

Max L. Tribble

Partner

Houston
(713) 651-9366
mtribble@susmangodfrey.com

Overview

Max Tribble, serving as lead counsel, secured a jury verdict of \$706.2 million for client, HouseCanary in a misappropriation of trade secret and breach of contract case related to HouseCanary's innovative technology for valuation, appraisal and real estate analytics. At the conclusion of the seven week trial, a 12-person jury found unanimously in favor of HouseCanary, awarding HouseCanary \$706.2 million against Title Source, an affiliate of Quicken Loans, on counterclaims in this high-stakes legal battle.

The award was finalized in October 2018 and in 2019, a judge confirmed the jury award in full and allowed a judgment of more than \$740 million (including prejudgment interest and attorney fees) to stand. This landmark win has been featured as a top story of the week by [Texas Lawyer](#) and covered by [The Wall Street Journal](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Dallas News](#) and [Law360](#). It was also featured on [Law360's "How They Won It"](#) series and was highlighted in Susman Godfrey's recent "[Intellectual Property Practice Group of the Year](#)" recognition by [Law360](#). [Lawdragon](#) profiled the win in their feature story, "[Revenge of the Hatchlings: How Susman Godfrey Won Almost a Billion Dollars for HouseCanary](#)" and [National Law Journal](#) named Tribble a [Winning Litigator](#) (ALM) for this win. The verdict also appeared at number one on [Texas Lawyer's](#) 2019 [Intellectual Property Hall of Fame](#). Tribble was also recently featured on [Great Trials Podcast: Conversations with America's Leading Trial Lawyers](#) along with co-lead counsel, discussing the three-month jury trial. Read more about the case [here](#).

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“Max Tribble comes recommended for his highly successful litigation practice. He regularly represents clients in trade secrets and patent disputes, with notable expertise in the oil and gas and technology sectors. Sources describe him as “a terrific lawyer who handles very sophisticated matters” and highlight his “good intuition.”

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As quoted in Chambers USA 2020 Rankings

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“[Max Tribble] a true delight, very creative, and just a great lawyer.” He has a strong litigation practice, with broad experience covering disputes over patents, trade secrets and licensing issues.

As quoted in Chambers USA 2019 rankings

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“[Max Tribble’s] level of intelligence and strategic nous really sets him apart. Though formidable for opponents, he partners well and makes great use of the expert advice available to him”

As quoted in the 2017 IAM Patent 1000 Leading Patent Professionals in Texas

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“Max Tribble has an enviable record securing favorable results for plaintiffs in patent disputes, usually with an electrical engineering and software bent. Sources remark, with knowing understatement, that he “knows his way around a courtroom.”

As quoted in the 2015 Chambers USA rankings

Note: The testimonials above and the prior case outcomes below do not constitute a guarantee, warranty or prediction regarding the outcome of your legal matter.

Max Tribble, a permanent member of Susman Godfrey’s Executive Committee, is well-recognized as one of the premier trial lawyers in America. He has obtained momentous victories for plaintiffs and defendants in a diverse range of commercial lawsuits. He has handled over a hundred cases in various fields, including:

Misappropriation of Trade Secrets Trusts & Estate Law

Patent Infringement Insurance Law

Breach of Contract Bankruptcy

Fraud Shareholder Rights

Antitrust Product Defect

Unfair Competition Negligence

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Breach of Fiduciary Duty

Tax Law

Tribble is widely recognized in his field.

Tribble has taken on industry giants such as Apple, Samsung, American Express, Oppenheimer, Comcast, Lehman Brothers, Google, Microsoft, Intel, Wyeth Labs, IBM, AMD, Oracle, and TSMC.

For example, Tribble represented his client MicroUnity in a hard-fought patent infringement action against Intel and forced Intel to pay his client \$300 million to license the MicroUnity patents. In follow-up cases, Tribble represented MicroUnity in cases against Apple, Samsung, AMD, and Texas Instruments—each of which also paid to license the MicroUnity patents.

Tribble represented Barcelona-based Fractus, S.A., against the entire cell phone industry to enforce Fractus' antenna patents. While the rest of the industry paid to license the patents before trial, defendant Samsung did not. At trial, Tribble handled opening arguments, the key witnesses, and closing arguments. The jury awarded Fractus \$38 million. The case settled during appeal. Tribble is now representing Fractus in a similar lawsuit against mobile phone technology company, ZTE. To date, Tribble has recovered over \$100 million in settlements and licenses for Fractus.

