

**UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 21-CV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, *individually and  
as legal guardian of N.D. and M.D. and  
all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants,

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECLARATION OF JEAN S. MARTIN  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
FEE AWARD AND LITIGATION COSTS**

Jean S. Martin, pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am a partner in Morgan & Morgan's Complex Litigation Group and am one of the attorneys personally involved in the litigation of this matter.
2. I submit this Declaration in connection with and in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Fee Award and Litigation Costs.
3. My law firm and I were fully and unequivocally committed to this action and the prosecution this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. The formidable resources and experience of the counsel involved in this matter, combined with our substantial data privacy and

class litigation experience, allowed us to achieve a favorable result for the class of consumers who were affected by the Data Incident which is the subject of this suit.

4. The tasks undertaken by my firm in this action were as follows: speaking with clients regarding their claims; researching and preparing the initial complaint; researching causes of action and assisting in responding to Defendants’ motion to dismiss;

5. My firm was the primary contact for Plaintiff Amber Lowe and her minor children, C.B., K.B., M.B., and G.M. We maintained regular communication with Plaintiff Lowe and kept her apprised of the progress of the litigation. Plaintiff was advised on her obligations as a class representative to select adequate and skilled counsel, to cooperate with counsel, and to place the interests of the class on a level equal to or above her own interests. Plaintiff Lowe has met and continues to meet these obligations, cooperating fully with counsel to fulfill her fiduciary duties to the Class.

6. Plaintiff Lowe did everything asked of her in the course of this litigation. Her interests in the litigation are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the Settlement Class. At all times, she has acted in the best interest of the Class in pursuit of this litigation.

7. My firm kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation.

8. Below is a summary of the hours billed by each timekeeper of my firm, their positions, and hourly rates:

Name	Title	Hourly Rate	Hours Billed	Total Lodestar
John Yanchunis	Partner	\$1,300.00	2.70	\$3,510.00
Jean Martin	Partner	\$1,150.00	67.20	\$77,280.00
Kenya Reddy	Associate	\$1,000.00	25.20	\$25,200.00
Patrick Barthle	Associate	\$800.00	0.90	\$720.00
Ryan Maxey	Associate	\$800.00	2.20	\$1,760.00

Ryan McGee	Associate	\$800.00	15.40	\$12,320.00
Francesca Kester	Associate	\$650.00	145.40	\$94,510.00
Jennifer Cabezas	Paralegal	\$225.00	5.80	\$1,305.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>264.80</b>	<b>\$216,605.00</b>

9. The billable rates charged by the attorneys and other professionals in my law firm as set forth above have been approved by other federal and state courts. *See, e.g., Brown v. Google LLC*, No. 4:20-cv-03664-YGR-SVK (N.D. Cal. July 15, 2022) (approving rates in privacy class action up to \$1,950 per hour; partner John Yanchunis approved at \$1,300.00 per hour, partner Jean Martin approved at \$1,000.00 per hour, and associate Ryan McGee approved at \$800 per hour);

10. My firm has also incurred \$972.31 in expenses in this litigation to date. Expenses include filing fees, postage, process server charges, and legal research. The expenses pertaining to this action are reflected in the books and records of my firm. These books and records are prepared from expense vouchers, check records, invoices, and other documents maintained in the ordinary course of litigation and the business operations of the firm:

11. As set forth in the attached firm resume, the lawyers in my firm have considerable experience in class actions and have litigated to resolution many large data breach and privacy cases. We have active litigation practices. The time and effort we devoted to this case would have been spent on other cases but for our commitment to Plaintiffs and their claims.

12. It is my considered opinion as an experienced class action lawyer that the requested attorneys' fees and costs are reasonable and appropriate.

13. I respectfully request that the Court award the requested unopposed attorneys' fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2023 in Tampa, FL

s/ Jean S. Martin  
Jean S. Martin

# MORGAN & MORGAN<sup>®</sup>

Morgan & Morgan is a leading civil trial law firm representing consumers and commercial clients nationwide. With over 800 lawyers, and more than 3,000 non-lawyer employees, Morgan & Morgan is the largest plaintiffs' firm in the nation. Morgan & Morgan maintains over offices throughout the United States. Among its lawyers are former state attorney generals and present and former members of various state legislatures.

Morgan & Morgan has a dedicated Complex Litigation Group staffed with lawyers, paralegals, and retired FBI agents serving as investigators committed to representing consumers in complex litigation, MDL proceedings and class action cases throughout the country. It has achieved many remarkable results in class litigation, including the settlement of *In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation*, no. 08-0511 (D.C. Oct. 27, 2017), where one of its partners served as co-lead. The case resulted in a settlement with the United States Government in the amount of \$1.2 billion for African American farmers who had been systematically discriminated against on the basis of race, in violation of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act. Morgan & Morgan has assembled a talented team of lawyers:

**John A. Yanchunis** leads the class action section of the law firm. His practice—which began after completing a two-year clerkship with United States District Judge Carl O. Bue, Jr., S. D. Tex.—has concentrated on complex litigation and spans over 40 years, including consumer class actions for more than two-thirds of that time. As a result of his extensive experience in class litigation, including privacy and data-breach litigation, he regularly lectures nationally and internationally at seminars and symposiums regarding class litigation and privacy litigation.

He has served as lead, co-lead, and class counsel in numerous national class actions, including multi-district litigation, involving a wide range of subjects affecting consumers, including antitrust, defective products, life insurance, annuities, and deceptive and unfair acts and practices. In 2014, he was recognized by the National Law Journal as a trailblazer in the area of privacy litigation, and in 2020, he was recognized by LAW 360 for the second year in a row as one of 4 MVPs in the United States in the area of privacy and cyber security litigation. For his work in the area of privacy litigation, he was awarded lawyer of the year in the state of Florida by The Daily Business Review.

As a result of his experience in insurance and complex litigation, beginning in 2005, he was selected by Tom Gallagher, the Chief Financial Officer for the state of Florida and a member

of the Florida Cabinet, to serve as lead counsel for the Florida Department of Financial Services and the Florida Department of Insurance Regulation (the insurance regulators of Florida) in their investigations of the insurance industry on issues concerning possible antitrust activity and other possible unlawful activities regarding the payment of undisclosed compensation to insurance brokers. He served as lead regulator counsel and worked with a core group of state Attorneys General from the National Association of Attorneys General, which were selected to conduct the investigations. The insurance regulator for Florida was the only insurance regulator in the group. The litigation that was filed and the related investigations netted millions of dollars in restitution for Florida consumers and resulted in significant changes in the way commercial insurance is sold in Florida and across the country.

During his career, he has tried numerous cases in state and federal courts, including one of the largest and longest insurance coverage cases in U.S. history, which was filed in 1991 by the Celotex Corporation and its subsidiary, Carey Canada, Inc. During the seventeen years the case pended, he served as lead counsel for several insurance companies, regarding coverage for asbestos and environmental claims. The case was tried in three phases over several years beginning in 1992. He was also lead counsel for these parties in the subsequent appeals that followed a judgment in favor of his clients.

