

Stephen Ascher

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Areas of Focus

Business Litigation

Intellectual Property

Investor and Securities
Litigation

Hedge, Investment, and
Private Equity Funds

Life Sciences



Overview

When Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, and high net-worth individuals face complex financial disputes, Stephen Ascher relentlessly pursues their goals. Stephen is a first-chair trial lawyer, regularly representing both plaintiffs and defendants. His clients gain better advice thanks to his extensive experience on both sides of the “v.”

Co-Chair of Jenner & Block’s Investor and Securities Litigation Practice, Stephen began his career as a white-collar criminal defense lawyer at a small firm where he learned to think strategically and creatively, addressing an unusually broad variety of situations and challenges. He gains a deep understanding of his clients’ businesses, enabling him to communicate with companies in their industry-specific language, and then simplify and explain these concepts to judges, arbitrators, and juries. Using keen quantitative skills, Stephen is particularly effective when cross-examining traders, accountants, and other witnesses with technical expertise.

Stephen takes on the big cases with extraordinary complexity and sophistication. While representing a major asset manager in a dispute with AIG concerning interest rate swaps, he led one of the largest solvency analyses in history, helping to secure a \$600 million gain for the client. He has led numerous teams in matters where his client achieved a 9-digit recovery. For defendants, he has frequently developed novel defenses that resulted in dismissals.



Litigation requires a rare combination of aggression and judgment. Aggression, to pursue arguments and avenues relentlessly. And the judgment to know which are the most likely to be successful.”

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- Business Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Investor and Securities Litigation
- Hedge, Investment, and Private Equity Funds
- Life Sciences
- Markets and Trading
- Real Estate and Hospitality

Representative Matters

- Leading the representation of Microsoft and Activision in highly publicized breach of fiduciary duty litigation arising out of Microsoft’s \$70 billion acquisition of Activision.
- Tried a theft of trade secrets claim against a Fortune 500 pharma company on behalf of a major biotech company. After a 3-week trial, proved that client trade secrets had been misappropriated.
- Represented institutional investors in numerous claims arising out of “built to fail” CDOs after the 2008 financial crisis. Clients recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements.
- Successfully guided one of the largest cannabis companies in the United States in several arbitrations and lawsuits related to dealings with minority investors and their securities offerings.
- Represented several world-class hedge funds and trading firms in nine-figure disputes concerning derivatives, structured finance transactions, and trade secrets.
- Represented major real estate companies in disputes with other market participants and borrowers.
- Regularly represents Fortune 500 and other significant companies in securities litigation.

Credentials

Admissions

- New York, 1993

Education

- Harvard Law School, JD, *cum laude*, 1991
- Harvard College, BA, *magna cum laude*, 1988

Court Admissions

- US Supreme Court, 2000
- US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 2005
- US Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 2004
- US District Court, Eastern District of New York, 1993
- US District Court, Southern District of New York, 1993

Clerkships

- Hon. Jesse E. Eschbach, US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 1991-1992

Service / Recognition

Awards

- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: Securities (New York), 2021-2026
- *New York Metro Super Lawyers*, 2008-2022, in Securities Litigation, Criminal Defense: White Collar, and General Litigation.
- *Legal 500*, Dispute Resolution, Securities Litigation - Defense, 2016-2021; Cannabis, 2021
- Leaders League, Litigation & Competition Directory, Securities Litigation, 2018
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Litigation-Banking and Finance, 2026

Service to the Bar

- American Bar Association, Securities Litigation Committee, Member
- Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Member
- New York State Bar Association, White-Collar Criminal Defense Committee, Member, 2007-2010
- New York State Bar Association, Hedge Fund and Capital Markets Litigation, Co-Chair, 2013