Tribble also represented Two-Way Media at trial against AT&T in a case relating to video streaming. The jury awarded \$40 million with interest. The final judgment was affirmed by the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals and was later settled.

In the Northern District of California, Tribble was lead trial attorney representing UniRam Corporation against chip giant Taiwanese Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC) for theft of trade secrets relating to embedded DRAM chips. The jury returned a verdict of over \$30 million, and the case settled during

Tribble is currently lead counsel for Preston Marshall in the largest will and trust dispute in the world. Tribble represents Preston in 16 cases relating to disputes over the J. Howard Marshall estate that was previously litigated by Anna Nicole Smith and related Marshall family businesses. So far, Tribble has obtained three temporary restraining orders and two temporary injunctions freezing a huge amount of assets and restraining depletion of assets from over a half dozen family trusts pending trial.

Tribble is named on Lawdragons's List of the [Top 500 Attorneys in America](#). Benchmark Litigation has named Tribble a 'Local Litigation Star' in both General Commercial Litigation and Intellectual Property and he has been honored in [Best Lawyers](#) for both Intellectual Property and Patent litigation. Tribble has been named a Super Lawyer by *Texas Super Lawyer* in every year since 2005.

Notable Representations

Representative Cases

For the last 15 years, Tribble has specialized in patent lawsuits while also handling other types of complex commercial litigation as well. Tribble has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a broad spectrum of intellectual property cases involving a diverse range of technologies, including:

- Microprocessors and integrated circuits,
- Internet-based software & systems, both client-side and server-side,
- Microsoft Windows operating systems,
- Videogames and computer games,
- Graphics processing,
- Streaming media,
- Global-positioning systems,
- Neural network and expert system software,
- Seismic surveying systems and methods,
- Computer-controlled lighting systems, and even
- Roadway safety equipment

Honors & Distinctions

- *Lawdragon* 500 Global Plaintiff Lawyer ([2024](#))
- IAM Patent 1000: Worlds Leading Patent Professionals ([2023](#))
- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigator ([2022](#), [2023](#))
- *Litigation Star*, Benchmark Litigation ([2022](#), [2023](#) Euromoney)
- “*Legend*,” *Lawdragon* (Lawdragon, 2021)
- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Lawyers (2015 – 2023)
- Leading Lawyer, Intellectual Property Litigation: Texas, Chambers USA (2015 – 2021)
- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers ([2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#))
- *Winning Litigator*, *National Law Journal* (ALM, 2019)
- *Outstanding Intellectual Property Litigator* by Managing Intellectual Property’s IP Stars (2019)
- Secured Susman Godfrey’s recognition as an *Intellectual Property Practice Group of the Year* by *Law360* (2018)
- *Litigation Trailblazer*, *National Law Journal* (ALM, 2018)

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- Included in The Best Lawyers in America for Intellectual Property and Patent Litigation, 2011 – 2024, Commercial Litigation, 2019 – 2024 (Woodward White Inc.)
- Local Litigation Stars – Texas, Benchmark Litigation (2015 and 2016, *Euromoney*)
- Texas Super Lawyer, *Law & Politics Magazine* (2005 – 2023, Thomson Reuters)
- Top Lawyer in Houston,- Patent Litigation and Intellectual Property Litigation, *H Texas Magazine* (2006-09, Bayou City Publishing, LLC)
- Super Lawyer”, Corporate Counsel Edition Patent and Intellectual Property Litigation (2009, Law & Politics Magazine, Thomson Reuters).
- Rising Star, *Law & Politics Magazine* (2004, Thomson Reuters)
- Served on a special committee appointed to propose local rule changes in the Eastern District of Texas concerning discovery in patent cases.

Education

Harvard Law School (, , 1988)

The University of Texas (, , 1985)

Admissions

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Wins

Susman Godfrey Wins \$706.2 Million Jury Verdict for Client HouseCanary Against Quicken Loans Affiliate Title Source Inc.

Susman Godfrey Wins \$23 Million Verdict In Patent Infringement Suit Against Samsung

Susman Godfrey LLP \$40 Million Judgment in Patent Infringement Suit Against AT&T Inc. Affirmed by Federal Circuit

Susman Godfrey Secures \$37.5 Million Verdict in Wi-Fi Patent Infringement Case

Leadership & Professional Memberships

- Nancy Atlas IP Inn of Court