Mr. Yanchunis began his work in privacy litigation in 1999 with the filing of *In re Doubleclick Inc. Privacy Litigation*, 154 F. Supp. 2d 497 (S.D.N.Y. 2001), alleging privacy violations based on the placement of cookies on hard drives of internet users. Beginning in 2003, he served as co-Lead Counsel in the successful prosecution and settlement of privacy class action cases involving the protection of privacy rights of more than 200 million consumers under the Driver's Protection Privacy Act (DPPA) against the world's largest data and information brokers, including Experian, R.L. Polk, Acxiom, and Reed Elsevier (which owns Lexis/Nexis). See *Fresco v. Automotive Directions, Inc.*, No. 03-61063-JEM (S.D. Fla.), and *Fresco v. R.L. Polk*, No. 07-cv-60695-JEM (S.D. Fla.). Subsequently, I also served as co-Lead Counsel in the DPPA class cases, *Davis v. Bank of America*, No. 05-cv-80806 (S.D. Fla.) (\$10 million class settlement), and *Kehoe v. Fidelity Fed. Bank and Trust*, No. 03-cv-80593 (S.D. Fla.) (\$50 million class settlement).

He has been appointed and served in leadership positions a number of multidistrict litigation in the area of privacy and data breaches: *In re: Capital One Consumer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 1:19-MD-2915-AJT (E.D. Va.) (settlement for \$190,000,000 preliminarily approved ) *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 5:16-MD-02752-LHK (N.D. Cal.) ("Yahoo") (Lead Counsel) (Court approved \$117,500,000.00 common fund settlement for approximately 194 million US residents and 270,000 Israeli citizens ); *In re The Home Depot, Inc. Consumer Data Sec. Data Breach Litig.*, No. 1:14-md-02583-TWT (N.D. Ga.)

(co-Lead Counsel) (final judgment entered approving a settlement on behalf of a class of 40 million consumers with total value of \$29,025,000); *In Re: Equifax, Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, 1:17-md-2800-TWT (N.D. Ga.) (member of the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee) (final judgment entered approving \$380.5 million fund for 145 million consumers ); *In re: U.S. Office of Personnel Management Data Security Breach Litigation*, 1:15-mc-01394-ABJ (D.D.C.) (“OPM”) (member of the Executive Committee) (motion for preliminary approval of a \$60,000,000 common fund ); *In re Target Corp. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, MDL No. 2522 (D. Minn.) (Executive Committee member) (final judgment approving a settlement on behalf of a class of approximately 100 million consumers ).

His court-appointed leadership experience in non-MDL, data breach class actions is likewise significant, and to just name a few : *Schmidt, et al., v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. 3:18-cv-05982 (N.D. Cal.) (Co-Lead Counsel) (“Facebook”) (class certified for 8 million residents , subsequently settlement of the class was approved by the court); *Walters v. Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant*, No. 3:16-cv-05387 (N.D. Cal.) (“Kimpton”) (Lead Counsel) (class action settlement final approval order entered July 11, 2019); and *In re: Arby’s Restaurant Group, Inc. Data Security Litigation*, Nos. 1:17-cv-514 and 1:17-cv-1035 (N.D. Ga.) (co-Liaison Counsel) (final approval of a class settlement entered June 6, 2019); and *Jackson, et al., v. Wendy’s International, LLC*, No. 6:16-cv-210-PGB (M.D. Fla.) (final approval of a class settlement entered February 26, 2019); *Henderson v. Kalispell Regional Healthcare*, No. CDV-19-0761 (Montana Eighth Judicial Court – Cascade County) (final approval of class settlement entered January 5, 2021); *In re: Citrix Data Breach Litigation*, No. 19-cv-61350 (S.D. Fla.) (preliminary approval of class action settlement entered on January 26, 2021); *Kuss v. American HomePatient, Inc., et al.*, 18-cv-2348 (M.D. Fla.) (final approval of class action settlement entered on August 13, 2020); *Fulton-Green v. Accolade, Inc.*, 18-cv-274 (E.D. Pa.) (final approval of class action settlement entered September 23, 2019); *Nelson v. Roadrunner Transportation Systems, Inc.*, 18-cv-7400 (N.D. Ill.) (final approval of class action settlement entered September 15, 2020).

His experience in these major data breach matters extends far beyond simply briefing threshold issues and negotiating settlements. Rather, he has personally deposed dozens of corporate representatives, software engineers, cyber professionals and CISOs in major data breach cases such as Capital One, Yahoo, Kimpton, and Facebook. In addition, he has defended experts used in these cases and also deposed defense liability and damage experts.

Presently he leads his firm’s efforts in two major class cases pending against Google for data misuse.

As result of his experience in the area of class litigation and ethics, he has served as an expert for The Florida Bar on ethical issues arising in class action litigation. He is a frequent

lecturer on privacy and class litigation nationally and internationally, including at international conferences, having presented at the University of Haifa's 2019 Class Action Conference, in Haifa, Israel, attended by lawyers, judges and law professors from around the world. In 2020 he lectured on data privacy in Mexico, and in November 2020 and 2021 he presented on class action issues to an international group of lawyers, judges and professors at a symposium in London sponsored by the London Law Society. He is schedule to speak on class action issues in 2022 at two different symposiums in Amsterdam, and two seminars on privacy and cyber security issues in the United States .

While at the University of Florida Mr. Yanchunis was a member of Florida Blue Key and Omicron Delta Kappa. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the South Texas College of Law in 1980, where he graduated magna cum laude. During law school, Mr. Yanchunis was a member of the Order of the Lytae, Associate Editor-in-Chief and Technical Editor of the South Texas Law Journal.

**Michael F. Ram.** Mr. Ram is a consumer class action lawyer with 40 years of experience. He graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1982. He has co-tried several class action trials and frequently lectures on class trials. In 1992 he was a co-recipient of the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award given by Trial Lawyers for Public Justice for *National Association of Radiation Survivors v. Walters* No. 83-c-1861 (N.D. Cal.) (tried to class-wide judgment on remand from Supreme Court).

From 1993 through 1997, Mr. Ram was a partner with Lief, Cabraser, Heimann and Bernstein where he represented plaintiffs in several major class actions, including: *Cox v. Shell*, Civ. No 18,844 (Obion County Chancery Court, Tenn.) national class of six million owners of property with defective polybutylene plumbing systems; *In re Louisiana-Pacific Inner-Seal Litigation*, No. 95-cv-879 (D. Oregon) (co-lead counsel) national class of homeowners with defective siding; *ABS Pipe Litigation*, Cal. Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 3126 (Contra Costa County) national class of homeowners.

