



PAUL J. PFINGST

Partner Paul Pfungst served for eight years as the San Diego County District Attorney.

Recognized as one of San Diego’s top attorneys, and known for his expertise in both civil and criminal legal matters, Mr. Pfungst has successfully litigated many of San Diego’s most high profile trials. He focuses on representing clients in complex litigation, white collar crime, and professional licensing matters in both state and federal courts.

As the San Diego County District Attorney, Mr. Pfungst successfully prosecuted San Diego’s most serious criminal cases, earning a national reputation for his work. In 2000, the United States Attorney General presented him with the coveted “William French Smith Award” for outstanding contributions to law enforcement. He also served as President of the California District Attorneys Association, and he is a former member of the Board of Directors of the National District Attorneys Association. Prior to his election as DA in 1994, he was an HFM partner specializing in product liability, medical malpractice, professional licensing, and general litigation. He was the lead attorney for California physicians in the national breast implant litigation. He rejoined HFM in 2003 and has lectured extensively on trial technique while also contributing to a variety of legal publications.

Mr. Pfungst has appeared before the California Supreme Court and the California Court of Appeals, and he has been selected by his peers to the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). In 2020, he became a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America. In addition, he was named a San Diego Super Lawyer® from 2011 to 2016, and again from 2018 to 2022. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America® since 2015. Mr. Pfungst is admitted to practice in both California and New York, and he is a graduate of St. John’s University School of Law and Union College in Schenectady, New York.

AWARDS & HONORS

- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow (2020)
- San Diego Super Lawyers® (2011-2016, 2018-2022)
- Best Lawyers in America® (2015-2022)
- William French Smith Award

PRACTICE GROUPS

- ▶ Business Litigation
- ▶ Criminal
- ▶ Health Care
- ▶ Products Liability

EDUCATION

- ▶ J.D., St. John’s University School of Law (1976)
- ▶ B.A., Union College, New York (1973)

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

- ▶ California
- ▶ New York

AFFILIATIONS

- ▶ State Bar of California
- ▶ San Diego County Bar Association
- ▶ American Board of Trial Advocates