

Partner

## Owen H. Smith

+1 202 730 1323

osmith@hwglaw.com



### PRACTICES

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Litigation & Investigations

Commercial Litigation

Telecom

Litigation Finance

Audits and Enforcement

Wireline + Subsidy Programs

Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

### EDUCATION

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UCLA School of Law, J.D.

- Order of the Barristers
- Masin Family Academic Excellence Gold Award
- *Criminal Justice Law Review*, Editor
- Moot Court Honors Board, Member
- Mock Trial

University of Maryland, B.A.

### ADMISSIONS

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District of Columbia

Maryland

New York

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

Supreme Court of the United States

Owen Smith helps companies investigate and resolve their most challenging disputes.

Owen represents organizations in civil litigation and white-collar enforcement matters. Owen has helped some of the world's most prominent companies address and resolve complex, high-stakes, and novel disputes with private and government entities. Clients he has represented include Fortune 500 companies, leading wireless carriers, AI startups, and a professional sports league. With every matter, Owen partners with his clients to understand not only the dynamics of the individual disputes, but also the nuances of their industry and business operations. This approach has resulted in successful outcomes for his clients on a range of matters—from highly-technical issues regarding telecommunications, AI, and emerging technologies, to fact-dependent commercial disputes, such as defending a major university in a Title IX case and representing commercial companies in high-stakes breach of contract and theft of trade-secrets cases.

#### Litigation

Owen represents plaintiffs and defendants in civil and commercial litigation, including complex business, contract, and regulatory disputes. His work spans high-value commercial, tort, Title IX, intellectual property, and telecommunications matters, and he has secured dismissals, favorable settlements, and efficient resolutions for clients facing substantial financial and reputational risk.

#### Investigations and Enforcement

When organizations require an internal investigation, or government

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agencies initiate investigations and enforcement actions, they turn to Owen for strategic defense. His experience includes conducting internal investigations for and defending a range of organizations, from leading wireless carriers responding to allegations of regulatory violations to private companies and AI startups. Owen frequently defends technology and telecommunications companies in enforcement actions, including concurrent investigations by the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Office of Inspector General, state attorneys general, and state regulatory commissions. He has defended against one of the largest enforcement actions in FCC history on behalf of a technology and telecommunications company.

### **Telecommunications**

Emerging and established communications and technology companies look to Owen for counsel on compliance with the Communications Act and other federal and state telecommunications laws. He has experience advising a wide range of telecommunications providers on market entry, regulatory strategy and compliance, and operational issues, including video conferencing, VoIP, enterprise communications, investor relations technology, and contact center companies.

### **Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies**

Owen advises companies on the use and governance of AI and emerging technologies. He counsels organizations on intellectual property, copyright, and trademark issues related to proprietary AI systems, as well as developing Terms of Service and Privacy Policies for AI products operating across multiple jurisdictions. Owen has also successfully resolved numerous AI-related disputes without requiring his clients to undertake costly and burdensome litigation.

Before entering private practice, Owen clerked for the Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Kim McLane Wardlaw of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and worked in the Management Council of the National Football League (NFL).

Owen received his J.D. from UCLA School of Law and his B.A. from the University of Maryland, where he was an NCAA Division I student-athlete.

*Admitted to practice only in the listed jurisdictions.*

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

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- Secured the voluntary dismissal of all claims against a leading wireless carrier in significant mass tort litigation stemming from the 2023 Lahaina wildfires, sparing the client from \$12 billion in potential exposure.
- Successfully secured dismissal of a malpractice lawsuit targeting a leading intellectual property firm, sparing the client from more than \$100 million in alleged damages.
- Defends a professional sports league in a \$10 million third-party action, alleging breach of contract, deceptive trade practices, and tortious interference.
- Negotiated and obtained novel and favorable consent decrees for two publicly traded cloud communications providers to resolve FCC Enforcement Bureau investigations into alleged regulatory rule violations.
- Achieved a no payment, minimal undertaking settlement for a mobile app developer and technology incubator accused of copying competitors' business models and proprietary intellectual property.
- Secured two six-figure financial settlements for families in civil rights cases, one against the Montgomery County Police Department for an allegedly illegal no-knock search and the use of excessive force, and another against the Bureau of Prisons in a wrongful death case.
- Worked pro bono to secure a court order for a landlord to undertake the costly replacement of an entire apartment building roof to remedy housing code violations in his client's apartment.

## RECOGNITION

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- Named by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in Washington, D.C. (2025)
- Selected through peer review for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for Communications Law (2025)
- Recognized on the Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, *with high honors* (2023)

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## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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### Professional Affiliations

- Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA-the "Tech Bar"), Member
  - Enforcement Committee, Co-Chair (2024 - Present)

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### Publications

- ["AT&T Decision May Establish Framework To Block FCC Fines,"](#) *Law360* (May 2025)
- ["Client Advisory on the FCC's Enforcement of the Know Your Customer Rule Against Telnyx,"](#) *HWG Advisory* (February 2025)
- ["Lessons on Litigating Wrongful Death Cases Against the BOP,"](#) *Law360* (April 2023)

### Presentations and Lectures

- ["Protect Your R&D Dollars: Let's Discuss Regulatory Developments in 6 GHz and Cybersecurity Labeling,"](#) (Co-presenter) Wi-Fi World Congress (April 2024)
- ["The Future of ALJ Proceedings,"](#) (Moderator) FCBA Webinar (April 2024)
- ["Enforcement 101: Structure and Procedure,"](#) (Panelist and Presenter) FCBA CLE (February 2023)
- ["Meet the Enforcement Bureau,"](#) (Host) FCBA (November 2022)

### Media Coverage

- Quoted in ["Enforcement Bureau Prioritizing Robocalls, Privacy and Robotexts,"](#) *Communications Daily* (February 2023)