In 1997, Mr. Ram founded Levy, Ram & Olson which became Ram & Olson and then Ram, Olson, Cereghino & Kopczynski. He was co-lead counsel in many consumer class actions including a national class of half a million owners of dangerous glass pane gas fireplaces in *Keilholtz et al. v. Superior Fireplace Company*, No. 08-cv-00836 (N.D. Cal. 2008). He was co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in *Chamberlan v. Ford Motor Company*, No. 03-cv-2628 (N.D. Cal.), a class action involving defective intake manifolds that generated four published opinions, including one by the Ninth Circuit, 402 F.3d at 950, and settled one court day before the class trial. He was also co-counsel for plaintiffs in a number of other consumer class actions, including: *In re General Motors Corp. Product Liability Lit.* MDL. No. 1896 (W.D. Wash.) (defective speedometers);



*Richison v. American Cemwood Corp.*, San Joaquin Superior Court Case No. 005532 (defective Cemwood Shakes); *Williams v. Weyerhaeuser*, San Francisco Superior Court Case No. 995787 (defective hardboard siding); *Naef v. Masonite*, Mobile County, Alabama Circuit Court Case No. CV-94-4033 (defective hardboard siding on their homes); *Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011 (9th Cir. 1998) (approving class action settlement); *McAdams v. Monier, Inc.* (2010) 182 Cal. App. 4th 174 (reversing denial of class certification in consumer class action involving roof tiles); *Gardner v. Stimson Lumber Co.* (King County Wash. No. 2-17633-3-SEA) (defective siding); *Rosenberg v. U-Haul* (Santa Cruz Superior Ct. No. CV-144045 (certified consumer class action for false and deceptive conduct; tried successfully to judgment); *In re Google Buzz User Privacy Litigation*, No. 10-cv-00672-JW (N.D. Cal. 2011) (international class action settlement for false and deceptive conduct); *Whitaker v. Health Net of California, Inc., and International Business Machines Corp.*, No. 2:11-cv-0910 KJM DAD (E.D. Cal.) (electronic privacy class action under the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act); and *In re Kitec Plumbing System Products Liab. Litigation MDL No 2098*, N.D. Texas, No. 09-MD-2098 (MDL class action involving claims concerning defective plumbing systems).

From 2017 to 2020, Mr. Ram was a partner at Robins Kaplan LLP. In August, 2020, Mr. Ram joined Morgan & Morgan to open a San Francisco office for them. He is currently co-lead counsel in numerous consumer class actions, including *Gold v. Lumber Liquidators*, N.D. Cal. No. 14-cv-05373-RS, a certified multistate class action involving bamboo floors, and *Fowler v. Wells Fargo*, N.D. Cal. No. 3:17-cv-02092-HSG, a class action involving interest charges that settled for \$30 million. In addition, he is also currently serving on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the *In re Philips CPAP MDL Litigation*, where he is co-chair of the Law and Briefing Committee.

**Jean Sutton Martin.** Ms. Martin presently serves by appointment as interim co-lead counsel in, *Combs, et al. v. Warner Music Group*, Case No. 1:20-cv-07473-PGG (S.D.N.Y.), *In Re: Ambry Genetics Data Breach Litigation*, No. 20-cv-00791 (C.D. Cal.), and *Johnson, et al. v. Yuma Regional Medical Center*, 2:22-cv-01061-SMB (D. Ariz.). She also serves as a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for the cases proceeding against LabCorp, Inc. in *In re: American Medical Collection Agency Data Breach Litigation*, 19-md-2904 (D. N.J.) and a steering committee member *In re: Allergan Biocell Textured Breast Implant Products Liability Litigation*, No. 19-md-2921 (D. N.J.).

In a case in which she serves as interim co-lead counsel, Ms. Martin argued a motion for class certification which resulted in the first order in the country granting Rule 23(b)(3) certification in a consumer payment card data breach. *In re Brinker Data Incident Litig.*, No. 3:18-CV-686-TJC-MCR, 2021 WL 1405508 (M.D. Fla. Apr. 14, 2021).

She has served in leadership positions in many consumer class actions and consolidated

proceedings in federal courts around the country, including *inter alia*: *In re Morgan Stanley Data Security Litigation*, 1:20-cv-05914 (S.D.N.Y.) (\$68 million settlement for 15 million class members); *Aguallo, et al. v. Kemper Corp., et al.*, Case No.: 1:21-cv-01883 (N.D. Ill.) (data breach settlement valued at over \$17.5 million) (co-lead counsel); *Gordon, et al. v. Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc.*, No. 17-cv-01415 (D. Colo.) (data breach) (co-lead counsel); *Linnins v. HAECO Americas, Inc., et al.*, No. 16-cv-486 (M.D.N.C.) (employee data disclosure) (co-lead counsel); *Torres v. Wendy's International, LLC*, No. 6:16-cv-210 (M.D. Fla.) (data breach) (class counsel); *Fuentes, et al. v. UniRush, LLC, et al.*, No. 1:15-cv-08372 (S.D.N.Y.) (disruption in servicing of financial accounts) (co-lead counsel); *Lewis, et al., v. Green Dot Corp., et al.*, No. 2:16-cv-03557 (C.D. Cal.) (disruption in servicing of financial accounts) (class counsel); *Brady, et al. v. Due North Holdings, LLC, et al.*, No. 1:17-cv-01313 (S.D. Ind.) (employee data disclosure) (class counsel); *Foreman v. Solera Holdings, Inc.*, No. 6:17-cv-02002 (M.D. Fla.) (employee data disclosure) (class counsel); *In Re: Outer Banks Power Outage Litigation*, No. 4:17-cv-141 (E.D.N.C.) (extended island power outage due to defective construction practices) (class counsel); and, *McCoy v. North State Aviation, LLC, et al.*, No. 17-cv-346 (M.D.N.C.) (WARN Act violations) (class counsel).

In addition to consumer class actions, Ms. Martin has practiced in the areas of mass tort and catastrophic personal injury litigation. Prior to joining Morgan and Morgan, Ms. Martin ran her own law firm concentrating in consumer class actions and mass tort litigation. She also has served as an adjunct professor at Wake Forest University School of Law.

Ms. Martin received her Juris Doctor degree from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1998, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Wake Forest Law Review*. She obtained eDiscovery certification from the eDiscovery Training Academy at Georgetown Law Center in 2017. Ms. Martin graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Economics in 1989. She earned a Master of International Business from the University of South Carolina in 1991.

Ms. Martin has been honored with the prestigious "AV" rating by Martindale-Hubbell. In 2016, Ms. Martin was selected by her peers as the foremost Litigation attorney in the State of North Carolina for *Business North Carolina Magazine's Legal Elite*, gaining membership in the *Legal Elite* Hall of Fame. In 2015, she was inducted as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, a prestigious trial lawyer honorary society comprised of less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers. Fellows are selected based upon excellence and accomplishment in litigation, both at the trial and appellate levels, and superior ethical reputation. For upholding the highest principles of the legal profession and for outstanding dedication to the welfare of others, Ms. Martin has also been selected as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honorary legal organization whose membership is limited to one third of one percent of

lawyers in each state. In 2022, she was recognized by LAW 360 as an MVP in the area of cybersecurity and data privacy.

