



Thomas O'Connor Esq.

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Tom O'Connor is a partner in Callahan Thompson Sherman & Caudill's Irvine office and a member of the firm's auto dealership practice group. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation specializing in individual and consumer class action defense for violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, Automobile Sales Finance Act, and Unfair Competition Law, with an emphasis on claims against automobile dealerships. He is also experienced in employment law matters and other business disputes.

Tom has significant experience in a wide range of litigation matters, including jury and non-jury trials, binding arbitrations, mediations, motion practice, pre-trial discovery and internal investigations. Tom's aggressive and efficient approach to evaluating and litigating cases often results in early settlement or summary disposition for his clients.

Tom joined Callahan Thompson Sherman & Caudill in 2010.

PRACTICE AREAS

Business Litigation, Class Actions, Complex Litigation, Consumer Fraud, Automobile Dealership

INDUSTRIES

Auto Dealerships, Restaurant & Hospitality

EDUCATION

J.D., College of William and Mary Law School, 2010 (graduated top 5% of his class); B.A. University of California Los Angeles, Political Science and History, 2006

ADMISSIONS

California State Bar, 2011; United States District Court, Central District

ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Sat first chair in court trial and obtained judgment for conversion against individual who stole vehicle from dealership.

Represented Fleet Manager in DMV Board hearing on action brought by DMV seeking revocation of his sales license for alleged conduct involving moral turpitude.

Successfully opposed motion for class certification for claims of violations of the CLRA, ASFA, and UCL based on dealership's alleged "payment packing" of optional products and listing of "10-day payoffs" on the prior credit or lease balance line of the contract.

Sat second chair in court trial and obtained defense judgment for dealership sued by corporation for alleged conversion of vehicle that had been stolen from dealership but which corporation claimed had been acquired in good faith.

First chaired arbitration involving claims of violation of the CLRA, UCL and Song-Beverly for dealership's alleged failure to disclose prior accident/frame damage and failure to comply with CPO requirements.

Obtained dismissal of ASFA claim arising from dealership's alleged failure to properly itemize buyer's deferred downpayment through motion for judgment on the pleadings.

Sat second chair in jury trial and obtained defense verdict for purchaser of a dealership sued by seller of the dealership for alleged breach of purchase contract.

Second chaired arbitration involving claims of violation of the CLRA and UCL for dealership's alleged failure to disclose and repair mechanical defects existing in vehicle and misrepresentation that vehicle was a CPO.

Second chaired arbitration involving claims of violation of the CLRA and UCL for dealership's alleged failure to disclose prior accident/frame damage and "payment packing" of optional products.

Secured summary judgment on negligence and fraud claim brought by customer alleging dealership was responsible for employee's scheme to defraud customer that was not related to the employee's employment.

Second chaired arbitration involving claims of violation of the CLRA and UCL for dealership's alleged wrongful repossession of vehicle after 10 day right to cancel had elapsed and "payment packing" of optional products.

Secured summary judgment on negligence and breach of bailment claim brought by insurance carrier against dealership in subrogation action arising from theft of cargo being stored on dealership's lot.