



Stuart M. Gordon

FOUNDING PARTNER, RETIRED

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OVERVIEW

Stuart M. Gordon founded Gordon Rees in 1974 with Donald W. Rees. He acted as the managing partner of the firm for 23 years and then as the Financial Partner, guiding it from a small firm of three attorneys to a civil litigation and business transactions firm with lawyers and offices throughout the country. Stu Gordon retired from the firm at the end of 2024. Stu was always proud that the firm is recognized for its camaraderie and support of diversity.

Stu handled numerous matters involving medical malpractice cases, pharmaceutical and medical device cases, business, real estate, general litigation and legal malpractice defense. As one of the principal trial attorneys and negotiators in the firm, he tried more than 50 jury and non-jury cases to verdict and mediated and settled several thousand cases. He was undefeated in his pharmaceutical and medical device trials and his medical and legal malpractice defense trials and arbitrations. He only lost one case in his career because he celebrated his victory the day before the jury decided otherwise.

Stu Gordon has been widely recognized for his exceptional contributions to the University of California, Berkeley, and the broader community. His accolades include the Cal Athletics Hall of Fame Service Award, the Chancellor's Citation for Leadership and Contributions to UC Berkeley, and the prestigious Citation Award from the Boalt Hall Alumni Association—the highest honor bestowed upon Berkeley Law alumni. He also received the Cal Bear Backer of the Year Award for his unwavering support of Cal Athletics and the Cal Baseball Excellence in Leadership Award, which is named in his honor.

In 2011, Stu played a pivotal role in saving the Cal Baseball Program from elimination due to budget cuts. Spearheading a fundraising effort, he raised \$10 million in just five weeks, ensuring the program's continuation. His total donations to the program amount to \$6.3 million, including a recent \$2 million gift to establish an endowment for Cal Baseball. In recognition of his long-standing support, the Cal baseball stadium was renamed Evans Diamond at Stu Gordon Stadium in 2022.

Stu's philanthropic efforts have significantly enhanced UC Berkeley's facilities. His contributions helped fund an indoor multipurpose complex, the installation of field lights, a state-of-the-art video scoreboard, an upgraded irrigation system, and renovated locker rooms and press facilities at the baseball field. At Berkeley Law, his generosity enabled the creation of the Stuart M. Gordon Moot Courtroom.

In 1969, Stu co-founded the Golden Bear Athletic Fund (GBAF), which initially raised \$400,000 in its first year and \$1.5 million within three years. Under his guidance, the organization transitioned to the Athletic Department, becoming the Bear Backers. Today, the Bear Backers raise more than \$35 million annually to support Cal Athletics. For his dedication, Stu was honored twice with the Carl Van Heuit Cal Baseball Alumnus of the Year Award.

Stu's leadership extends to Berkeley Law, where he served as President of the Alumni Association and the Board of Directors and remains the Permanent Class President. His legacy also includes the Chancellor's Citation for Leadership and Contributions to Cal, awarded in 2021.

In addition to giving back to his alma mater, Stu has also given back throughout the San Francisco Bay Area community, serving on the Board of Directors and past President of The Guardsmen as well as being elected into the Guardsmen Hall Of Fame. The Guardsmen is an organization which raises money to send disadvantaged children to summer camp and to private schools in the Bay Area.

Stuart was appointed by Mayor Diane Feinstein to the Juvenile Justice Commission for the City and County of San Francisco and was subsequently elected Chairman, and was also a board member of the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, and the Auxiliary of San Francisco General Hospital, and the San Francisco Boys and Girls Clubs.

He was recently awarded the United Way Tocqueville Legacy Award for his outstanding contributions to the Bay Area United Way. In 2018, he was awarded the Emerald Warrior Award from the Guardsmen as the outstanding fundraiser in Guardsmen history going back to 1997.

He has also been a major supporter of the Gladstone Institute and specifically in the area of spinal cord research.

Stu is happily married to Florianne Gordon and has two sons, Tom and John.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Stu has a prominent reputation serving as National and Regional Counsel for major companies, both as trial counsel and settlement counsel in numerous litigation matters. He served as National Counsel in the Diet Drug Litigation and as lead defense counsel and negotiator on the West Coast for Wyeth in the fen/phen litigation. In this capacity, Stu negotiated settlements of several thousand cases for Wyeth and assisted in guiding and managing the litigation throughout the country. He also served a significant role in the L-Tryptophan litigation on behalf of Nature-Made, the Norplant litigation, Reglan litigation and IVV complex litigation (Flu Shot) in the MDL on behalf of Wyeth, the Bextra/Celebrex litigation on behalf of Pfizer and the Youth Soccer class-action as well as many others.
- Stu also handled attorney malpractice actions, successfully representing defendants. He represented numerous high net worth clients with a wide range of legal matters including agreements, real estate transactions and litigation and advice on several important financial and legal issues. Lastly, he has been involved with many different types of other litigation including business matters, real estate, personal liability issues and financial issues with substantial success.

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- California
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Eastern District of California
- United States Supreme Court

Memberships

- Bar Association of San Francisco
- State Bar of California
- American Bar Association
- Northern California Association of Defense Counsel
- International Association of Defense Counsel

Education

- J.D., University of California Berkeley, Boalt School of Law
 - President of the Student Body
 - Recipient of Corpus Juris Secundum Award
- A.D., University of California Berkeley

Honors

- *Who's Who Legal Thought Leader: USA*, Product Liability Defense, 2023

- Recipient of the Hall of Fame Service Award for outstanding long-term contribution to the ideals of the Cal Athletics Department
- Recipient of the Chancellor's Citation for Leadership and Contributions to the University of California, Berkeley
- Cal Baseball "Excellence in Leadership Award," which is awarded each year in Stuart's name
- Citation Award, Boalt Hall Alumni Association of the University of California, Berkeley
- "CLAY" Award (*California Lawyer* Attorneys of the Year), recognition for "achievements [that] have made a profound impact on the law."
- Top Rated Lawyer-AV® Preeminent™, Martindale-Hubbell
- San Francisco Lawyer of the Year in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2015 and 2023, distinction in Mass Tort Litigation and Class Actions-Defendants
- *Best Lawyers in America*® distinction in Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants (2010-2025), Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2010-2025)
- *Who's Who Legal Product Liability Defense*, "...the firm's founder and a dean of the Bar especially with respect to his pharmaceutical and medical device work..." (California and International editions, 2007-2012)
- *Super Lawyers*® distinction in Class Action/Mass Torts, Personal Injury Defense: Products, and Civil Litigation Defense (2004-2018)
- *Expert Guide to U.S. Product Liability Lawyers*, The Legal Media Group
- Award of Merit, Bar Association of San Francisco (2011)
- Legacy Tocqueville Award, United Way of the Bay Area (2014)
- Emerald Warrior Award as leading fundraiser in Guardsmen history (2018)