



Contact

John E. Roberts

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John E. Roberts is a partner in the Litigation Department and co-chair of the firm's Appellate Practice Group, which was named to the National Law Journal's 2020 Appellate Hot List. He litigates cutting-edge appellate matters in state and federal appellate courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court.

John's advocacy led to a favorable decision by the Supreme Court in the landmark patent case, *Nautilus Inc. v. Biosig Instruments, Inc.*, and ultimately victory on remand at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. John has represented the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico—the entity created by Congress to oversee the restructuring of Puerto Rico's massive public debt—in dozens of appeals at the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He has also prevailed in some of the most important ERISA appeals in recent years.

John maintains a robust *pro bono* practice and is a member of the firm's Pro Bono Initiative Committee. For more than five years, he has provided *pro bono* representation to a criminal defendant in a death penalty case. He has also provided *pro bono* representation to various advocacy organizations in high-impact litigations, including the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Citizens for Juvenile Justice, the Bronx Defenders, and the National Immigration Litigation Alliance.

John graduated *magna cum laude* from the New York University School of Law, where he was an articles editor for the *New York University Law Review*. He received his B.A. from Harvard University, where he graduated *cum laude*. He served as a clerk to the Honorable Bruce M. Selya, the most prolific opinion-writer in the history of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Roger Williams School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island, where he teaches appellate advocacy, and he is a co-author of the treatise *Principles of Appellate Litigation: A Guide to Modern Practice*.

Before John attended law school, he worked as a journalist for National Public Radio for many years, where he was a co-creator of the national news program, *On Point*, and won several awards for his reporting. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island, with his husband, Michael.

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Matters

Representative Matters

- *Nautilus, Inc. v. Biosig Instruments, Inc.*, 572 U.S. 898 (2014)
- *Puerto Rico v. Franklin California Tax-Free Trust*, 136 S. Ct. 1938 (2016)
- *Dorman v. Charles Schwab Corp.*, 934 F.3d 1107 (9th Cir. 2019)
- *Autonomous Municipality of Ponce v. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. For P.R. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.)*, 939 F.3d 356 (1st Cir. 2019)
- *Allen v. Wells Fargo & Co.*, 967 F.3d 767 (8th Cir. 2020), *cert denied* ___ S. Ct. ___ (2021)
- *Genentech Inc. v. Immunex R.I. Corp.*, 964 F.3d 1109 (Fed. Cir. 2020)
- *Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. v. Andalusian Global Designated Activity Co. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.)*, 948 F.3d 457 (1st Cir. 2020)
- *Commonwealth v. Tradition (N. Am.) Inc.*, 71 N.E. 3d 142 (Mass. App. Ct. 2017)

- *Pinto-Lugo v. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.)*, 987 F.3d 173 (1st Cir. 2021)
- *Hermanidad de Empleados v. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.)*, 979 F.3d 10 (1st Cir. 2020)
- *Vázquez-Garced v. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.)*, 945 F.3d 3 (1st Cir. 2019)
- *Dickey v. Nat'l Football League*, 2020 WL 6819135 (1st Cir. 2020)
- *Meiners v. Wells Fargo & Co.*, 898 F.3d 820 (8th Cir. 2018)
- *Miami Marlins, L.P. v. Miami-Dade Cnty.*, 276 So. 3d 936 (Fla. 3d DCA 2019)
- *Abdul-Aziz v. Nat'l Basketball Ass'n Players' Pension Plan*, 784 F. App'x 46 (2d Cir. 2019), *cert denied* 140 S. Ct. 2514 (2020)
- *In re Becker*, 993 F.3d 731 (9th Cir. 2021)
- *Johnson v. Nextel Commc'ns Inc.*, 780 F.3d 128 (2d Cir. 2015)
- *SpeedTrack, Inc. v. Office Depot, Inc.*, 791 F.3d 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2015), *cert denied*, 136 S. Ct. 801 (2016)

Practices

Litigation, Appellate

Education

New York University School of Law, J.D., 2008

magna cum laude

Articles Editor, *New York University Law Review*

Harvard University, B.A., 1998

cum laude

Admissions & Qualifications

Rhode Island

Massachusetts

New York

Clerkships

U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit - Judge Bruce M. Selya

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

U.S. District Court, New York, Southern District

U.S. District Court, Rhode Island

U.S. District Court, Massachusetts

Awards & Recognition

National Law Journal's Appellate Hot List 2020

National Law Journal's "Boston Rising Star" 2015

The Legal 500 United States: Courts of Appeals 2020-2021