

# Daily Journal

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

## Daily Journal's Top 100 Lawyers



*Patrick M.  
Ryan*

**Bartko Zankel Bunzel  
& Miller**

San Francisco  
Commercial, Antitrust, IP &  
Constitutional Litigation

Patrick M. Ryan is a principal, shareholder and head of the litigation, IP protection and antitrust groups at Bartko Zankel Bunzel & Miller. Working on both plaintiff- and defense-side cases, he joined the highly regarded litigation boutique in 2014.

He was part of the team that obtained a 9-0 jury win for a health system defendant in a massive, billion-dollar antitrust class action. The result was a 2023 Daily Journal Top Verdict. *Sidibe v. Sutter Health*, 3:12-cv-04854 (N.D. Cal., filed Sept. 17, 2012).

Ryan is currently representing the graphic designer who created the popular "Blooming Elegant" type fonts, only to have them allegedly misappropriated by an online marketplace that sold millions of dollars' worth of the designs. In July, a federal judge rejected the defendant's second motion to dismiss the case. *Laatz et al. v. Zazzle Inc. et al.*, 5:22-cv-04844 (N.D. Cal., filed Aug. 24, 2022).

Designer Nicky Laatz's claims are very strong, Ryan said. "I love this case. It's almost like a detective novel." The complaint contends that Zazzle instructed an engineer to obtain a single-user license for the fonts in his own name, then loaded the software

onto its server so Zazzle could allow millions of customers to use the fonts without permission and without any compensation to Laatz."

"It is such a gorgeous font. It looks like calligraphy," Ryan said. "The damages are huge. From an evidentiary point of view, this is one of the strongest plaintiffs cases I've had in 24 years of practice, which is why I moved for early summary judgment on liability." That motion is still pending.

In another healthcare antitrust case, Ryan is on the plaintiff side as lead counsel for hospitals suing insurers for allegedly agreeing to manipulate markets, boycott providers and fix prices to restrain competition. *VHS Liquidating Trust et al., v. Blue Cross Blue Shield Ass'n, et al.*, RG21106600 (Alameda Co. Super. Ct., filed July 27, 2021).

In June, the court rejected the defendants' second demurrer and motion to strike, leaving Ryan and his clients free to push forward for damages of more than \$100 million. "That was a huge victory and we're storming ahead full force," he said. "Even though we're up against Cravath, Kirkland and Mayer Brown, we're succeeding at every turn."

—John Roemer