Alvarado & Smith, a Florida-based law firm with over three hundred attorneys working in offices across the United States. While there, Mr. Roberts worked as lead counsel in numerous cases where he provided his clients with vigorous legal representation and consistently achieved favorable results. His litigation experience includes extensive pleadings and motions practice, depositions, case management and budget responsibilities, and presentations to executive boards. Mr. Roberts defended municipal and private clients in various tort liability claims, employment matters, in breach of contract actions, business disputes, and in insurance coverage disputes. He also represented private financial institutions in real estate litigation, and managed wrongful death and personal injury cases involving serious bodily injury. Mr. Roberts defended the City of South Gate successfully in a business litigation action seeking over \$10,000,000 in damages, and he preserved the victory on appeal.

Mr. Roberts has also served in an advisory capacity to public entities on issues including insurance coverage claims, legislative impact on municipal practices, and extending municipal powers to address gang violence. He has argued successfully insurance coverage issues to an insurance claims board and reduced his client's coverage costs by \$1,500,000.

Experience

First chair in state and federal trials; Employment advice and council, organize and litigate state and federal cases involving: Employment matters involving race discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, disability discrimination, teacher dismissals, executive compensation, best employment practices, and First Amendment issues; Business litigation cases regarding product warranty and fraud claims, breach of contract claims, interference with business advantage, general business disagreements and representation of financial institutions in real estate disputes.

State trial experience
Federal trial experience
Office of Administrative Hearings
Labor Commissioner Hearings
Arbitration

Education

J.D., University of Southern California Law School, 2000
B.A., Morehouse College, 1997

Involvement

Lecturer in Law, USC Gould School of Law
National Association of Minority and Women Owned Businesses (NAMWOLF)
University of Southern California Black Alumni Association Advisory Committee
Southern California Minority Supplier Development Council, Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee (2016 – 2018)
*Past Committee Member, National Bar Association
*Past Board Member, John M. Langston Bar Association
USC Gould School of Law Mentor
Morehouse College Alumni Association
USC Law Leadership Society

Speaking Engagements

Legal Panelist, California Employment Lawyer's Association, Diversity Outreach Summit, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, California, March 29, 2017.

Guest Speaker for KIPP Academy of Opportunity, Career Day, Los Angeles, California, March 10, 2017.

Guest Lecturer for USC class on "The Legal Profession" held at USC Gould School of Law, Los Angeles, California, February 24, 2017.

Guest Lecturer for USC Gould School of Law seminar, Stereotypes, Prejudice, and the Rule of Law, Los Angeles, California, September 13, 2016.

Legal Panelist for David v Goliath: How Small Firms Can Steal Big Law's Work at the LegalTech West Coast 2014 Convention, Los Angeles, California, June 24, 2014.

Reginald Roberts, Jr. served as a legal panelist for an employment law panel, "Mixed Motives," National Bar Association 33rd Annual Mid-Year Conference, St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort, Dana Point, California, April 5, 2013.

Legal Panelist on employment law practice, "Risky Business; Fundamental Employment Law Issues for the Smaller Employer" at the National Bar Association's Mid-Winter Conference, Nassau, Bahamas, February 14, 2013.

Legal Panelist on employment law practice at the National Bar Association's Small Firm's 87th Annual Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 16-19, 2012.

Legal Panelist, "The Practice of Law and Motion," Motions for Summary Judgment and Summary Adjudication in Employment Matters: Navigating the Nuances of Employment Law, John M. Langston Bar Association, Langston Law Institute, December 3, 2010.

Legal Panelist, "Common Pitfalls of the Young Attorney," Employment Matters: Navigating the Nuances of Employment Law, John M. Langston Bar Association, Langston Law Institute, December 3, 2010.

*In 2013 the NBA recognized Mr. Roberts as one of the nation's top 40 lawyers under age 40.
In 2007 the Langston Bar Association recognized Mr. Roberts as its Member of the Year.*