

PARTNER

JOHN STOKES

Yale, J.D. (2014)

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John Stokes is one of the nation's leading young trial and appellate lawyers—brought in to handle problems requiring the highest levels of strategy and execution. John helps his clients win in trial courts, the federal courts of appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court alike.

Before his January 2023 promotion to partner, John was one of only two associates in America ranked by *Chambers USA* for appellate litigation. *Chambers* has described him as “excellent,” noting that his “writing is clear, accurate, persuasive and forceful,” and that his “arguments draw you in and make you want to agree.” John’s work helped the firm become a mainstay on *The National Law Journal’s* Appellate Hot List ([four awards in six years](#)), as well as the shortlist for *The American Lawyer’s* National Boutique of the Year ([two awards in four years](#)).

John routinely handles the most difficult and important aspects of his clients’ cases—no matter the stage. This could involve pre-litigation strategy, where he has helped design nationwide litigation campaigns to address existential business threats or capitalize on major litigation opportunities. It could involve critical trial court motion practice, where he has successfully argued numerous dispositive and post-trial motions. Or it could involve appeals before the federal circuit courts or the U.S. Supreme Court, where he has successfully litigated dozens of cases.



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With the ability to quickly master any fact pattern and area of law, John is able to lead virtually any significant business dispute. He has represented clients in cases involving copyright, trade secret, false advertising, defamation, patent, civil procedure, pension, healthcare, fiduciary responsibility, civil rights, constitutional law, contract, and tort. He is nationally ranked for plaintiff's side ERISA litigation by *Chambers USA*.

John received his J.D. from Yale Law School. After law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Raymond C. Fisher on the Ninth Circuit and the Honorable Paul G. Gardephe in the Southern District of New York.

John received his undergraduate degree in linguistics from Harvard University, where he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Awards

Recent Individual Honors

- **Associate to Watch, Appellate Litigation** (1 of 2 associates in America), *Chambers USA* ([current](#))
- **Associate to Watch, ERISA Plaintiffs Litigation** (1 of 2 associates in America), *Chambers USA* ([current](#))

Recent Firm Honors

- **National Boutique of the Year**, finalist (7 firms in America), *The American Lawyer* ([2019](#), [2022](#))
- **Appellate Hot List** (20 firms in America), *National Law Journal* ([2016](#), [2018](#), [2019](#), [2021](#))
- **Band 1, ERISA Plaintiffs Litigation** (3 firms in America), *Chambers*



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USA ([current](#))

- **Band 2, Appellate Litigation** (9 firms in California), *Chambers USA* ([current](#))



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