

# Experienced Anti-SLAPP Lawyers Are Few And Far Between

BY ADRIANOS FACCHETTI

I routinely hear the following kinds of comments from experienced civil litigators in Los Angeles:

In my 40+ years of practice as a business litigator, I've only handled one anti-SLAPP motion and I lost because I missed the 60 day deadline to file a SLAPP motion by just 5 days. (This lawyer is an excellent litigator with experience in nearly every field of law, including securities, intellectual property, real estate, personal injury, malpractice, you name it. But this lawyer fell into one of the many traps awaiting attorneys in the anti-SLAPP statute).

I've been doing litigation for almost 20 years, and I've only encountered one anti-SLAPP motion on the plaintiff's side, and I lost because the other attorney misled and outmaneuvered me. (This lawyer was a solo but now works as a partner for a very large and respected law firm in Los Angeles).

Adrianos, I wish you could have seen my work product in another context, I actually do good work (this was said just after I prevailed on an anti-SLAPP motion and was awarded 100% of my requested non-contingent attorney's fees).

Adrianos, I wish I had called you sooner. (lawyer who was personally served with a lawsuit and only had 2 days in which to file an anti-SLAPP motion).

I don't say any of the above to impress you. I say it to impress upon you the fact that it is important to realize that the anti-SLAPP statute is a specialized area of law. It is highly technical and complex, with somewhere around 400 published decisions

interpreting the statute. And, as the above quotes show, experienced anti-SLAPP attorneys are few and far between. So it is very important that if you are served with a lawsuit that targets your free speech or petitioning activity, usually in the form of claims for defamation, libel, slander, malicious prosecution, abuse of process, intentional infliction of emotional distress, or intentional interference with prospective economic advantage, you need to call an experienced lawyer right away.