Before entering law school, Ms. Martin worked with the sales finance team of Digital Equipment Company in Munich, Germany developing sales forecasts and pricing models for the company's expansion into the Eastern European market after the fall of the Berlin wall. She also worked as a practice management consultant for a physician consulting group and as a marketing manager for an international candy manufacturer where her responsibilities included product development, brand licensing, market research, and sales analysis.

Ms. Martin has been a presenter on a variety of topics related to class actions including: *Fantasy Gaming Webinar: FanDuel and DraftKings Litigation*, AAJ (December 2015); *Thinking Outside the Black Box: Drug Cases in the Class Context*, Mass Torts Made Perfect (October 2019); *Mass Torts and MDLs*, Western Alliance Class Action Forum (March 2020); *Consumer Class Actions*, Western Alliance Class Action Forum (March 2022); *How to Maximize Efficiency in Document Production and Review*, Mass Torts Made Perfect (April 2022).

Ms. Martin is a member of the North Carolina bar, having been admitted in 1998. She is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Federal Claims, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts of North Carolina, and the United States District Court of Colorado.

**Marcio Valladares.** Mr. Valladares was born in Managua, Nicaragua and immigrated to the United States during Nicaragua's civil war. In 1990, Marcio obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from the University of Florida. In 1993, he obtained his Juris Doctor degree, *magna cum laude*, from Florida State University. He is pursuing a Masters in Law (LL.M.) degree from Columbia University, focusing on federal and comparative law.

Before joining Morgan & Morgan, Marcio worked in both the public and private sectors. He served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Steven D. Merryday, United States District Judge, Middle District of Florida, and then served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Susan H. Black, United States Circuit Court Judge, Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Marcio served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida. In the private sector, Marcio practiced commercial litigation and insurance defense at Holland & Knight LLP. Marcio also worked as in-house counsel for the Mayo Clinic. Marcio is fluent in English and Spanish.

**Marie Noel Appel.** Ms. Appel has dedicated her career to representing consumers in both individual and class action cases involving claims under consumer protection laws and other

statutory and common law claims. She earned a B.A. in French from San Francisco State University in 1992 and graduated from University of San Francisco School of Law in 1996.

For most of her career, Ms. Appel has been in private practice litigating class claims related to defective products, mortgage fraud/Truth in Lending violations, unfair business practices relating to manufactured home sales, interest overcharges by the United States on military veterans' credit accounts, and statutory violations by the United States relating to offset of debts beyond the limitations period.

From 2012 to 2019, Ms. Appel left private practice to become the Supervising Attorney of the Consumer Project at the Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco which provides free legal services to low-income persons facing consumer issues. In April 2019, Ms. Appel returned to private practice as Counsel at Robins Kaplan, LLP, then joined Morgan & Morgan in August 2020 where she focuses on class action litigation.

In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Appel is an Adjunct Professor at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco where she teaches legal research and writing, and from 2011 to 2018 supervised students at the Consumer Rights Clinic, in which students performed legal work at the Justice & Diversity Center's Consumer Debt Defense and Education Clinics.

Ms. Appel has a long history of pro bono involvement and currently is a regular volunteer at the Community Legal Assistance Saturday Program, a monthly free legal clinic sponsored by the Alameda County Bar Association. Ms. Appel provides trainings to San Francisco Bay Area legal aid attorneys regarding consumer collection defense and related matters, focusing recently on defense of lawsuits against low-income individuals for unpaid back rent resulting during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past, Ms. Appel has provided pro bono representation for numerous low-income consumers facing debt collection lawsuits, and volunteered regularly at free legal clinics through the Justice & Diversity Center in San Francisco which, on multiple years, designated her as one of the Outstanding Volunteers in Public Service.

Ms. Appel is admitted to practice in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and United States District Courts in the Central District of California; the Eastern District of California; the Northern District of California; and the Southern District of California.

**Kenya Reddy.** Ms. Reddy represents consumers in class action litigation. She graduated from Duke University in 1997 with a degree in political science. In 2000, she received her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. Prior to joining Morgan & Morgan, Ms. Reddy was a shareholder at Carlton Fields, P.A., where her primary areas of practice were

antitrust, complex civil litigation, class action defense, and business litigation. She also has experience in including labor and employment, products litigation, ERISA and employee benefits law, insurance, healthcare, and securities litigation.

Ms. Reddy has served as a law clerk for the Honorable Charles R. Wilson, United States Circuit Court Judge, Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the Honorable Anne C. Conway, former Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, the Honorable Mary S. Scriven, United States District Judge, Middle District of Florida, and the Honorable Karla R. Spaulding, United States Magistrate Judge, Middle District of Florida.

Ms. Reddy was a guest speaker in January 2019 at HarrisMartin's Marriott Data Breach Litigation Conference on the topic of standing in data breach cases. In October 2019, she presented on the topic of third-party litigation funding at the Mass Torts Made Perfect Conference.

Ms. Reddy is admitted to practice in the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Florida.

**Ryan Maxey.** Mr. Maxey grew up in Tampa, Florida. He attended the University of South Florida, where he obtained degrees in Computer Science and Philosophy. During and after his undergraduate education, Mr. Maxey developed software and databases for Amalie Oil Company, an automotive lubricant manufacturer located in the Port of Tampa. Mr. Maxey later attended law school at the University of Florida, graduating *order of the coif* in 2008.

From 2008 to 2011, Mr. Maxey served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Elizabeth A. Jenkins, United States Magistrate Judge, University of Florida. Mr. Maxey then worked at one of the country's largest law firms, Greenberg Traurig, for four years. In 2015, Mr. Maxey joined Morgan & Morgan's Business Trial Group as a lead attorney handling a variety of business litigation matters. Mr. Maxey later started his own law practice, litigating claims related to breach of contract, trade secret misappropriation, the FLSA, the FDCPA, and premises liability.

Mr. Maxey was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2008 and is also admitted to practice in the Middle District of Florida and the Southern District of Florida.

**Ryan J. McGee.** Mr. McGee was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. He studied business economics and history at the University of Florida, where he was a teaching assistant for technology classes in the business school, and received his law degree from Stetson University College of Law, where he was an editor on the *Stetson Law Review*, a research assistant for antitrust and consumer protection laws, and a teaching assistant for Stetson's trial advocacy program.

Ryan began his legal career as a state-appointed prosecutor, where he tried over 50 jury trials to verdict, mostly felonies, as well as a special prosecutor appointed to investigate police officers' deadly use-of-force and corruption within various law enforcement agencies. Ryan also served as a law clerk for two years for the Honorable Elizabeth A. Kovachevich, the former Chief United States District Judge, Middle District of Florida. Before joining Morgan & Morgan, Ryan's practice involved complex business disputes, antitrust, trade secret, data security, and class action investigations and defense-side litigation in state and federal courts across the country.

