

C. Griffith Towle



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Education

University of California,
Hastings College of the Law, J.D., 1989

University of California, Santa Barbara, B.A.
With Honors (English and History), 1986

Professional Affiliations

American Bar Association, Forum on Franchising

Association of Business Trial Lawyers,
Northern California (ABTL)

State Bar of California,
Franchise Law Committee (former Co-Chair)

International Franchise Association,
Legal Symposium Task Force

State Bar of California, Certified Specialist in
Franchise and Distribution Law

University of California, Hastings College of
Law, Alumni Board of Governors
(2007–2010 and 2013–2019)

Bar Admissions

State Bar of California

Honors

Named as a "Super Lawyer" by Thomson
Reuters – 2013-Present

Named in International Who's Who Legal –
Franchise Edition, 2007-Present

Practice Areas

Business Litigation
Class Action Litigation
Franchise and Distribution
Intellectual Property Litigation
Labor & Employment Litigation
Partnership and Shareholder Disputes
Real Estate Litigation

Experience

C. Griffith Towle is a Principal of the firm. He represents clients in a variety of commercial litigation matters, including class actions, franchise and related regulatory litigation, business and partnership disputes, real estate litigation, employment law matters and intellectual property litigation. Mr. Towle is certified as a specialist in Franchise and Distribution law by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization.

Mr. Towle has successfully tried and arbitrated many cases involving franchise, intellectual property, partnership, contract and tort claims. In addition, he has substantial experience in mediation and other types of alternative dispute resolution.

Mr. Towle is the former Co-Chair of the Franchise Law Committee of the State Bar of California and served on the Steering Committee of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Division of the American Bar Association's Forum on Franchising. He is the Co-Editor of the Franchise Litigation Handbook (1st Edition) published by the American Bar Association and the former Associate Editor of the Forum on Franchising's Franchise Law Journal. Mr. Towle has also authored numerous articles and spoken on a variety of topics related to commercial litigation and issues involving franchising.

Publications/Speaking Engagements

Co-Author, Franchise Litigation Handbook, Chapter 1 – Initial Pleadings (2nd Edition);
American Bar Association, October 2021

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Winter 2020

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Winter 2019

Speaker and Co-Author, "Effective and Failed Strategies to Compel/Avoid Arbitration"; ABA
Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2018

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Fall 2018

Speaker and Co-Author, "Judicial Update – Arbitration & Forum Selection Issues"; IFA Annual
Legal Symposium, May 2018

Publications/Speaking Engagements [Continued]

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Fall 2017

Speaker and Co-Author, "The Slippery Sands of Post-Termination Enforcement – Opportunities for Franchisees & Pitfalls for Franchisors; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2017

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Fall 2016

Author, "Injunction Relief in Lanham Act Cases Post-Herb Reed"; Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL) Report, Northern California, Volume 24, No. 2., Spring 2016

Speaker, "Irreparable Harm and Trademark Law Demystified!"; Webinar, October 2015

Panel Moderator, "Franchise Litigation - Frequently Arising Issues in Litigation"; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2015

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Spring 2015

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Winter 2014

Speaker and Co-Author, "Proving Irreparable Harm - Have the Standards Changed?"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2012

Co-Editor, Franchise Litigation Handbook (1st Edition); American Bar Association, October 2010

Speaker and Co-Author, "Fundamentals 201: Stop That Right Now – Preparing For And Winning Injunctions"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2010

Co-Author, "Franchising (& Distribution) Currents"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Summer 2010

Speaker and Co-Author, "Incurable Defaults and 'Good Cause' Requirements – Can Sound Drafting Reconcile the Two?"; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2010

Co-Author, California Franchise Law and Practice, Chapter 12 – Case Law Highlights; CEB, February 2009

Speaker and Co-Author, "Unconscionability and Franchise Litigation"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2006

Speaker and Co-Author, "Frequently Arising Issues in Litigation – Handling Defaults and Terminations Effectively and Lawfully"; IFA Annual Legal Symposium, May 2006

Speaker and Co-Author, "Litigator's Guide to Franchise Terminations – Settlement: Things Every Potential Litigant Should Know About Litigation"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2002

Speaker and Co-Author, "Keeping the Enforcers at Bay – Handling an FTC or State Franchise Investigation"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 2001

Speaker and Co-Author, "Some Approaches to Litigation Management"; ABA Annual Forum on Franchising, October 1999

Author, "Representing a Franchisor in Litigation with the FTC"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Summer 1997

Author, "Representing a Franchisor in an FTC Investigation"; ABA Franchise Law Journal, Summer 1996