

Darryl A. Hart



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Education

University of California, Berkeley,
School of Law (Boalt Hall), J.D., 1965
(Order of the Coif, Note and Comment Editor,
California Law Review)

University of California, Berkeley, B.A.,
(Political Science), 1960

Professional Affiliations

American Bar Association
(Forum Committee on Franchising)

Bar Admissions

State Bar of California (Vice Chair,
Franchise Legislation Committee, 1982-1985)

Honors

Mr. Hart has been repeatedly named a leader in the field in the Franchise edition of Who's Who Legal, an international attorney evaluation publication. He also has been awarded the highest rating on Avvo.com, a lawyer evaluation website.

Practice Areas

Franchise and Distribution

Experience

Darryl Hart is Of Counsel to the firm. He has over forty-five years of experience in the practice of franchise law, including over eight years as General Counsel, and in various top-level executive positions, with Swensen's Ice Cream Company as it grew internationally to over 300 stores. He was one of the first five lawyers in California to be certified as a legal specialist in Franchise and Distribution Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

Mr. Hart's legal expertise and extensive practical experience provides a unique combination that allows him to guide both start-up franchisors in the development of their franchising programs and established franchising companies in their ongoing legal compliance as well as in issues that arise during their growth. He has served as an expert witness on franchising issues in litigation and arbitration matters.

Representative Cases

Mr. Hart has assisted franchising companies in a wide variety of industries including fast food and white table cloth restaurants, fitness studios, specialty coffee cafes, real estate brokerages, service industries and retailers of various types. He also counsels prospective franchisees in larger transactions in the analysis and negotiation of their Franchise and Master Development Agreements. He has extensive experience in franchising in foreign countries in cooperation with local counsel.

Publications

Mr. Hart has written and lectured on the unique business and legal issues and challenges involved in franchising. He has shared his expertise as a guest lecturer at various educational and government institutions including the Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of California at Berkeley, the College of Business at San Francisco State University and the College of Marin as well as programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration. He has written on franchising issues for legal publications including the American Bar Association's Franchise Law Journal and The Franchise Lawyer, Law Journal News Franchising Business and Law Alert, California Lawyer and Thomson Reuters's Managing Legal Issues in Franchising.