

Richard E. Donahoo

Founder

Richard E. Donahoo is the founder of Donahoo & Associates, PC in Orange County, California. Mr. Donahoo specializes in **labor and employment law, personal injury, class action,** and **construction litigation**. He focuses on cases involving labor and employment disputes, **catastrophic personal injury** cases and **financial frauds**. Donahoo leads a **team of experienced attorneys** that routinely takes on large corporations and government entities whose wrongdoing causes damages and injuries, holding them accountable.

Mr. Donahoo has litigated cases on behalf of hundreds of clients and won significant recoveries for clients in both settlements and verdicts. For a sample of cases see **Case Results**.

Mr. Donahoo is admitted to practice in all California state courts and in the United States District Courts for the Central, Southern and Northern Districts of California. He is also admitted to practice in Colorado federal courts and before the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Donahoo is a member of the Los Angeles County and Orange County Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (**OCTLA**), Consumer Attorneys of California (**CAOC**) and the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (**CAALA**).

Prior to forming Donahoo & Associates, PC, Donahoo was an associate at the law firm of Horton Barbaro & Reilly in Santa Ana, California.

Every year since 2007, Mr. Donahoo has been recognized as a **Top 100 California Trial Lawyer** by the **National Trial Lawyers**. Recently, Mr. Donahoo was named a **Southern California SuperLawyer** for the sixth time (2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009). He was also named 2015 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association (OCTLA).

Sample Case Results:

- **Ponzi Scheme – \$15.6 Million**

In 2016, a Los Angeles Superior Court jury awarded \$15.6 million to a grandmother who lost her life savings in a bogus investment fund that was offered by a MetLife insurance agent. After an eight-week trial, the jury unanimously found that MetLife and two of its subsidiaries, New England Life Insurance Co. and New England Securities, and a former managing partner, Tony Russon, were liable on four civil counts including aiding and abetting violation of California securities laws, negligence, and aiding and abetting deceit and financial elder abuse. Christine Ramirez was represented by Richard E. Donahoo of Donahoo & Associates, PC, who was co-lead counsel with Thomas Foley, a founding partner in Foley Bezek Behle & Curtis LLP. Read more about the **MetLife Ponzi Scheme** case.

- **Aiding and Abetting Fraud / Ponzi Scheme- \$6.325 Million**

In 2012 Donahoo & Associates, PC recovered over \$6.325 million on behalf of 70 individuals who invested in a private investment program which was the subject of a SEC Investigation which exposed a fraudulent Ponzi scheme. The investors sued a national life insurance company who issued collateral assignments used by the investment company, Diversified Lending Group, Inc. to “guarantee” the private investments. Donahoo & Associates, PC brought claims against the life insurance company for “aiding and abetting” the perpetrators of the Ponzi scheme.

- **ERISA / ESOP Fraud- \$5.125 Million**

In 2012 Donahoo & Associates, PC recovered \$5.125 million on behalf of 198 former employees of a construction company who were participants in an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (“ESOP”). The workers alleged that the construction company had inflated the value of the company in connection with the sale of the company to the ESOP. The wrongdoing was uncovered by Donahoo & Associates, PC while litigating employment claims for individual employees employed on a public work. The workers filed a federal case against the trustees in the ESOP transaction for breach of fiduciary duties in violation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) a federal law that sets minimum standards for pension plans in private industry. ERISA gives participants the right to sue for benefits and breaches of fiduciary duty.

- **Wrongful Death – \$7.4 Million**

In 2014, following a three week jury trial, attorneys Richard E. Donahoo and Judith Camilleri of Donahoo & Associates, PC received a \$7.431 Million jury verdict against the County of Orange and a negligent driver in a motor vehicle accident. The plaintiff and her daughter were struck in an Orange County crosswalk that the jury found was a dangerous condition. The County made no offer of settlement. The verdict: 12-0 in favor of plaintiff. “We are pleased that our client was willing to take on a powerful government agency and that the jury compensated her for her injuries and loss. We are looking forward to seeing her get the care and treatment she needs. The jury got it right.” said Richard E. Donahoo.