Since shifting his focus entirely to consumer class action representation, Ryan has been selected as a Florida Super Lawyer Rising Star in 2018 and 2019 in the field of Class Actions, and has extensive privacy and consumer fraud class action experience, having actively participated in the following litigations: *Brown v. Google LLC*, No. 4:20-cv-03664-YGR (N.D. Cal.); *Rodriguez v. Google LLC*, No. 3:20-cv-4688-RS (N.D. Cal.); *Stoll et al. v. Musculoskeletal Institute*, No. 8:20-cv-01798 (M.D. Fla.); *In re Morgan Stanley Data Security Litigation*, 1:20-cv-05914 (S.D.N.Y.); *In re: Capital One Consumer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 1:19-MD-2915-AJT (E.D. Va.); *Schmidt, et al., v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. 3:18-cv-05982 (N.D. Cal.); *In re Google Plus Profile Litigation*, No. 5:18-cv-06164 EJD (N.D. Cal.); *Kuss v. American HomePatient, Inc., et al.*, No. 8:18-cv-02348 (M.D. Fla.); *In re Equifax, Inc. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litigation*, No. 1:17-md-02800 (N.D. Ga.); *Morrow v. Quest Diagnostics, Inc.*, No. 2:17-cv-0948(CCC)(JBC) (D.N.J.); *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, No. 16-md-02752-LHK (N.D. Cal.); *In re: U.S. Office of Personnel Management Data Security Breach Litigation*, 1:15-mc-01394-ABJ (D.C.);

Ryan was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2009 and is also admitted to practice in the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Florida.

**Patrick Barthle.** Mr. Barthle was born and raised in Dade City, Florida. He attended the University of Florida where he was admitted to the Honors Program and graduated, *cum laude*, with a double major in History and Criminology in 2009. While at UF, Patrick was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and served as President of the Catholic Student Center. Patrick attended Washington and Lee University School of Law, graduating *summa cum laude* in 2012; where he was a Lead Articles Editor for the Wash. & Lee Law Review, a member of the Order of the Coif and the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society, and President of the W&L Law Families organization.

Before joining Morgan & Morgan in 2015, Patrick worked at one of the country's largest law firms, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, and then served as a judicial law clerk for two years to the Honorable Mary S. Scriven, United States District Judge, Middle District of Florida. Patrick has extensive privacy and consumer fraud class action experiencing, having actively participated in

the following litigations: *In re: Capital One Consumer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 1:19-MD-2915-AJT (E.D. Va.); *In re: U.S. Office of Personnel Management Data Security Breach Litigation*, 1:15-mc-01394-ABJ (D.C.); *Torres v. Wendy's International, LLC*, No. 6:16-cv-210 (M.D. Fla.); *Morrow v. Quest Diagnostics, Inc.*, No. 2:17-cv-0948 (Dist. NJ); *In Re: Equifax, Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, 1:17-md-2800-TWT (N.D. Ga.); *In re The Home Depot, Inc. Customer Data Security Data Breach Litigation*, No. 1:14-md-02583-TWT (N.D. Ga.); *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, 16-md-02752-LHK (N.D. Cal.); and *Finerman v. Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc.*, Case No.: 3:14-cv-1154-J-32MCR (M.D. Fla.).

Patrick was selected as a Florida Super Lawyer Rising Star in 2019 in the field of Class Actions. He is also active in speaking on privacy and class action topics, having spoken in June 2018, at the NetDiligence Cyber Risk Summit on the topic of Unauthorized Use of Personal Data; in November 2018 at the American Association for Justice's Advanced 30(b)(6) Seminar, on the topic of 30(b)(6) Depositions in in Data Breach Cases; and in January 2019 at HarrisMartin's Marriott Data Breach Litigation Conference on that topics of damage models and settlements in data breach cases; and Rule 23(c)(4) classes at the Mass Torts Made Perfect conference.

Mr. Barthle was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2012 and is also admitted to practice in the Middle District of Florida, the Southern District of Florida, and the District of Colorado.

**Francesca Kester Burne.** Ms. Burne was born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She attended Marywood University, where she graduated with a major in English Literature, and The Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctor degree in 2017. While at Dickinson, Ms. Burne competed in the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition, where she was awarded the highest honor for her legal brief writing, and the Texas Young Lawyer's National Trial Competition, where she finished as a regional finalist. Ms. Burne also served as Executive Chair of the Dickinson Law Moot Court Board, Founder of the Dickinson Law partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Student Director of the Bethesda Mission Men's Shelter legal clinic. At graduation, she was honored with the D. Arthur Magaziner Human Services Award for outstanding academic achievement and service to others, the Joseph T. McDonald Memorial Scholarship for excellence in trial advocacy, and the peer-selected Lee Popp Award for her devotion to the legal field.

Ms. Burne interned as a judicial clerk to United States Magistrate Judge Martin C. Carlson while in law school. After graduation, she served for two years as a law clerk to the Honorable James M. Munley in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Burne now focuses her class action practice on data privacy and products liability, having actively participated in *Aguallo, et al. v. Kemper Corp., et al.*, Case No.: 1:21-cv-01883 (N.D. Ill.) (data breach settlement valued at over \$17.5million); *Gordon, et al. v. Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc.*,

No. 17-cv-01415 (D. Colo.) (data breach); *Combs, et al. v. Warner Music Group*, Case No. 1:20-cv-07473-PGG (S.D.N.Y.) (data breach); *In re Morgan Stanley Data Security Litigation*, 1:20-cv-05914 (S.D.N.Y.) (data disclosure), and *In Re: Ambry Genetics Data Breach Litigation*, No. 20-cv-00791 (C.D. Cal.) (data disclosure); *In re: American Medical Collection Agency Data Breach Litigation*, 19-md-2904 (D. N.J.) (data breach); *In re: Allergan Biocell Textured Breast Implant Products Liability Litigation*, No. 19-md-2921 (D. N.J) (products). Ms. Burne served as settlement class counsel in *Portier, et al. v. Neo Technology Solutions, et al.*, No. 3:17-cv-30111 (D. Mass.) (data breach).

Ms. Burne is admitted to practice law in both Pennsylvania and Florida as well as various federal courts throughout the country.

**Ra O. Amen.** Mr. Amen was raised in both the California Bay Area and Massachusetts. In 2005, Ra graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. in Economics. After graduating, Ra worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco teaching English as a second language and business skills to local artisans. Before entering law school, Ra worked for several years in education and in business development for a mobile technology startup. In 2017, he obtained his Juris Doctor degree with Honors from Emory University School of Law. While at Emory Law, he was a Managing Editor of the Bankruptcy Developments Journal, interned at a consumer fraud law practice, and worked in-house with one of the globe's leading metals companies assisting in a diverse array of legal issues ranging from corporate restructuring to international tax and contract disputes. Before joining Morgan & Morgan in 2020, Mr. Amen worked at one of the nation's largest defense law firms in the nation where he specialized in representing clients in complex commercial, administrative, and ecclesiastical disputes.

Ra speaks both English and Spanish, and is an avid guitar player.

Ra was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 2017.

