

MODERN LUXURY SPOTLIGHT

TOP LAWYERS

John Cleary

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John Cleary rarely tells a client there is a problem without also bringing at least one solution. That mindset defines his approach to a demanding practice in corporate, securities and M&A law at Greenberg Traurig, where Cleary works on capital raise transactions including private placements and public offerings, and handles acquisitions on both the buy side and sell side. Within securities law, his work spans private equity fund formation and capital raises, along with regulatory compliance for private equity funds. He advises private equity sponsors on structure and the negotiation of terms with institutional and angel investors.

Cleary's vast experience and expertise in corporate, M&A and securities law has earned him recognition by *The Best Lawyers in America* (2026-2027) and as a Top Attorney by the *San Diego Daily Transcript* (2015) and Best of the Bar by the *San Diego Business Journal* (2016).

Clients expect a high level of service, and Cleary delivers it in concrete ways: responding to every email and voicemail the same day and providing mid-month updates on fees so there are no surprises. As a former in-house counsel and consumer of legal services, he is attuned to the high cost of quality legal work. He does as much of the work as possible personally, delegating only when it is more efficient or economical for clients, and builds plans to control costs from the start.

San Diego's energetic, entrepreneurial business community, particularly its life sciences and technology sectors, inspires Cleary to bring that same energy and passion to his practice. Beyond the office, he is affiliated with the San Diego Chapter of Hazelden Betty Ford, served as past president of the Board of Directors of the McAlister Institute, and volunteers his time with other organizations dedicated to treating drug and alcohol addiction.



Photography by Kristen Vincent Photography