



# SCHWARTZ SEMERDJIAN

*Attorneys at Law*

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**DICK A. SEMERDJIAN**

**PARTNER**

**619-236-8821**

**[das@sscelaw.com](mailto:das@sscelaw.com)**

## **PRACTICE AREAS**

**Business & Commercial  
Litigation**

**Directors & Officers  
Liability**

**Employment Litigation**

**Personal Injury &  
Wrongful Death**

**Product Liability**

**Real Estate Law**

**Trademark Infringement,  
Trade Secret  
Misappropriation & Unfair  
Competition Litigation**

Dick Semerdjian is a founding partner of Schwartz Semerdjian and heads up the firm's litigation department.

Dick's clients range from Fortune 100 and 500 publically traded companies to small businesses and individuals. Dick is also experienced in both plaintiff and defense side work which lends to his unique ability to formulate creative and effective legal and resolution strategies in even the most complex of litigation matters.

Over the span of his over 39-year career, Dick has been recognized regularly by judges and local attorneys as one of the top civil litigation attorneys in the San Diego and Southern California legal communities. From 2020 through 2025, Dick was recognized by his peers in the San Diego Super Lawyers as one of the top 50 attorneys in San Diego County. Dick's charisma and superior lawyering skills have also lead him to hold many prestigious positions in the legal world including, Chair of the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Co-Chair of the State Courts subsection of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the American Judicial System, Director and Instructor for the American Board of Trial Advocates/American Bar Association National Trial Academy located at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, Chair of the American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury Project and membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates American Civil Roundtable. Dick is a Master and on the Board of Directors of the William B. Enright American Inn of Court.

In August 2016, Dick received the James K. Carroll Leadership Award from the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section which honors members who have shown outstanding leadership qualities and service to the section. Dick is licensed to practice in the United States Supreme Court, the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, and in the Federal Courts Southern, Northern, Central and Eastern Districts of California.

Outside of work, Dick is an avid sports fan (following the San Diego Padres, San Diego FC MLS Soccer Club, San Diego Gulls, and San Diego Seals) and is the Chairman of the San Diego Sports Association, a founding member and Co-Chair of the San Diego Sports Alliance and Past Chair of the San Diego International Sports Council and University of California San Diego Athletic Board. He is a visiting professor and lecturer at the University of San Diego School of Law and at the San Diego State University Fowler School of Business. He loves to play golf, exercise, and spend time with his family and grandchildren.



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## EDUCATION

- University of California at San Diego (B.A. in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, with provost honors, 1981)
- University of San Diego School of Law (J.D., 1985)

## MEMBERSHIPS

- Chairman of the San Diego Sports Association (2021-2025)
- Member of the Board of Visitors at The National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada (2017-2025)
- Co-Chair of the State Courts subsection of the Standing Committee on the American Justice System (2016-2019)
- Co-Chair: American Bar Association TIPS Leadership Academy (2015-2019)
- Member: American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA): The American Civil Trial Bar Roundtable (2012-2025)
- ABOTA/ABA/TIPS - National Trial Academy - Instructor and Board Member
- Guest Lecturer University of San Diego School of Law
- Visiting Professor at the San Diego State University Fowler School of Business
- San Diego Sports Association - Executive Committee (2018-2025)
- San Diego Sports Alliance - Founding Member (2015) and Co-Chair (2016-2019); Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Chairman (2007), San Diego International Sports Council, San Diego International Sports Council Foundation and San Diego Sports Commission
- Member and Liaison: American Bar Association Standing Committee on Judicial Independence (2008-2015)
- Chair: American Bar Association American Jury Project (2013-2015)
- Chair: American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (2012-2013)
- Member and Liaison: American Bar Association American Jury Project (2011-2024)
- Board of Directors (Council) - American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (2006-2009)
- Board of Governors - San Diego County Bar Association (2003-2006)
- San Diego County Bar Association (Member, Client Assistance and Arbitration/Client Relations and Bench and Bar Committees)
- American Bar Association (Member, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section; Vice Chairman, Business Litigation Section)
- State Bar of California since 1986



