



→ Robert S. Friedman

Partner

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Robert Friedman is a partner and Practice Group Leader of the Business Trial Practice Group and is based in the firm's New York office. He is also head of the firm's South Asia team and a member of the White Collar and International Arbitration groups.

Areas of Practice

Robert focuses on business and corporate litigation matters and internal investigations. He has tried over 80 cases and regularly represents financial institutions, technology companies, media companies and litigation trustees in significant business disputes, including those involving trade secrets, software theft, non-compete, securities and license agreements. He has achieved successful outcomes in the major international arbitral forums and has led numerous internal investigations for clients in all industries.

Prior to entering private practice, Robert was a Senior Trial Attorney in the Homicide Bureau of the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

Honors

India's Top International Lawyers, *India Business Law Journal*, 2025

Leading U.S. Litigator, *Lawdragon*, 2023-2026

Leading Cross Border Lawyer of the Year for Dispute Resolution, *Legal Era*, 2022

Client Choice Award for Litigation in New York, *Lexology*, 2020

New York Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers*, 2010-2025

2017 Gala Honoree – CITYarts

2017 Commencement Speaker – Martin Luther King High School, NY, NY

"The Burton Award for Legal Achievement," The Burton Foundation, in association with the Library of Congress, 2008

Academic All-American Football Team, 2nd Team

Experience

Trade Secrets, Technology and Intellectual Property Litigation

Won jury trial in New York State Supreme Court Commercial Division for financial management firm in a multi-million dollar trade secret, unfair competition, and corporate raiding case.

Obtained Temporary Restraining Order and preliminary injunction in a trade secrets case for an international technology company in Delaware Chancery Court.

Won six-day jury trial for an IT solutions integrator in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, securing defense verdict on gender discrimination claims under the PHRA and Title VII, and most ADA disability claims and limited damages to \$1.

Won four-week jury trial for one of the largest manufacturers of OTC pharmaceuticals in a false advertising case arising out of comparative statements in the Eastern District of New York. Also prevailed on counterclaims.

Won trial in Federal court in New Haven and defeated preliminary injunction on behalf of a technology company, involving trade secret claims.

Won multimillion dollar jury trial in licensing dispute on behalf of OTC manufacturer in the Northern District of Georgia.

Won motion to dismiss in the Commercial Division of New York Supreme Court, leading to favorable settlement on behalf of Fortune 100 technology company in connection with allegations of fraud and misrepresentations arising from an asset acquisition.

Won a motion to dismiss in the Northern District of California for a technology company in an ERP implementation case leading to a de minimis settlement.

Defended Fortune 500 company in a federal jury trial involving copyright infringement, trade secret and unfair competition claims. Case settled favorably during cross-examination of plaintiff's second witness.

Obtained Temporary Restraining Order in Trade Secrets case in Delaware Chancery Court, leading to Preliminary Injunction and enforcement of extensive restrictions for communications networking company.

Obtained a favorable settlement in the Southern District of Ohio for a technology company in trade secret claims involving the wide scale hiring of over 40 employees and executives.

Won preliminary injunction trial for textile finishing company accused of counterfeiting by its main competitor. The allegations were based upon DNA markers placed in chemical formulations. During a three-day hearing, discredited the scientific evidence and affirmatively proved the integrity of our client's manufacturing protocol.

Obtained complete dismissal in multimillion dollar ICDR arbitration involving foreign currency adjustments on behalf of international technology company.

Obtained multi-million dollar settlement on the eve of trial and full dismissal of a ten-figure counterclaim for technology company after winning a Daubert motion and other pre-trial rulings in a breach of contract and unfair competition case.

Won complete dismissal of nationwide consumer class action against financial services companies arising of marketing practices.

Obtained preliminary and permanent injunction for international computer networking company in raiding case.

Represented major publisher and direct marketer in a \$20 million jury trial in New York State Supreme Court arising out of breach of contract allegations. Obtained favorable settlement while the jury was deliberating.

Won an 18-day trial on behalf of a toy manufacturer in a dispute over license fees with an inventor of a famous toy product.

Won dismissal of tort claims in dispute involving an enterprise resource planning implementation on behalf of an international technology company, leading to a favorable settlement.

Obtained dismissal of fraud and tortious interference claims against a large computer software company.

Obtained dismissal, with prejudice and with no payments to plaintiff, of a non-solicitation and breach of fiduciary duty lawsuit against former employees of a computer networking company.

Obtained a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction and damages against a rival toy company that attempted to copy our client's products for display at the most important industry trade show.

