



RON KILGARD

CONTACT INFO

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PRACTICE EMPHASIS

- Appeals
- Antitrust & Trade Regulation
- Class Action
- Constitutional Law
- Employee Benefits & Retirement Security
- Fiduciary Breach
- Financial Products & Services

EDUCATION

Harvard College B.A., 1973,
History

Harvard Divinity School M.T.S.,
1975, Old Testament

**Arizona State University College
of Law** J.D., 1979, Editor-in
Chief, *Arizona State Law Journal*,
Armstrong Award (outstanding
graduate)

Ron Kilgard is a seasoned lawyer who understands that yesterday's rule changes are just as important as the landmark cases decided decades ago. Ron has 35 years of experience in civil litigation. He knows that the substantive law changes slowly (at least most of the time!). However, the relevant rules and judges' individual practices change almost daily, and they vary enormously from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and judge to judge. Balancing all of this is, for Ron, one of the many challenges and pleasures of law practice.

Ron's practice is focused primarily on commercial and financial matters. For the last 20 years, he has extensively litigated pension plan class actions, involving both plans regulated by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") and non-ERISA plans such as public plans and so-called "church plans." Ron helped Keller Rohrback pioneer company stock ERISA litigation in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and he was part of the team that obtained settlements of over \$265 million in the Enron 401(k) litigation. In 2017, after six years of litigation, Ron prevailed in an action challenging as unconstitutional the cutbacks to the pensions of Arizona state court judges.

Ron is a Phoenix native. He clerked for the Honorable Mary M. Schroeder, U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, in 1979-80 and has practiced in Phoenix ever since. He was one of the lawyers who formed the Phoenix affiliate of Keller Rohrback L.L.P. in November 2002. When not practicing law, he enjoys reading on the porch of his 1915 house with his Golden Retriever.

HONORS & AWARDS

Best Lawyers in America, 2017, ERISA practice

Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, 2018 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year (adult cases)

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

State Bar of Arizona, *Member*

District of Columbia Bar, *Member*

New York State Bar Association, *Member*

National Immigrant Justice Center, *Pro Bono Counsel*

Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, *Pro Bono Counsel*

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

1979, Arizona Supreme Court
1979, U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona
1982, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
1995, U.S. Supreme Court
2005, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
2005, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
2007, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
2009, District of Columbia Court of Appeals
2010, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
2010, U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota
2011, New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division
2012, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
2013, U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
2013, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
2014, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
2014, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
2015, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
2015, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
2016, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
2016, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
2016, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
2016, U.S. District Court of the Central District of Illinois
2016, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Indiana

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Speaker, ABA Seminar, After Enron, 2006
Speaker, Chicago Bar Association, Company Stock Litigation, 2006
Speaker, West LegalWorks ERISA Litigation Conference, 2007
Speaker, National Center for Employee Ownership, *Fiduciary Implications of Company Stock Lawsuits*, 2012 and 2013
Speaker, American Conference Institute, *New Developments in Church Plan Litigation*, 2015-2017