**David Reign.** Mr. Reign is the former Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Tampa FBI Field office, with nearly 25 years of investigative experience. He has investigated and managed some of the FBI's most complex white-collar crime cases, with an emphasis on health care fraud, public corruption, and financial crimes. As Deputy Chief of the Enron Task Force, he led a team of investigators and analysts in the successful investigation and prosecution of several executives of the Enron Corporation. He received the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service for his work on the Enron matter.



**UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 21-CV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, *individually and  
as legal guardian of N.D. and M.D. and  
all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants,

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECLARATION OF M. ANDERSON BERRY  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
FEE AWARD AND LITIGATION COSTS**

I, M. Anderson Berry, pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, hereby declares as follows:

1. I submit this Declaration in connection with and in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Fee Award and Litigation Costs.

2. I am the head of the Complex Litigation Group at Clayeo C. Arnold, A Professional Law Corporation dba Arnold Law Firm (the "Arnold Law Firm"). I have been licensed to practice law in the state of California since 2009. I am admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts for Northern, Eastern, Central, and Southern Districts of California, the Northern District of Illinois, the Eastern District of Michigan and the Southern District of Indiana. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Fee Award and Litigation Costs.

The following facts are within my personal knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to them.

3. The principal counsel at the Arnold Law Firm is Clayeo C. Arnold, who has practiced civil litigation on behalf of consumers and individuals in California since 1975. The firm generally employs ten attorneys practicing in the areas of consumer class action, *qui tam*, employment, labor, and personal injury litigation. I head the Complex Litigation Group, specifically *qui tam* and data breach class action matters. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is the firm resume of the Arnold Law Firm.

4. The Arnold Law Firm attorneys have a long history of successfully handling class actions across a range of industries, including data breach cases. I bring substantial experience in complex litigation matters with a history of litigating in an efficient and practical manner, including as Co-Lead Class Counsel in numerous data breach class actions.

5. I was first selected as the Northern California Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2015 in the field of complex civil litigation. Before joining the Arnold Law Firm in 2017, I worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. As part of the DOJ's Affirmative Civil Enforcement unit, I handled a wide variety of complex cases, recovering millions of dollars for the United States.

6. Before working for the Department of Justice, I practiced at one of the world's largest law firms, Jones Day, where I represented clients in international arbitration and complex commercial litigation, including defending class action allegations.

7. I attended the University of California, Berkeley, as an undergraduate and for law school.

8. I have an extensive background in privacy and consumer/government fraud litigation, actively participating in a currently sealed False Claims Act case involving widespread cybersecurity fraud upon the United States. I have litigated more than seventy class action cases across the country involving data breaches, including the following recent matters in which I have a leadership position: *In re: Mednax Servs., Inc., Customer Data Security Breach Litig.*, No. 21-MD-02994 (S.D. Fla.) (Executive Comm.); *In Re: Snap Finance Data Breach*, No. 2:22-cv-00761-TS-JCB (D.UT.) (Co-Lead Counsel); *Holmes v. Elephant Insurance Company, et al.*, No. 3:22-cv-00487-JAG (E.D.VA.) (Co-Lead Counsel); *In Re: Arthur J. Gallagher Data Breach Litigation*, No. 1:21-cv-04056 (N.D.Ill. filed Sept. 27, 2021) (Co-Lead Counsel); *Rossi v. Claire's Stores*, No. 1:20-cv-05090 (N.D. Ill. filed Aug. 28, 2020) (Co-Lead Counsel) (settled); *In re: CaptureRx Data Breach Litigation*, No. 5:21-cv-00523 (W.D.TX filed June 2, 2021) (Co-Lead Counsel) (settled); *Riggs v. Kroto, Inc.*, No. 1:20-cv-5822 (N.D. Ill. filed Sept. 30, 2020) (Co-Lead Counsel) (settled); and *A.A. ex rel. Altes v. AFTRA Ret. Fund*, No. 1:20-cv-11119 (S.D.N.Y. filed Dec. 31, 2020) (Co-Lead Counsel).

9. I am on the Executive Committee for this matter. My law firm and I were fully and unequivocally committed to this action and the prosecution of this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. The formidable resources and experience of the counsel involved in this matter, combined with our substantial data privacy and class litigation experience, allowed us to achieve a favorable result for the class of consumers who were affected by the Data Incident which is the subject of this suit.

10. The tasks undertaken by my firm in this action include, among other things, investigating the claims, both before and after filing the initial complaint (including calls and correspondence with over twenty potential plaintiffs and numerous class members contacting us

for advice and status updates); researching underlying issues of law and drafting the initial complaint; coordinating with other plaintiffs' counsel regarding consolidation and leadership issues; assisting with the plaintiff vetting project for the consolidation; assisting in drafting the consolidation motion; assisting in revising the leadership motion; assisting in drafting the consolidated complaint; attending telephone conference with the Court; assisting in strategy discussions regarding mediation and settlement; vetting and coordinating with the selection of the settlement administrator; and fielding calls and emails from class members during the notice period.

11. My firm kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation.

12. My local counsel in this matter is John W. Devine of Devine Goodman & Rasco, LLP, located in Coral Gables, Florida. Devine Goodman was fully and unequivocally committed to this action and the prosecution of this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. Devine Goodman kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation, and reported their hours to me on a monthly basis.

13. The tasks undertaken by Devine Goodman in this action include, among other things, investigating the claims before the filing of the initial complaint; assisting in revising the complaint; finalizing the complaint, preparing it for filing, and filing the complaint; receipt and review of summonses and arranging for service of same; arranging for *pro hac vice* admission for Arnold Law Firm attorneys; service on defendant; fielding calls and emails from potential class members; and advising Arnold Law Firm attorneys as local rules.

14. Below is a summary of the hours billed by each timekeeper of my firm and Devine Goodman, their positions, and hourly rates:

<b>Billor Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Years in Practice</b>	<b>Hours Billed</b>	<b>Lodestar</b>
M. Anderson Berry (ALF)	Attorney	\$800	15 yrs	36.5	\$29,200.00
Leslie Guillon (ALF)	Attorney	\$675	21 yrs	6.30	\$4,252.50
Gregory Haroutunian (ALF)	Attorney	\$675	11 yrs	2.10	\$1,417.50
Alex Sauerwein (ALF)	Attorney	\$400	3 yrs	9.70	\$3,880.00
John W. Devine (DGR)	Attorney	\$525	36 yrs	1.00	\$525.00
Robert J. Kuntz (DGR)	Attorney	\$475	27 yrs	7.20	\$3,420.00
Olya Velichko (ALF)	Paralegal	\$243	6 yrs	13.50	\$3,280.50
<b>Total</b>				<b>76.30</b>	<b>\$45,975.50</b>

15. In my judgment and based on my experience in complex class action litigation and other litigation, the number of hours expended, and the services performed by my firm and Devine Goodman, were reasonable and necessary for the representation of Plaintiffs.

