

# Daily Journal

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## THE TRIAL VERDICTS AND APPELLATE REVERSALS THAT CHANGED THE CALIFORNIA LEGAL LANDSCAPE IN 2025

### Move Inc. et al. v. CoStar Group Inc. et al.

In July 2024, NewsCorp subsidiary Move Inc., which operates Realtor.com, filed a federal complaint in the Central District of California accusing rival CoStar Group, owner of Apartments.com, and a former Move employee of trade secret misappropriation.

“In just nine months, we secured a dismissal of all claims with prejudice after multiple early victories, including defeating a preliminary injunction motion, and after threatening the plaintiff with sanctions,” said Nick Boyle, one of the co-lead lawyers.

The case presented challenges from the outset. Move alleged that CoStar hired the former Move employee to launch a news division using Move trade secrets and appeared to have evidence that the employee had accessed or taken documents from his prior employer. CoStar and Latham immediately pushed back in court filings, in the press and in correspondence with Move, demonstrating that the core allegation was false. *Move Inc.*

*et al. v. CoStar Group Inc. et al.*, 2:24-cv-05607 (C.D. Cal., filed July 2, 2024).

“Faced with the threat of Rule 11 sanctions, Move quickly amended its complaint, shifting to a new, vaguer and equally baseless theory,” said Matthew Walch, a co-lead in the case.

When Move pursued a preliminary injunction, Latham went on offense. The firm sought and took expedited discovery over Move’s objections, including deposing NewsCorp’s head of cyber security. Meanwhile, Move refused to take any discovery. Latham leveraged this refusal to persuade the court to deny the injunction request.

“Faced with a request for a preliminary injunction, we went on offense, taking expedited discovery to disprove Move’s allegations, while Move, bizarrely, refused to take any discovery at all,” said co-lead Anne Malinee.

In October 2024, Latham filed and won a motion to dismiss two of Move’s claims, as covered by the *Daily Journal*. Over the following months, CoStar and



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Latham pressed Move for evidence and continued to challenge the lawsuit’s legitimacy through discovery.

The defense team mobilized quickly to respond to Move’s allegations, retaining and working closely with forensic experts to investigate claims and assist in preparing CoStar’s defense. The team coordinated with the former Move employee and his

counsel to discover facts relating to his work and response to specific allegations. Through this work, the team explained away any suggestion of impropriety.

In March 2025, Latham notified Move’s counsel that CoStar would seek sanctions, including costs and fees, if the case was not dismissed. Move responded by filing a motion to extend discovery by months and delay proceedings. The same day CoStar filed a detailed brief highlighting Move’s lack of evidence and diligence in discovery, Move abruptly asked CoStar if it would consent to dismissal of the entire case with pre-judice.

Last April, Move voluntarily dismissed the case, vindicating CoStar entirely. CoStar paid nothing and agreed to nothing.

“We were able to convince the plaintiff to dismiss their own case, with prejudice, because our team executed on an aggressive strategy that placed the plaintiff under significant and ultimately unbearable, pressure,” Boyle said.

### Case Details

CASE NAME	Move Inc. et al. v. CoStar Group Inc. et al.
TYPE OF CASE	Trade secrets misappropriation
COURT	U.S. Central District
JUDGE(S)	George H. Wu
DEFENSE LAWYERS	Latham & Watkins LLP, Nicholas J. Boyle, Matthew W. Walch, Anne C. Malinee, Jessica L. Saba, Morgan R. Hoffman, Katherine L. Griffiths, Eleanor Allen, Lindsay Hardy; Brown Neri Smith & Khan LLP, Ethan J. Brown. Patricia A.E. Tenenbaum
PLAINTIFF LAWYERS	Jenner & Block LLP, Todd C. Toral, Brent L. Caslin, David R. Singer, Carolyn S. Small, Elizabeth H. Baldrige