

PARTNER

Russell Kornblith

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OVERVIEW

Russell Kornblith is a Partner at Wigdor LLP. He has been recognized in the legal community as a *Law360* Rising Star and as a Benchmark Labor and Employment Star, and he was nominated for Benchmark Litigation's Labor and Employment Lawyer of the Year in 2025 and 2026.

Russell's practice focuses on employment discrimination, sexual assault, and whistleblower cases, representing both individuals and classes.

Russell received his law degree *cum laude* from Harvard Law School and his Bachelor of Arts *magna cum laude* from Amherst College. While at Harvard Law School, Russell was an Articles Editor for the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, a research assistant to Professor (now Deputy Dean) I. Glenn Cohen, and a clinical student in the International Human Rights Clinic, where he contributed to several briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A member of the New York and California bars, Russell is a co-chair of the amicus committee of the New York Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers Association, where he has authored or co-authored amicus briefs to state and federal courts on important issues of employment law.

Before joining Wigdor LLP, Russell was Partner and General Counsel at Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight. Prior to that, he completed clerkships for the Honorable James S. Gwin of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and the Honorable Ronald Lee Gilman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

NOTABLE OUTCOMES

- Litigating pay discrimination claims on behalf of a class of thousands of female pharmaceutical sales representatives, culminating in a court-approved settlement.
- Representing a certified class alleging that the employer and trustee misled participants in an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) and redeemed their shares for less than fair market value in violation of ERISA.
- Negotiating seven-figure and six-figure settlements on behalf of sexual assault survivors against powerful academic institutions.
- Representing the general counsel of a publicly-traded corporation in gender discrimination and

retaliation claims.

- Negotiating seven-figure settlements on behalf of AmLaw 100 lawyers challenging discrimination at their law firms.
- Negotiating a multi-million-dollar settlement on behalf of in-house attorneys who experienced discrimination and retaliation after complaining of discrimination.
- Negotiating seven-figure settlements on behalf of finance executives challenging discrimination.
- Obtaining a preliminary injunction reinstating a Chief People Officer terminated after making protected complaints.
- Winning court approval of a multimillion-dollar gender-pay settlement with a large technology company on behalf of 1,800 women.
- Winning a major First Circuit appeal of a False Claims Act case involving defective medical devices.
- Obtaining a significant settlement involving customs and tariff fraud in violation of the False Claims Act.
- Obtaining a \$22.8 million customs fraud settlement for the misclassification of vitamin imports in violation of U.S. tariff laws and the False Claims Act.

AWARDS

- 2025 Litigation Stars, Labor and employment
- 2025 Labor and employment Litigation of the Year Finalist, Benchmark Litigation
- Super Lawyers – 2025, 2024
- 2025 Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Civil Rights and Plaintiff Employment Lawyers – 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020
- 2023 Benchmark Litigation 40 and Under List
- Benchmark Litigation Labor and Employment Star, Northeast – 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018
- Super Lawyers New York Metro Rising Star – 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020
- 2020 Law360 Rising Star

ADMISSIONS

- California
- New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- NELA/NY Amicus Committee
- NELA/NY Board Member
- The Anti-Fraud Coalition

EDUCATION

- J.D., Harvard Law School, *cum laude*
 - Exchange Fellow, l'École Normale Supérieure
 - International Human Rights Clinic
- B.A., Amherst College, *magna cum laude*