16. I have general familiarity with the range of hourly rates typically charged by plaintiffs’ class action counsel in the geographical area where my firm practices and throughout the United States, both on a current basis and historically. From that basis, I am able to conclude that the rates charged by my firm are commensurate with those prevailing in the market for such legal services furnished in complex class action litigation such as this. My firm’s hourly rates were most recently approved by the following Courts: *Bowdle v. King’s Seafood Co., LLC*, No. 8:21-cv-01784-CJC (C.D. Ca., Feb. 13, 2023), *Pagan, et al. v Faneuil, Inc.*, No. 3:22-cv-00297 (E.D. Va., Feb. 17, 2023); and *Rossi v. Claire’s Stores*, No. 1:20-cv-05090 (N.D. Ill., Sept. 27, 2022).

17. My firm has also incurred \$1,256.61 in expenses, consisting of the following categories of costs:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Online Research	\$405.12
Reproduction/Duplication	\$22.00
Telephone/Conference Calls	\$14.99
Postage	\$87.50
Court & Filing Fees	\$602.00
Service on Defendants	\$ 125.00

Category	Costs
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,256.61</b>

18. The expenses pertaining to this action are reflected in the books and records of my firm. These books and records are prepared from expense vouchers, check records, invoices, and other documents maintained in the ordinary course of litigation and the business operations of the firm.

19. As set forth in the attached firm resume (**Exhibit A**), the lawyers in my firm have considerable experience in class actions and have litigated to resolution many large data breach and privacy cases. We have active litigation practices. The time and effort we devoted to this case would have been spent on other cases but for our commitment to Plaintiffs and their claims.

20. It is my considered opinion as an experienced class action lawyer that the requested attorneys' fees and costs are reasonable and appropriate.

21. I respectfully request that the Court award the requested unopposed attorneys' fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023, in Sacramento, California.



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M. Anderson Berry

# Exhibit A



## **Arnold Law Firm Biography**

### **Sacramento Office**

865 Howe Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
916-777-7777  
916.239.4778 (d)  
415.595.3302 (c)

### **Los Angeles Office**

6200 Canoga Ave, Ste 375,  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
Phone: 747.777.7748

**[justice4you.com](http://justice4you.com)**



Founded in 1975 by Clayeo C. Arnold, the Arnold Law Firm is a litigation-oriented practice in Sacramento, California. In keeping with its founding principles, our firm consciously works for the interests of individual people and small businesses — not for large corporations or insurance companies.

The Arnold Law Firm prosecutes class action, mass tort, *qui tam*, product defect, employment, and personal injury cases. We pride ourselves on being a practice of trial lawyers, typically trying a minimum of ten cases per year to verdict. In addition to our practice throughout the state of California in both state and federal courts, we pursue class action, *qui tam* and multi-district litigation claims on a nationwide basis.

Our team of nine attorneys collectively encompass a broad, diverse professional background, including plaintiff contingency work, public entity representation, criminal defense, and civil defense. We have current and past board members of Capital City Trial Lawyers Association, as well as members of numerous prestigious professional organizations, including the American Board of Trial Advocates, American Association for Justice, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and Consumer Attorneys of California.

Our firm's operating structure is based on teams directed towards specific practice areas. These teams regularly and intentionally collaborate and exchange information between their practice areas to improve the quality of representation for all of our clients.





## **Arnold Law Firm Biography**

(continued)

Over four decades the Arnold Law Firm has developed a respected and extensive network of co-counsel and experienced contract counsel to rapidly expand our capabilities as necessary on an *ad hoc* basis (e.g., document review). We employ a robust staff of highly qualified, experienced assistants and paralegals to ensure that attorney time is spent in the most efficient manner possible.

The Arnold Law Firm employs technology to increase productivity, resulting in lower hourly billing, even though adverse parties eventually pay those bills. The firm increases efficiencies by using template software, client management software, and secure internet-based client management for mass tort or multi-plaintiff litigation. We also invest in appropriate billing and tracking software for contemporaneous hourly record keeping.

The Arnold Law Firm places substantial value on representing clients in a manner that is both effective and courteous. Integrity with clients, the courts, and adverse counsel are all considered to be as indispensable as successful results.

Our highly accomplished counsel has a long history of successfully handling class actions across a range of industries, including data breach cases.



## M. Anderson Berry Biography



The Arnold Law Firm has a proven track record of success and the ability to work efficiently and cooperatively with others. In addition, our firm has the availability and resources necessary to litigate complex class actions.

### M. Anderson Berry

M. Anderson Berry heads the data breach complex litigation and *qui tam* practices for the Arnold Law Firm. He brings substantial experience in complex litigation matters with a history of litigating in an efficient and practical manner, including Lead Class Counsel, Co-Lead Class Counsel, and Plaintiff's Executive Committee.

Mr. Berry has an extensive background in privacy and consumer/government fraud litigation, actively participating in a currently sealed False Claims Act case involving widespread cybersecurity fraud upon the United States, and the class action litigations filed in federal courts across the nation, set out below.

Mr. Berry was first selected as the Northern California Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2015 in the field of complex civil litigation.

Before joining the Arnold Law Firm in 2017, Mr. Berry worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. As part of the Affirmative Civil Enforcement unit, Mr. Berry handled a wide variety of complex cases, recovering millions of dollars for the United States.

Before working for the Department of Justice, Mr. Berry practiced at one of the world's largest law firms, Jones Day, where he represented clients in international arbitration and complex commercial litigation, including defending class action allegations.



## M. Anderson Berry Biography

(continued)

Mr. Berry attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he majored in English and graduated with highest honors. Anderson was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and served as President of the English Undergraduate Associate.

After working as a private investigator for both criminal and civil investigations in the San Francisco Bay Area, Anderson graduated from U.C. Berkeley School of Law, where he was a Senior Editor for both the *Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law* and *Berkeley Journal of International Law*.

He was admitted to the California Bar in 2009 and is admitted to practice in the Northern, Eastern, Southern and Central Districts of California. Mr. Berry is also admitted to practice in the Northern District of Illinois, the Eastern District of Michigan and the Southern District of Indiana.

Mr. Berry was raised in Moraga, California.

