

# Scott A. Edelman

## Partner

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Century City

Scott A. Edelman is a partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Century City office. He is a member of the firm's Executive Committee, Litigation Department, and multiple practice groups. He previously served as the firm's National Pro Bono Chair and, for over 30 years, as Co-Chair of its Media, Entertainment, and Technology practice group.

Scott has first-chaired numerous jury trials, bench trials and arbitrations, including class actions, taking well over twenty-five to final verdict or decision. He has a broad background in commercial litigation, including antitrust, class actions, employment, entertainment and intellectual property, real estate and product liability. Scott is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Fellowship is extended by invitation only to the best of the trial bar of the United States and Canada and cannot exceed one percent of the total lawyer population of any state or province. He is also a Fellow of the invitation-only International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL), which limits membership to 500 fellows in the United States.

Scott has substantial experience trying high-stakes cases. Most recently, in the Spring of 2020, after a two-week trial that was closely watched by the industry, he achieved a total victory for AMC in a profit participation case over *The Walking Dead* television franchise, knocking out hundreds of millions of dollars in alleged liability. In late 2018, he obtained a complete defense jury verdict for Ottogi Corporation in a five-week federal trial of an antitrust class action, a victory which earned him national recognition as AmLaw's "Litigator of the Week." In 2016, he was lead counsel for Wal-Mart in a multi-week trial of a federal class action brought by 850 Wal-Mart truck drivers. Scott has also tried multiple significant fraud cases. In 2018, he successfully defended a private equity client against fraud charges in a two-week trial in Delaware Chancery Court relating to the sale of a portfolio company. He represented the plaintiff in obtaining a \$122 million federal jury verdict in *Intertainment v. Franchise Pictures* and achieved the dismissal of two toxic torts cases against Dole Foods because of fraud on the court by plaintiffs and their counsel. The Dole victory was featured as the cover story of the October issues of *California Lawyer* and *Corporate Counsel*, and received widespread newspaper coverage, including a front-page feature story in the *Wall Street Journal*. Scott and his practice group's work for Dole and Chevron also were prominently mentioned in "Litigation Department of the Year," *The American Lawyer* (January 2010/2012), and "The Kill Step," *The American Lawyer/Corporate Counsel* (October 2009). Scott served as coordinating counsel for World Fuel Services, Inc. in relation to the various litigations arising from the derailment of a train in Lac-Mégantic, Montreal in July 2014. In 2015, Scott represented the University of California in a multi-week bench trial against an international consulting firm in asserting actuarial malpractice and violations of the False Claims Act.

Scott has received numerous accolades. Most recently, Scott was recognized by *Lawdragon* as one of the 500 Leading Litigators in America in 2024-2025, which recognizes the most elite courtroom advocates in the nation, and named to *Who's Who Legal's* inaugural 2024 *Thought Leaders: USA* guide. In April 2022, *Benchmark Litigation*



## Capabilities

Litigation  
Antitrust and Competition  
Appellate and Constitutional Law  
Class Actions  
Emerging Companies / Venture Capital  
Fashion, Retail, and Consumer Products  
Intellectual Property  
Labor and Employment  
Law Firm Defense  
Media, Entertainment, and Technology  
Securities Litigation  
Technology Litigation  
Transnational Litigation  
Trials

## Credentials

### Education

University of California - Berkeley - 1984  
Juris Doctor  
Stanford University - 1981 Bachelor of Arts

### Admissions

California Bar

### Clerkships

USDC, Central District of California, Hon.  
Jesse W. Curtis, 1984 - 1985

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named him the West Coast Entertainment Litigator of the Year. The publication noted, "Scott Edelman is near-constant mention of his peers for his varied, multi-faceted commercial disputes practice that includes a niche emphasis on entertainment." He was again named to *Variety's* Legal Impact Report in 2024, an annual list of the leading lawyers in the entertainment industry. *The Hollywood Reporter* named him a Legal Legend, a "special feature dedicated to honoring entertainment industry attorneys whose career achievements are extraordinary." In April 2020, he was named a Litigator of the Week by *AmLaw Litigation Daily* for the second time. *Law360*, which features lawyers who have "distinguished themselves from their peers by securing hard-earned successes in high-stakes litigation, complex global matters and record-breaking deals," named Scott among its 2020 MVPs. Scott was also chosen by *Law360* as one of the 2019 Trial MVP's for a series of trial victories that year. He also was recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* on the Top Litigators & Trial Lawyers in Los Angeles 2020 list. The list highlights "the very best litigators in the business" who "go to the proverbial mat to fight for their clients." In 2019, he was among the 32 lawyers named to *The National Law Journal's* "Winning Litigators" list, which recognizes "star trial litigators" who "took on high-stakes matters and won." *The Daily Journal* has ranked him as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California. He has received a Clay Award as "Lawyer of the Year" from *California Lawyer* and was recognized as an "Attorney of the Year" by *The Recorder*. He was also named the "Litigator of the Year" by the Century City Bar Association, and was one of 10 litigators named in the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Top 100 Lawyers in Los Angeles, "Best of the Bar" and one of the "Best Lawyers in America" by *American Lawyer Media*. Scott also received the Learned Hand Award in June 2015 from the American Jewish Committee. The award is presented to outstanding leaders in the legal profession and is the highest honor the AJC bestows on members of the legal profession.

Scott represents multiple studios, television networks, music companies, production companies and other media-related entities. Scott has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation, Entertainment Law: Motion Pictures & Television, First Amendment Law, Intellectual Property, and Trademark Law. Scott was recently recognized by *Legal 500* as a leading lawyer in media and entertainment and in *Who's Who Legal's* Sports guide in 2019 and 2024. Acknowledged as go-to counsel for his deep litigation experience, he is consistently recognized by legal and industry publications for his work. He has been named repeatedly by *Chambers USA* as a Leading Media and Entertainment Litigation Lawyer in California; by the *Hollywood Reporter* as one of the top 100 "Power Lawyers"; by *Daily Variety* as one of Hollywood's top litigators. He has been named a California "Litigation Star" in Media and Entertainment Litigation in multiple editions of *Benchmark Litigation*, most recently in 2025. *The Daily Journal* repeatedly has rated him as a top entertainment lawyer. *Billboard* has repeatedly named Scott to its list of the Music Industry's Top Lawyers, which features "the best attorneys in the business." He was selected as a Top 10 Southern California Super Lawyer by *SuperLawyers*, and has been ranked in numerous other legal industry publications.

Scott received his law degree from the University of California (Boalt Hall) in 1984, where he was Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Ecology Law Quarterly*. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Stanford University in 1981, where he graduated with distinction. Prior to joining Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Scott clerked for United States District Court Judge Jesse W. Curtis in the Central District of California.

Scott is a former Chairman of the Board of Directors of KCET Public Television. He is a past President of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, a legal aid organization for the indigent, and now serves on its President's Council. He also serves as the President of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple and is on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Children's Rights in Los Angeles. In 2020, Scott completed his term as Regional President of the American Jewish Committee Los Angeles and now serves on its National Board of Governors. He is a member of the Chancery Club and Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles.

A list of Scott's cases is available on request.