

Robert Edward Dugdale

Partner



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With extensive knowledge of the federal system, Robert Edward Dugdale is widely recognized as one of the region's best trial lawyers. He has been the lead attorney or associate counsel on more than 25 trials and has successfully argued in excess of 20 cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Before joining the firm, Mr. Dugdale served more than 19 years as a trial attorney and supervisor of some of the most significant cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California. He was the Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for Trials, Integrity, and Professionalism and, prior to that, the Chief of the Criminal Division, a position in which he oversaw the work of approximately 200 federal prosecutors in the second largest U.S. Attorney's Office in the nation.

In 2016, Mr. Dugdale was named one of the "Top 100 Lawyers" in California by the state's largest legal publication, the *Daily Journal*.

Education

University of Southern California Gould School of Law, J.D., 1993

Northwestern University, B.A., Economics, 1990

Representative Matters

Criminal Defense and Investigations

- Represented the chief financial officer and chief compliance officer of a global supplier of used computer network equipment in connection with successful efforts to convince the Department of Justice that his company had complied with the requirements of a deferred prosecution agreement and should not face criminal charges for its alleged involvement in a discount fraud scheme.
- Represented a witness questioned by the Drug Enforcement Administration as part of an investigation into the death of the late pop star Prince.

Civil Litigation

- Obtained a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction halting violations of a non-disclosure agreement being committed by the former business manager of the late world-renowned singer and songwriter Jenni Rivera and defeated anti-SLAPP motions brought by producers of a television series who are alleged to have induced this business manager's breaches of his non-disclosure agreement by collaborating with him to produce an unauthorized television show exploiting the private details of Ms. Rivera's life.

- Represented the former CEO and founder of a Los Angeles-based talent and literary agency in legal proceedings leading to the recovery of money stolen by one of the corporate officers of the agency he led.
- Represented Pabst Brewing Company in a lawsuit centered on whether the rapper Snoop Dogg was entitled to claim a portion of the proceeds from a stock-sale transaction in which a private equity group acquired all of the stock of Pabst's parent company. Case was settled.
- Member of a litigation team that secured a victory for the Hammer Museum in litigation brought by the niece of the late wife of oil tycoon Armand Hammer. She had alleged that she was the rightful heir to \$400 million of his fortune, including a sizable share of the art housed in the UCLA-managed museum bearing Hammer's name. The judge granted summary judgment in favor of the museum.
- Wrote the successful pleadings on behalf of the National Basketball Association that led to the dismissal of a lawsuit in which the plaintiff contended that rights she retained from the NBA Players Association entitled her to compensation for the use of animated NBA players' likenesses in several popular video games licensed by the NBA.

Cybercrime

- Supervised the prosecution of a group of Chinese operatives who hacked into computer systems belonging to Boeing and various other defense contractors for the purpose of stealing sensitive military technology and other trade secrets.
- Supervised the investigation of the 2014 computer intrusion into Sony Pictures Entertainment, which President Obama attributed to the North Korean government. As a result of the work Mr. Dugdale oversaw during this investigation, the President increased and initiated new sanctions against North Korea.

International Money Laundering

- Led operations targeting trade-based money laundering occurring in the downtown Los Angeles Fashion District that garnered nationwide attention and led to the seizure of over \$150 million in criminal proceeds and some of the largest seizures of bulk cash in the history of American law enforcement.

Insider Trading

- Supervised the successful prosecution of a former high-ranking KPMG executive for insider trading. The executive admitted that, in exchange for cash and gifts, he had passed along sensitive information about the accounting firm's clients to a friend, whose subsequent

trading on inside information related to those clients netted him over \$1.27 million in illegal profits. This executive was sentenced to 14 months in prison.

Public Corruption

- Supervised the successful prosecution of 19 former members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department convicted of various civil rights and corruption offenses in one of the largest cases targeting wrongdoing in a law enforcement agency brought in the Central District of California's history. Among those prosecuted as a result of this investigation were former Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca and former Los Angeles County Undersheriff Paul Tanaka, who was formerly the second-highest ranking member of the Sheriff's Department. Along with eight other deputies of various ranks, both Baca and Tanaka were convicted of obstruction of justice for engineering a conspiracy that unsuccessfully tried to thwart an FBI investigation into inmate abuse and corruption within the Los Angeles County Jail system. In addition, nine other deputies were convicted of charges related to the illegal use of force within the Los Angeles County Jail system, offenses related to the possession of illegal firearms, and bribery offenses.

