



Robert R. Long

Partner

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Related Services

Litigation ■ Securities Litigation ■ M&A Litigation ■ Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs)

Robert Long is the chair of Alston & Bird's Securities Litigation Group, a *Chambers-USA*-recognized group in New York, California, and Georgia. He advises and defends boards, senior management, and their companies regarding corporate governance, fiduciary duties, and securities liability. His expertise includes securities class actions, derivative suits, merger disputes, internal investigations, and regulatory actions by government agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission. He is also an experienced trial lawyer.

Chambers USA recognizes Robert as a Band One Securities Litigator in Georgia. *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] has listed him for many years, as has *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Litigators in America." In a recent survey, clients praised Robert, stating that his "level of service, knowledge, communication, and understanding of the various issues involved is outstanding." They describe him and his team as "outstanding lawyers and business partners" and that Robert "has a good disposition in terms of being a lawyer in the courtroom and in talking to government officials."

Robert frequently publishes and speaks on securities, corporate governance, and director and officer liability, including at Emory University's Goizueta Business School and the University of Georgia School of Law.

Robert graduated from Stanford Law School, where he was an editor for the *Stanford Law Review* and Class of 2000 co-president. He began private practice following a federal district court clerkship.

Representative Experience

Shareholder Litigation

- Representing a Fortune 400 manufacturing company in a securities class action and related shareholder derivative actions pending in federal court in Georgia.
- Representing a committee of the board of directors of a Fortune 400 company in the internal investigation of shareholder derivative demands.
- Representing a Fortune 1000 company in defense of a shareholder derivative lawsuit.
- Represented multiple public companies in confidential audit committee investigations.
- Represented a publicly traded biotech company in a series of putative class actions and derivative actions alleging securities fraud and breaches of fiduciary duty.
- Represented Coca-Cola Enterprises and certain of its officers and directors in a series of putative class actions alleging securities fraud via channel stuffing, resulting in a total dismissal of all claims.

- Represented a publicly traded pharmaceutical company in an investigation of shareholder derivative claims.
- Represented public company Comverge and its board members in a series of putative stockholder class actions alleging that the defendants breached their fiduciary duties to Comverge shareholders in connection with the company's merger with H.I.G. Capital LLC.
- Represented certain present and former directors and officers of CheckFree in related derivative and class action merger suits challenging the \$4.4 billion acquisition of CheckFree by Fiserv.
- Represented former directors and officers of Haven Trust Bancorp in a putative securities class action arising out of private offerings of Haven's stock and alleged claims for violations of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act and state securities law, as well as claims for common-law fraud and negligent representation.
- Represented Heritage Financial and its directors in a putative class action challenging Renasant Corporation's proposed acquisition of Heritage.
- Represented Southside Bancshares in a putative class action challenging its proposed \$307 million acquisition of OmniAmerican Bancorp Inc.
- Represented Savannah Bancorp and its directors in a putative class action challenging SCBT Financial Corporation's \$67.1 million acquisition of Savannah Bancorp.
- Represented Cogdell Spencer and its board of directors in several putative class actions that challenged the company's proposed merger with Ventas Inc.
- Represented Murata Electronics in a putative class action challenging the company's acquisition of RF Monolithics Inc.
- Represented Whitney Holding and its directors in a putative class action challenging a merger between the company and Hancock Holding Company.

Corporate Governance Litigation

- Representing certain former directors and officers of Buckhead Community Bank in a trial against the FDIC alleging negligence, gross negligence, and breach of fiduciary duty.
- Represented a senior officer of Westernbank Puerto Rico, which was sued by the FDIC for alleged mismanagement of the bank leading to billions in putative damages.
- Represented the former directors and officers of the Bank of Asheville in a lawsuit filed by the FDIC for breaches of fiduciary duty in the alleged mismanagement of the bank.
- Represented the directors and officers of Georgian Bank in a putative shareholder class action for alleged mismanagement of the bank.
- Represented the directors and officers of Community Bank & Trust in a lawsuit filed by the FDIC for breaches of fiduciary duty in the alleged mismanagement of the bank.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "Lessons from COVID Securities Rulings on Dismissal Bids," *Law360*, May 19, 2021.
- "What to Expect from Securities Litigation in 2021," *Law360*, January 11, 2021.
- "Early Securities Class Actions Highlight COVID Litigation Risk," *Law360*, April 9, 2020.
- "Scrutiny Begins for M&A Mootness Fee Settlements," *Transaction Advisors*, October 2019.

- “The Continuing Shift of Merger Litigation to Federal Courts,” *Transaction Advisors*, March 2019.
- “The Continuing Shift of Merger Litigation to Federal Courts,” *Law360*, December 18, 2018.
- “Trend Sharply Up for Securities Litigation,” *Today’s General Counsel*, Fall 2018.
- “Insight: Emerging Trends in Securities Class Actions Based on Merger Objections,” *Bloomberg Law*, October 11, 2018.
- “Directors/Officers Insurance Coverage, Recommendations Evolve,” *MBA Insights*, February 27, 2018.
- “D&O Insurance Coverage Tips For Financial Institutions,” *Law360*, December 6, 2017.
- “Increase in Class Action Securities Fraud Filings Felt Across Industry,” *Inside Counsel*, November 1, 2017.
- “How *CalPERS v. ANZ Securities* Marks Gorsuch’s Arrival,” *Law360*, August 16, 2017.
- “Navigating the Dangerous Waters of CFPB Enforcement,” *CFO.com*, October 9, 2015.

Presentations

- “The Rise of SPACs: Challenges and Opportunities,” 26th Annual Stanford Directors’ College, June 21 - 24, 2021.

Professional & Community Engagement

- State Bar of Georgia
- State Bar of California
- Georgia Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Education

- Stanford University (J.D., 2000)
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A., 1992)

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia
- California