Negotiated the settlement of an unfair competition lawsuit on behalf of a national telecommunications company, including the creation of mechanisms for doing business going forward.

Securities, Bankruptcy and Real Estate Litigation

Won trial in bankruptcy court on behalf of a national Special Servicer in connection with enforcement of a CMBS transaction involving nine commercial properties.

Won appointment of Receiver in the Southern District of New York for private equity investors in distressed multifamily development project leading to sale and favorable returns.

Won dismissal of claims against financial advisor in \$60 million RICO and fraud case in Delaware Federal Court and affirmed by the Third Circuit.

Won dismissal of two related \$230 million RICO actions on behalf of financial advisor. Decision was affirmed by the Third Circuit.

Won trial in bankruptcy court on behalf of a regional retailer in a challenge to the purchase of leases.

Won dismissal of all substantive claims against major bank acting as servicer in RMBS deal. Decision was affirmed by the Second Circuit.

Defeated temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction on behalf of a mezzanine lender in connection with a large real estate development project in Brooklyn.

Won injunctive relief on behalf of a large manufacturer in a lease dispute.

Obtained settlement for major bank involving complete dismissal of claims and payment of legal fees after winning pre-trial rulings.

Defeated \$50 million attachment motion after an evidentiary hearing and won complete pre-answer dismissal on behalf of international shipping company.

Served as special litigation counsel to a post-effective date committee and obtained a pre-complaint settlement after an investigation, increasing the creditor recovery ten-fold.

Won summary judgment for an indenture trustee in a \$90 million lawsuit brought by bondholders.

Won summary judgment for a major international bank, as indenture trustee, in a \$21 million lawsuit brought by bondholders.

Representing a large international bank in several actions by bondholders in connection with collateral debt obligation structured transactions.

Won summary judgment for a real estate marketing firm in a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against a developer for breach of contract.

Obtained a favorable settlement on behalf of a foreign investment company in a securities fraud case against a major investment bank involving multiple parties arising out of complex currency derivative transactions.

Defeated a temporary restraining order and won a motion to dismiss on behalf of a large retailer in a lawsuit brought by a commercial landlord in connection with an asset purchase agreement for commercial leases across the country.

Obtained control of millions of dollars in art collateral on behalf of a credit opportunity fund after evidentiary hearing and then collected over \$30 million after string of successful motions against several borrowers.

Articles

- DTSA Paves the Way for Trade Secret Protection for Foreign Companies in the United States
Legal Era, 01.2022
- Revisiting the American Rule: Fee-Shifting Strategies for NY Litigators
New York Law Journal, 02.08.2019
- "Commercial Division Rules Revamp Encourages International Arbitration Matters In The New York County Commercial Division," January 6, 2016
- "Keeping Up With The Commercial Division(s)," February 24, 2015
- "First Department Refuses to Expand Jurisdiction over Foreign Entities," October 29, 2013
- "Commercial Division Denies Oral Modification and Grants Summary Judgment in Lieu of Complaint," December 17, 2012
- "The DTSA as a Tool for Foreign Entities' Enforcement of Trade Secrets: A New Legal Frontier," January 29, 2021

Media Mentions

'Sound & Fury': Inside The 'Sleep No More' Litigation
Broadway Journal, 11.20.2024

Aerospace Company Settles No-Poach Suit for \$7.4 Millions'
Bloomberg Law News, 01.25.2024

Group of Engineering Firms to Settle 'No Poach' Antitrust Claims
Reuters, 01.25.2024

Aerospace Contractor Inks \$7.4M Deal In Conn. No-Poach Suit
Law360, 01.24.2024

Litigation Leaders: Sheppard Mullin's Robert Friedman on Splitting Leadership of the Business Trial Group Three Ways
ALM, 08.03.2023

The End of Noncompetes? Defendants Win—While FTC Proposes Change
Connecticut Law Tribune, 01.31.2023

Artists' Suit Ties Up NYC's New Jail Plans
Law360, 05.16.2022

'You Dream of Crosses Like This'

The four attorneys who helped acquit Abacus bank
2018 New York Metro Super Lawyers, 10.2018

To Sheppard Mullin Litigators Appearing in Oscar-Nominated Film, Telling 'Great Story' Is a Win
New York Law Journal, 03.06.2018

Documentary Featuring Sheppard Mullin Litigators Gets Oscar Nod
01.26.2018

Jury Says Novantas, Execs Owe No Damages In Trade Secrets Dispute
Law360, 12.21.2017