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- Defense Research Institute (Member, Products Liability and Commercial Litigation Sections)
- Board of Directors San Diego Trial Lawyers Association and Co-Chairman - Trial Awards Committee (1989-1991)
- Consumer Attorneys of San Diego (1996-2019)
- San Diego Defense Lawyers Association
- The Association of Trial Lawyers of America and American Association for Justice
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- California Consumer Attorneys Association
- Board of Directors, William B. Enright Inn of Court
- Master, William B. Enright Inn of Court
- Board of Managers, San Diego County YMCA, Human Development Department and Board Emeritus Member (1984-1993)
- Board of Directors, Torrey Pines High School Foundation, Torrey Pines Pop Warner Football and Solana Beach Little League
- Chair and Member of the University of California San Diego Athletic Board
- University of California San Diego Chancellor Associate and Alumni Association
- Alumni Advisor and Fund-Raising Campaign Fund, University of San Diego School of Law
- San Diego County Bar Association Delegate and Floor Leader of the Conference Delegates (1992-1994)
- San Diego Inn of Court, Workshop Leader on Evidence (1998)

## AWARDS

- 2020-2025: Named one of the top 50 attorneys in San Diego County by Super Lawyers in the practice areas of business litigation and labor and employment litigation. Dick was named as a top 50 attorney by nomination by his peers, research of his trial practices and by the Super Lawyers blue ribbon review process.
- 2010-2025: Named in The Best Lawyers of America® in the practice areas of Labor & Employment and Personal Injury. Best Lawyers® is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Awards are compiled by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which tens of thousands of leading lawyers and judges confidentially evaluate their peers. Best Lawyers peer-reviewed listings are published in almost 70 countries around the world.
- Co-author of the Employment section (Chapter 17) of the publication: "A

Schwartz Semerdjian Cauley Schena & Boot LLP

101 West Broadway, Suite 810 • San Diego, CA 92101-8229 • tel: 619.236.8821 fax: 619.236.8827

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Practitioner's Guide to Class Actions" (citation: Class Actions (Civil Procedure) – United States, American Bar Association, Tort Trial and Practice Section, 1st ed. 2010).

- "Lawyer of the Year" award recipient in the 2017 and 2023 Editions of The Best Lawyers in America®! Dick Semerdjian received the highest ratings this year from his attorney peers and judges in the area of personal injury defense work in San Diego County, making him the only attorney in San Diego to receive the "Lawyer of the Year" award in this practice area.
- 2007-2025: Named a Southern California Super Lawyer in the practice area of Employment Litigation Defense.
- 2016 – American Bar Association, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section James K. Carroll Leadership Award
- Named by American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell™: 2013-2025 Top Rated Lawyer in Labor & Employment and Business Litigation.
- 2012-2025: Selected by San Diego Magazine as one of the San Diego's best lawyers in the practice areas of Labor & Employment and Personal Injury.
- 2010-2024: Named as a Top Attorney in San Diego County by the San Diego Magazine.
- 2009-2019: Semi-finalist as a top Civil Litigator in San Diego County by the San Diego Daily Transcript.
- 2008-2024: Named as Top Business Litigator in San Diego in the Super Lawyers Magazine: Corporate Counsel Edition.
- In September of 2006 and 2008, nominated as one of the San Diego Daily Transcripts Top Influentials.
- In July of 2006, named one of the Ten Best Attorneys in San Diego by the San Diego Daily Transcript.
- Million Dollar Advocates Forum (recognition for verdicts, awards and settlements achieved for clients in excess of one million dollars)

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- 2013-2025: Chair and Member of the American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury Project
- 2014-2020 Liaisons and Member; American Bar Association Standing Committee on the American Justice System
- 2016-2019 Co-Chair of the State Courts subsection of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the American Justice System
- 2008-2014 Member and Liaisons; American Bar Association Standing Commission on Judicial Independence
- 2012-2013: Chair of the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section.

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- 2011-2012: Chair Elect of the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section.
- 2006-2009 Board of Directors (Council) American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section
- American Board of Trial Advocates/American Bar Association TIPS-Board of Directors of the National Trial Academy, National Judicial College, Reno Nevada
- American Board of Trial Advocates American Civil Roundtable