

## **Eliot Ivan Bernstein**

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Won 4 Billion Jury Verdict against JP Morgan for breaches

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Here is more about James S. Bell:

James S. Bell, a trial lawyer with a history of winning some important verdicts, is a warrior and fights for his clients. Hailing from Los Angeles, California, James was born on February 6, 1979 to parents Margaret and Jim. His mother worked for the telephone company and his father is a carpenter. His parents both held strong ties to the United Kingdom; his father emigrated from Scotland and so did his mother.

James attended Los Angeles Unified School District public schools in his neighborhood until the fifth grade, when he was selected to attend Corpus Christi. James was accepted into the prestigious all-boys Jesuit high school called Loyola. Loyola was about an hour commute from James' home. James concentrated mainly on his studies in high school because of the rigorous academic demands but managed to stay well-rounded. James was ALL-CIF and the Mission League Most Valuable Player. James graduated from Loyola with honors.

James went on to study at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where he graduated with honors in 2001. James received the Southern Methodist University Scholarship, James Holland Scholarship, W.R. Nicholson Scholarship, and the Southern Methodist University Student Senate Scholarship. James then received his law degree cum laude from

Southern Methodist University in 2005. Take a few percentage points, James graduated in about the top 15% of his law school class.

James made the Dean's List and was part of Moot Court. More importantly, however, James got his stripes in the Southern Methodist University Criminal Defense Clinic. There, James zealously represented indigent defendants charged with serious crimes. This gave James the unique opportunity to practice in court and actually get to go to trial on numerous cases. James interviewed clients and witnesses; conducted and participated in bond hearings and preliminary hearings, evidentiary hearings, plea hearings, sentencing hearings, and trials. James researched, wrote, and argued motions and briefs that were important and case determinative for his clients. James participated in case investigations and negotiated with prosecutors.

Upon graduating from law school, James joined a boutique trial litigation firm. James left that firm in 2006 and started his own firm – with offices in Dallas and Los Angeles. In 2009, James left the firm he had been instrumental in founding, and became a partner at Friedman & Feiger, LLP.

James has served as lead trial counsel in numerous jury trials and bench trials and has substantial litigation experience in catastrophic injury matters; healthcare disputes (Stark, Anti-Kickback, False Claims, Prompt Pay, and Corporate Practice of Medicine); business disputes, real estate cases, investment fraud cases; complex securities disputes; divorces; child custody matters; and criminal matters. James has resolved divorces, injury cases, fraud, and business matters involving real estate, raw land, landfills, oil and gas, pharmacies, physician groups, physicians, toxicology laboratories, medical device companies, hospitals, construction zones, and billing companies. Litigation results have led to millions of dollars in recoveries and savings for Clients.

James is also a prolific matrimony (child custody, child support, and property division) attorney and veteran of high-end divorces. James has represented professional athletes, stay-at-home moms, and chief executive officers in child custody and property division matters stemming from divorce. James enjoys a working familiarity with each case. James is extremely well-trained and experienced in cases involving substance abuse and high-dollar property division cases. James is a 24/7 lawyer because clients expect that. Delivering on high client expectations—James has a good sense of timing. Any time could be the best time for a divorce. Particularly with closely held businesses, James says that valuation of a business is everything especially in a high-end divorce.

James is licensed in the following jurisdictions: State of California; State of Texas; State of New York (pending); United States Supreme Court; United States Tax Court; United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit; U.S. District Court for the Central District of California; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas; U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas; U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Pro Hac Vice; U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Pro Hac Vice; Supreme Court of New York, Manhattan Division, Pro Hac Vice; Ohio Court of Common Pleas, Butler County, Ohio, Pro Hac Vice.

James has won significant legal victories as a bona-fide trial lawyer. Recently, James served as lead trial counsel in a summary jury trial for limited partners of a partnership. This was an investment fraud case involving a 270 acre land development in Prosper, Texas. James obtained two unanimous jury verdicts for fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, and willful misconduct: \$4.5 million and \$4.6 million respectively. James also served as lead trial counsel for free-standing medical center and obtained a substantial jury verdict against Denton Regional Hospital (owned by Hospital Corporation of America).

James has also served as lead trial counsel for pharmacy where he obtained a \$4.15 million fraud judgment against publicly traded company (OTC) for stealing insurance and federally funded prescription reimbursements. James also served as lead trial counsel for healthcare company against medical physician. James obtained a substantial jury verdict against a physician for breach of fiduciary duty. James also served as lead trial counsel for candidate in Dallas County election dispute. After cross examination of Dallas County election official, the Plaintiff (a Dallas County Constable herself) dismissed her entire case.

James served as co-counsel for Client charged in Ohio with two counts of aggravated vehicular assault. James served as lead trial counsel for famous nightclub in real estate dispute. James obtained a defense verdict and the jury deliberated for approximately 26 minutes. James served as lead trial counsel in an acquisition dispute involving 42 million gallons of fuel. At the close of evidence and five minutes prior to closing argument, the Clients received a substantial settlement.

James also successfully served as counsel in ethanol plant construction case against major international insurance company. Case settled for \$1.5 million immediately after Voir Dire. James helped obtain a \$50 million settlement package for Client arising from a confidential dispute. James served as lead defense counsel for high net worth client in a sexual assault case.

There, the Plaintiff claimed she was physically attacked in Las Vegas and demanded \$10 million. James obtained a complete dismissal for Client. James has also served as lead counsel for investors and enjoined the \$11 million sale of a technology company. James obtained approximately \$4 million in cash for Clients within two weeks. James also served as lead counsel for a Florida casino owner for alleged tip pool violations under the Fair Labor Standards Act. James obtained a complete dismissal for Client. James served as lead counsel for contractor in \$2 million dispute. In that case, James obtained summary judgment on all claims against Plaintiff John Doe and all claims except one against Plaintiff Jane Doe.

James represented a CEO in multi-million dollar criminal real estate fraud investigation involving alleged misuse of the adverse possession statutes. The client was investigated by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and was closed with no indictment. James also served as lead trial counsel in two-week wrongful death jury trial. Then he served as lead counsel against Bank of America for employment discrimination. The client was a female, pregnant, and African American. The case settled very favorably for Client.