

James J. Braze



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Jim Braze is a partner in the Bakersfield office of Borton Petrini, LLP. Jim is AV® Preeminent™ 5.0 out of 5 Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has tried over forty significant jury trials to verdict representing some of the largest Fortune 500 companies.

Jim received his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Southern California and University of Alaska in 1968 and 1971, respectively. He became a licensed professional engineer in mechanical engineering in California in 1973 and spent ten years employed as an engineer for two of the world's largest oil companies. While employed as an engineer with Exxon, he was a member of the Frontier Area Task Force, which was charged with analyzing and evaluating the development potential of yet to be discovered oil fields in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, North Slope and the Santa Barbara Channel.

In 1977, he received his law degree from Loyola Law School, was admitted to practice law in California, and joined Borton Petrini, LLP in Bakersfield focusing on business litigation.

In 1980, Jim was admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office and prosecuted patent applications. He also handles litigation relating to patent, trademark, and copyright infringement.

Jim obtained his Master of Law degree in taxation from the Golden Gate University School of Law in 1997 where he focused on business taxation, mergers and acquisitions, and tax controversy litigation. He is admitted to practice before the United States Tax Court and handles tax controversy matters in addition to IRS audits and disputes.

As a skilled litigator, Jim's practice includes litigation and trial of insurance coverage and bad faith disputes, health care claims, and employment disputes. Jim has also represented homeowners associations and landlords involved in disputes with members and claims for housing discrimination.

Jim is corporate counsel to businesses on employment issues. He has litigated numerous employment law cases on behalf of employers involving wrongful termination, sexual harassment, discrimination, and wage and hour claims.

Education:

- University of Southern California, BSME, 1968
- University of Alaska, MS, 1971
- Loyola Law School, J.D., 1977
- Golden Gate University School of Law, LLM (Taxation), 1997

Admitted:

- State Bar of California, 1977
- U.S. District Court of Northern California, 1992
- U.S. District Court of Southern California, 1992
- U.S. District Court of Eastern California, 1979
- U.S. District Court of Central California, 1986
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 2000
- United States Tax Court, 1999

Business and Professional Associations:

- Association of Defense Counsel of Northern California and Nevada
- Kern County Bar Association
- Society of Petroleum Engineers
- American Bar Association, sections on Energy, Business, and Tax
- Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, "Leadership Bakersfield", 2013 Graduate

Lectures and Seminars:

- California Unfair Claims Practices Seminar, 1995
- Institute of London Underwriters, London, San Francisco, Los Angeles

Publications:

- Former Editor, Healthcare Law Quarterly Report newsletter