Shout-Out: Sheppard Mullin Scores in Unfair Competition Trial
The American Lawyer, 12.21.2017

Sheppard Mullin Litigators Make Big Screen Debut
05.15.2017

Samsung, Alcoa Settle \$200M Saudi Metal Plant Dispute
Law360, 08.29.2016

Samsung Slams Alcoa's Bid To Pause Discovery In \$200M Row
Law360, 08.15.2016

Samsung Unit Claims Alcoa Interference Stymied Saudi Project
Law360, 03.30.2016

Scarpulla, Panelists Discuss Efficient Ways to Litigate
Commercial Litigation Insider, 06.09.2014

2nd Circ. Removes Barrier To Flood Of Federal TCPA Suits
Law360, 12.11.2013

Q&A With Sheppard Mullin's Rob Friedman
Law360, 07.07.2011

Speaking Engagements

"Trade Secret Update: What to Know re Protection, Enforcement, and Compliance," Cleveland Bar Association, September 2021

"New York State Bar Association Commercial Litigation Academy 2019," November 14-15, 2019

"Winning in the U.S. - Key Legal Topics and Updates for 2018," Indo American Chamber of Commerce, Mumbai, India, February 2018

"New York State Bar Association's Commercial Litigation Academy 2017," May 4-5, 2017

"TechLaw Litigation," TechLaw Institute 2015: The Digital Evolution, Practising Law Institute, San Francisco, CA, May 14-15, 2015

"TechLaw Litigation," TechLaw Institute 2015: The Digital Evolution, Practising Law Institute, New York, NY, April 8-9, 2015

"New York State Bar Association's Commercial Litigation Academy 2014," June 5-6, 2014

"Current Developments in Federal Civil Practice 2013 - Technology and Ethics," Practising Law Institute, January 30, 2013

Guest Lecturer, Georgetown University Law Center, "Law of Advertising," November 2010

"Ethical and Strategic Considerations When Representing Corporate Clients and Their Individual Employees in Litigation," Labor & Employment Law Update, New York, NY, May 13, 2010

"Personal Jurisdiction Based on Internet Presence," CLE Webinar, National Constitution Center, Wednesday, May 5, 2010

"Personal Jurisdiction Based on Internet Presence, E-mail, Instant Messaging and Other E-Contacts—Leveraging the Evolving Minimum Contact Standards in Commercial Litigation," CLE Webinar, Strafford Publishing Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Events

Association of Corporate Counsel, New York chapter: Non-Competes and Non-Solicitation Clauses: What You Need to Know

Hard Rock Cafe, New York City, 09.21.2022

Timely Topics Facing Indian Lawyers and Chief Legal Officers

Hosted by Sheppard Mullin and the USIBC Mumbai Program

12.01.2017

Timely Topics Facing Indian Lawyers and Chief Legal Officers

Hosted by Sheppard Mullin and the USIBC

12.14.2015

Timely Topics Facing Indian Lawyers and Chief Legal Officers

Hosted by Sheppard Mullin and the USIBC

12.08.2015

Sheppard Mullin Seminar For The New York Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency ("KOTRA")

Protecting Your Business Interests: How to Successfully Operate a Business Under the Laws of the United States

08.28.2015

Financial Regulation and Enforcement Symposium 2011

A Conversation With the Agencies

New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019, 03.10.2011

Spring 2010 - Labor & Employment Law Update

W New York 541 Lexington Avenue (Between 49th and 50th), 05.13.2010

Memberships

ABCNY, 9/11 Project

Oval Club – Tufts University

Children's Victory Project

Hope for Warriors – Top Fundraiser

Podcasts & Webinars

Nota Bene Episode 110: Mapping U.S. Domestic and Extraterritorial Trade Secret Protection and Enforcement with Robert Friedman

01.27.2021

Practices

Litigation

Securities Enforcement

White Collar Defense and Investigations

Intellectual Property

International Reach

South Asia

International Arbitration

Distressed Real Estate Loan Workouts and Enforcement

International Arbitration

Korea

Securities Litigation

Trade Secrets

Education

J.D., Boston University School of Law, 1989, *cum laude*

B.A., Tufts University, 1986, *cum laude*

Admissions

New York

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals – Second, Third, Sixth, and Ninth Circuits

U.S. Court of Appeals – Federal Circuit

U.S. District Court – Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of New York

U.S. District Court – Eastern District of Wisconsin

U.S. District Court – Western District of Michigan