Protecting Victims of Violent Crime

- Oversaw an aggressive violence-reduction program targeting organized criminal groups that operated on a regional, national, and international level and that routinely engaged in acts of violence and financial crimes on a massive scale. Under Mr. Dugdale's leadership and, in many cases, his direct involvement as trial counsel, the U.S. Attorney's Office brought significant cases against the Mexican Mafia, the Sinaloa Cartel, the Aryan Brotherhood, the Mongols Outlaw Motorcycle Gang, and a number of other transnational criminal enterprises. Crimes by such groups noticeably diminished as a result of these prosecutions, and during the eight year period that Mr. Dugdale served as the Chief of the Violent Crime Section and the Chief of the Criminal Division at the U.S. Attorney's Office incidents of violent crime in the Central District of California fell for eight consecutive years and eventually reached the lowest numbers seen in the district in decades.
- Supervised the successful investigation and trial of more than 90 defendants in the largest organized crime prosecution targeting Eurasian criminal enterprise brought in the history of the Department of Justice. This prosecution targeted the Armenian Power enterprise, a violent and sophisticated organized crime group responsible for numerous

acts of violence and schemes that defrauded tens of thousands of victims out of tens of millions of dollars. The defendants were convicted of or pleaded guilty to extortion, kidnapping, racketeering, bank fraud, obstruction of justice, and other charges that netted sentences exceeding 25 years or more against the leaders of this organization.

- Served as lead counsel on a case involving members of a Russian kidnapping-murder ring that abducted and brutally murdered five LA residents in the six months following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The eight-month trial featured the testimony of 135 witnesses called by the government and the introduction of over 4,000 exhibits. The jury concluded that the two defendants on trial should receive the death penalty, the first federal death penalty verdicts returned by a jury in the Central District of California in over 60 years.
- Managed dozens of successful prosecutions targeting large, well-entrenched street gangs involved in all manners of serious crime that qualified as federal offenses, including drug trafficking, fraud, the sexual

exploitation of children, firearms trafficking, bank robberies, kidnappings, and murder.

- Created and implemented an anti-gang program throughout the Central District of California that decimated dozens of street gangs through large-scale RICO prosecutions. This program has been credited with contributing to radical declines in gang-related crime over the past eight years in the Central District of California and became a model that the Department of Justice urged other U.S. Attorney's Offices throughout the nation to emulate.
- Coordinated the efforts of the Southern California Regional Sexual Assault and Exploitation Felony Enforcement Team, a multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional task force dedicated to the investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of those engaged in offenses involving the sexual abuse of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, with a special emphasis on sexual predators and large-scale distributors of child pornography over the Internet.

Recognition and Affiliations

- Top 100 Lawyers in California, *Daily Journal*, 2016
- California Lawyer Attorney of the Year, *California Lawyer* magazine, 2008
- Two U.S. Department of Justice Director's Awards, 2007 and 2015
The second highest honor awarded to a Department of Justice employee
- Drug Enforcement Agency Administrator's Award, 2002

- U.S. Attorney General's Award, 2000
The highest honor awarded to a Department of Justice employee
- U.S. Attorney General's Capital Case Review Committee, Member, 2008–2012
- U.S. Attorney General Criminal Chiefs Working Group, Ninth Circuit's Representative, 2014–2015

Publications and Appearances

- National Advocacy Center: Mr. Dugdale has served on a number of occasions as a lecturer on trial advocacy issues at the National Advocacy Center, which is the primary training facility utilized by the Department of Justice to train federal prosecutors nationwide.
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center: Mr. Dugdale traveled to several foreign countries, including several emerging democracies engaged in reforming their

criminal justice systems, on behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to provide training to judges and prosecutors on the workings of the American criminal justice system and on issues that arise during complex criminal prosecutions.

- Adjunct Professor teaching Trial Advocacy at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, 2014 to present.

Prior to Kendall Brill & Kelly

- **U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California, 1997–2016**
Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for Trials, Integrity, and Professionalism; Chief of the Criminal Division; Chief of

the Violent and Organized Crime Section; Deputy Chief of the Organized Crime and Terrorism Section; Deputy Chief of the General Crimes Section

- **Skadden Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom, 1992–1997**
Litigation Associate, Law Clerk

Bar and Court Admissions

- **California**
- **U.S. District Courts**
Central and Northern Districts of California
- **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**

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