

Michael R. Panek

ASSOCIATE

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AREAS OF FOCUS

[Class Action Defense](#)

[Complex Commercial Litigation and Arbitration](#)

Michael is a litigator whose diverse practice comprises a wide range of complex litigation including class actions, commercial disputes, breaches of contract, and product liability cases in federal and state courts.

As part of his practice defending Fortune 100 and other large companies, Michael has drafted dispositive motions, coordinated e-discovery, argued discovery motions, negotiated favorable settlements, and helped secure complete trial victories.

Michael has experience in high-stakes litigation, including the defense of consumer class actions brought against an automotive equipment manufacturer. He also defended a major retailer and baby food manufacturer in false advertising and product liability actions related to alleged contaminants in baby food products.

Michael graduated from USC Gould School of Law, where he developed his writing skills and honed his attention to detail while serving as a Senior Editor for the Southern California Law Review. Prior to joining DTO, Michael was a litigation associate for a large, international law firm. In his free time, Michael enjoys traveling, playing golf, and snowboarding.

Experience

- Helped secure a complete trial victory on behalf of a national cannabis company involved in a breach of contract dispute.
- On behalf of a major retailer, helped secure a first-of-its-kind summary judgment victory in a case involving alleged violations of the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA) stemming from the retailer's use of a chat feature on its e-commerce website.

Credentials

Education

- University of Southern California Gould School of Law, J.D.
- University of Maryland, College Park, B.A. magna cum laude, Criminology and Criminal Justice

Prior Affiliations

- King & Spalding LLP, 2022-2025

Admissions

- Admitted in California

Federal Courts

- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California