



## Contact

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## Education

Stanford Law School, J.D. (with distinction) 2004

Boston University, B.A.  
(European History) and B.S.  
(Broadcast Journalism) (summa cum laude) 2000

## Admissions

- California
- Texas
- US District Court for Southern District of California
- US District Court for the Northern District of California
- US District Court for Southern District of Texas
- US District Court for Western District of Texas
- US District Court for Northern District of Texas
- US District Court for Eastern District of Texas
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

## Practice Areas

Shareholder & Securities

Energy

Government Investigations & Regulatory Enforcement

National Trial Counsel

# Mike Merriman

## Partner, Head of Litigation

## About

Mike is an experienced trial lawyer, having tried jury trials and arbitrated disputes all over the country. His complex litigation experience includes representing technology companies, real estate partnerships, governmental entities, energy companies and government contractors.

Mike brings extensive experience in the courtroom and a common-sense approach to each matter. His clients know that he is not afraid to go to trial, but that he will make judgement calls and recommendations based on the client's best interest. He enjoys working on matters across various industries and is adept at getting up to speed quickly on complex topics. He also has experience managing large litigation teams to ensure that the matter is resolved effectively and efficiently.

In addition to civil litigation, Mike represents companies and individuals in white collar matters, including internal investigations. His white collar experience began as an Assistant United States Attorney ("AUSA") at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California in the Major Frauds and Special Prosecutions Section. Appearing in court on a weekly basis, he prosecuted a wide range of complex matters, including public corruption, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations (related to a Fortune 500 Company), wire fraud and mortgage fraud. Mike also tried five cases to verdict and argued in front of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to joining Hilgers Graben, Mike worked at Scott Douglass & McConnico and litigation powerhouse Bartlit Beck LLP. He clerked for the Hon. Susan Illston, U.S. District for the Northern District of California.

## Highlights

- Successfully defended Chesapeake Energy Corporation against claims related to hundreds of millions of dollars in multi-week AAA arbitration brought by working interest owner.



# Mike Merriman



Partner, Head of Litigation

## Highlights (cont.)

### Experience

- Scott Douglass & McConnico 2013-2021
- U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California in the Major Frauds and Special Prosecutions Section, 2008-2013
- Bartlit Beck LLP 2005-2008
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (Clerk for Hon. Susan Illston)—2004-2005

### Awards

2025 edition of The Best Lawyers® in America

2025 Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America

- Successfully arbitrated breach of contract claims brought by medical industry business process outsourcing company against a customer. After a multi-day hearing, arbitrator awarded all damages sought by client and attorney's fees.
- Represented Stingray Pressure Pumping LLC in Delaware state court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court in dispute regarding breach of multi-year contract for fracking services against producer.
- Represented a California software company in breach of contract disputes.
- Represented retired professional athlete responding to third-party subpoena in federal defamation lawsuit.
- Represented general partner and limited partnership in lawsuit involving fiduciary duty claims brought by limited partners regarding real estate investments.
- Obtained temporary restraining order and temporary injunction for engineering and manufacturing company in dispute with partner.
- Represented an IT services company in contract dispute with international IT services company and state agency.
- Represented several Texas River Authorities in a variety of matters, including wholesale electricity contracts, wastewater contracts, and water rights.
- Represented Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority in APA/NEPA challenges to highway projects.
- Defended Federal Signal Corporation in multi-week jury trial for mass tort claims that resulted in complete defense verdict.
- Defended Ernst & Young in multi-week AAA arbitration hearing that resulted in complete defense verdict.
- Served as the lead prosecutor for one of the largest public corruption cases in the Southern District of California, which involved complex investigative techniques, such as Title III wiretap interceptions, numerous undercover operations, video surveillance, trap and trace devices, and search warrants (U.S. v. Bean et al., 12CR1852-CAB).
- Successfully prosecuted two attorneys—including an internationally-renowned surrogacy attorney—for creating an international baby-selling ring and deceiving San Diego County judges with false pleadings (U.S. v. Erickson, 11CR3372-AJB; U.S. v. Neiman, 11CR3247-AJB).