

# Daily Journal

FEBRUARY 4, 2026



## TOP PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWYERS 2026



### MARK B. WILSON

KLEIN & WILSON LLP®

NEWPORT BEACH

**M**ark B. Wilson has been practicing law since 1988 and is a California State Bar Certified Legal Malpractice Law Specialist. He represents clients in legal malpractice cases and billing disputes against their former attorneys.

Wilson was drawn to legal malpractice cases around 2004 by a client who was badly injured by an attorney who messed up a real estate transaction. "She hired me

to evaluate the case, I filed suit for her, and ended up going to trial and winning my first legal malpractice case," Wilson said.

His mentor was Gerry Klein, who hired Wilson to work for him in 1989. They became partners in 2004. "Gerry taught me to be hyper-vigilant in case evaluation," Wilson said. "He showed me how to regularly assess case risks, warn the clients about those risks, identify options to address those risks and guide clients to make the wisest choices."

Wilson has collected more than \$23 million in legal malpractice cases and has saved clients tens of millions of dollars in fee disputes. He regularly gets hired to testify regarding standard of care issues and has tried many mandatory fee arbitrations, legal malpractice trials and arbitrations.

In one recent matter, Wilson represented clients in a legal malpractice case where they signed an agreement that their attorney prepared that had an error on it. That error caused the clients to suffer millions of dollars of damages. Through discovery, Wilson proved that the defendants wrote internal correspondence wherein they interpreted the problematic language at issue just like the clients did in the malpractice case. After confronting defendants with that correspondence in depositions, the case settled.

In another matter, Wilson represented clients in a legal malpractice and billing dispute where defendants lost several cases for the clients and never warned them about the risks of those cases. The clients received a settlement offer at the beginning of the engagement that defendants should have encouraged the clients to accept, Wilson said. After conducting key depositions, the case settled at mediation.

Wilson also represented clients in a legal malpractice case where the clients' attorneys failed to hire an e-discovery vendor in litigation and failed to guide the client in document production, leading to terminating sanctions.

By working with the clients' attorneys in the underlying case, Wilson assembled key evidence that showed the clients likely would have won the trial in the underlying case and then persuaded defendants to attend a multi-session mediation that resulted in a settlement.

"The main obstacle that I faced on all these cases is the same — defendants in legal malpractice cases (and their carriers) rarely see significant risk until significant work is performed on the case," Wilson said.

Reprinted with permission from the *Daily Journal*. ©2026 Daily Journal Corporation. All rights reserved. Reprinted by ReprintPros 949-702-5390.