

## Breaking Records Across the Board

### Thorough and versatile litigation serves Dan Callahan's clients well

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—Dan Callahan

Callahan & Blaine's cases are diverse, and their settlements are record-breaking. Established in 1984, California's Premier Litigation Firm has built a case summary of historic proportions. "We don't have a narrow focus into one area of the law," founder Dan Callahan said.

"All of Callahan & Blaine's attorneys are battle tested and have at least seven years experience," he went on to explain. "In fact, the majority of the firm's lawyers have between 15 and 25 years of experience. Moreover, they have expertise in a broad spectrum of substantive complex litigation issues, including commercial litigation, intellectual property, trade secrets, employment law, real estate, insurance law, and catastrophic personal injury."

"We're experienced trial lawyers who have proven results in every aspect of civil litigation," he concluded.

And those results include the biggest victories in Orange County history, such as the largest jury verdict, the highest insurance bad faith judgment, the largest personal injury recovery, and the largest employment settlement.

With 32 years of practicing law to his credit, Callahan brings top talent and resources to each case. "I learned to practice law in a very large firm, where I was taught to thoroughly investigate the facts and the law to make the most compelling and creative arguments," Callahan said. "We've brought the same thorough methods involved in business litigation to personal injury, insurance bad faith, and employment litigation, which is unheard of."



"Being an attorney is a profession, not a job," he continued. "When someone views it as a job, they don't enjoy it, and they do just enough to get by. When viewed as a profession, a person will strive to provide excellence, creativity, and service to one's client. I prefer the latter; it is much more rewarding and satisfying."

Among Callahan's accomplishments are such notable verdicts as a \$934 million jury verdict in a 2004 business litigation case. The case started as a simple breach of contract, but after intense investigation and research, Callahan and his team convinced the court to adopt a legal theory called "economic duress" — in short, a subspecies of fraud. This theory got a boost when Callahan's team uncovered a critical witness who worked for the defendant and had been threatened with the loss of her job if she spoke out.

Callahan also handled a personal injury case involving an uninsured drunken driver who hit Callahan's two clients and rendered both quadriplegic. Callahan took the case, but not against the driver; he challenged the city where the accident occurred, arguing that it had created an unsafe condition on its roadways, leading to this tragic accident.

Sixty days prior to trial, the city offered \$30 million, but Callahan refused. On the day of trial, Callahan settled the case for \$50 million. Exclusive of large class actions, it remains the largest personal injury settlement in United States history.

"We do everything we can to help our clients, whether it is a severely injured individual or a wrongfully accused corporation," Callahan said. "We believe that the only way to handle cases is to do everything that we would want our lawyer to do if we were in the client's shoes. In doing so, we're enhancing the reputation of lawyers in our community through a complete commitment to our client's case and best interest."

Callahan's commitment has been widely recognized. He won the prestigious OCTLA Business Trial Lawyer of the Year Award in both 2000 and 2004. The National Law Journal has named him one of the nation's top 10 attorneys, and he was voted California Business Trial Lawyer of the Year by California Lawyer magazine. In addition, Law Dragon tapped Callahan for the Law Dragon 500, he has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America for seven years running, and Super Lawyers has listed him one of the top 50 lawyers in Orange County since the publication's inception.

For Callahan, though, success extends beyond the recognition from courtroom victories. "I have been fortunate to gain many new friends through clients I represent or have represented throughout the years," he says. "Callahan & Blaine has a reputation as being experienced, aggressive, and concerned for the interests of our clients. If attorneys do not conduct themselves as professionals or do not possess these traits, Callahan & Blaine is not the firm for them."