### Select Data Breach Cases

*In Re: Snap Finance Data Breach*, 2:22-cv-00761-TS-JCB  
(D.UT.) (Co-Lead Counsel)

*Holmes v. Elephant Insurance Company, et al.*, 3:22-cv-  
00487-JAG (E.D. VA.) (Co-Lead Counsel);

*In Re: Arthur J. Gallagher Data Breach Litigation*, 1:21-cv-  
-04056 (N.D.Ill.) (Co-Lead Counsel);

*In Re: CaptureRx Data Breach Litigation*, 5:21-cv-00523  
(W.D.TX.)(Co-Lead Counsel) (settled);

*Rossi v. Claire's Stores*, 1:20-cv-05090 (N.D. Ill.) (Co-Lead  
Counsel) (settled);

*Desue v. 20/20 Eye Care Network, Inc. et al.*, 0:21-cv-  
61275 (S.D. Fla.) (Executive Comm.);

*In re: Mednax Services, Inc. Customer Data Security  
Breach Litigation*, 21-MD-02994 (S.D. Fl.) (Executive  
Comm.);



**M. Anderson Berry  
Biography**

(continued)

*Hashemi et al. v. Bosley, Inc.*, 2:21-cv-00946 (CD. Cal.)  
(Class Counsel) (settled);

*Heath et al. v. Insurance Technologies Corp et al.*,  
3:21-cv-01444 (N.D. Tex.) (Class Counsel) (settled);

*Gilbert v. AFTRA Retirement Fund et al*, 1:20-cv-10834-  
ALC (S.D.N.Y.) (Co-Lead Counsel);

*Carrera Aguallo et al. v. Kemper Corporation et al.*,  
1:21-cv-01883 (N.D. Ill.) (Class Counsel) (settled);

*Ahn et al. v. Herff Jones, LLC*, 1:21-cv-01381 (S.D. Ind.)  
(settled);

*Bitmouni v. Paysafe Limited*, 3:21-cv-00641-JCS  
(N.D. Cal.);

*Edke v. Belden, Inc.*, 2021CH00047 (E.D.Mo.);

*Marcaurel et al. v. USA Waste-Management Resources,  
LLC et al.*, 4:21-cv-02027 (S.D. Tex.) (settled).

*Gaston v. FabFitFun, Inc.*, 2:20-cv-09534 (C.D. Cal.)  
(Class Counsel) (settled);

*Hamid et al. v. Canon, U.S.A., Inc. et al.* 1:20-cv-06380-  
AMD-SJB (E.D.N.Y.);

*In Re: Ambry Genetics Data Breach Litigation*,  
8:20-cv-00791 (C.D. Cal.) (settled);

*In Re: Hanna Andersson and Salesforce.com Data Breach  
Litigation*, 3:20-cv-00812-EMC (N.D. Cal.) (Co-Lead  
Class Counsel) (settled);

*In Re: Morgan Stanley Data Security Litigation*,  
1:20-cv-05914 (S.D.N.Y.) (settled);

*Pfeiffer et al. v. RadNet, Inc.*, 2:20-cv-09553-RGK-SK  
(C.D. Cal.)(Class Counsel) (settled);

*Thomsen v. Morley Companies, Inc.*, 1:22-cv-10271-TLL  
(E.D. Mi.) (settled);

*In re Lakeview Loan Servicing Data Breach Litigation*,  
1:22-cv-20955-DPG (S.D. Fl.);

*Myron Schellhorn et al v. Timios, Inc.*, 2:21-cv-08661-VAP  
-JC (C.D. Ca.) (settled).

UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No. 21-CV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, *individually and  
as legal guardian of N.D. and M.D. and  
all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants,

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECLARATION OF BRYAN L. BLEICHNER  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
FEE AWARD AND LITIGATION COSTS**

Bryan L. Bleichner, pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am a shareholder of Chestnut Cambronne PA and am one of the attorneys personally involved in the litigation of this matter.

2. This Firm is one counsel of record for Plaintiffs, and I was appointed Interim Co-Lead Counsel in this matter by the Court on July 14, 2021, Dkt. No. 29.

3. I submit this Declaration in connection with and in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Fee Award and Litigation Costs.

4. My law firm and I were fully and unequivocally committed to this action and the prosecution of this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. The formidable resources and experience of the counsel involved in this matter, combined with our substantial data privacy and

class litigation experience, allowed us to achieve a favorable result for the class of consumers who were affected by the Data Incident which is the subject of this suit.

5. The tasks undertaken by my firm in this action were as follows: (a) a factual investigation and analysis in connection with researching and drafting the initial complaint; (b) participation in telephone conferences with co-counsel to discuss case strategy; (c) drafting and negotiating with Defendants' Counsel a pretrial scheduling order; (d) researching, drafting, and responding to Defendants' motion to dismiss; (e) researching and drafting a mediation statement, attending mediation, and negotiating a settlement of this action; (f) discussions with co-counsel regarding this action and settlement negotiations of this action, and (g) obtaining preliminary approval of the Settlement from the Court.

6. My firm was the primary contact for Plaintiff Myrmaris Fraguada. We maintained regular communication with Mrs. Fraguada and kept her apprised of the progress of the litigation. Mrs. Fraguada was advised on her obligations as a class representative to select adequate and skilled counsel, to cooperate with counsel, and to place the interests of the class on a level equal to or above her own interests. Mrs. Fraguada has met and continues to meet these obligations, cooperating fully with counsel to fulfill her fiduciary duties to the Class.

7. Mrs. Fraguada did everything asked of her in the course of this litigation. Her interests in the litigation are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the Settlement Class. At all times, she has acted in the best interest of the Class in pursuit of this litigation.

8. My firm kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation.

9. Below is a summary of the hours billed by each timekeeper of my firm, their positions, and hourly rates:

<b>Billor Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Years in Practice</b>	<b>Hours Billed</b>	<b>Lodestar</b>
Bryan L. Bleichner	Partner	\$1,050	20	78.5	\$82,425.00
Jeffrey D. Bores	Partner	\$1,050	30	62.0	\$65,100.00
Gary K. Luloff	Partner	\$595	14	4.3	\$2,558.50
Philip J. Krzeski	Associate	\$595	6	2.8	\$1,666.00
Sheila M. Landry	Paralegal	\$295	N/A	1.4	\$413.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$152,162.50</b>

10. Similar billable rates charged by the attorneys and other professionals in my law firm as set forth above have been approved by other federal and state courts. *See, e.g., In Re Herff Jones Data Breach Litig.*, No. 1:21-cv-01329, Dkt. No. 73 (S.D. Ind. July 19, 2021)

11. My firm has also incurred \$351.00 in expenses in this litigation to date. Expenses include court filing fees, certificate of good standing, and lunch with co-counsel. The expenses pertaining to this action are reflected in the books and records of my firm. These books and records are prepared from expense vouchers, check records, invoices, and other documents maintained in the ordinary course of litigation and the business operations of the firm.


12. As set forth in the attached firm resume, the lawyers in my firm have considerable experience in class actions and have litigated to resolution many large data breach and privacy cases. We have active litigation practices. The time and effort we devoted to this case would have been spent on other cases but for our commitment to Plaintiffs and their claims.

13. It is my considered opinion as an experienced class action lawyer that the requested attorneys' fees and costs are reasonable and appropriate.

14. I respectfully request that the Court award the requested unopposed attorneys' fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



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Bryan L. Bleichner





## CHESTNUT CAMBRONNE FIRM RESUME

For over 50 years, Chestnut Cambronne PA has been representing clients in class action litigation both in the Twin Cities area and at a national level. Since its inception, Chestnut Cambronne has been engaged in complex litigation throughout the country and has successfully both prosecuted and defended class litigation addressing substantive legal questions in the fields of data security breaches, securities, ERISA, banking, antitrust, and consumer protection law. Representative class action cases in which the firm and its members have been involved with over the past several years include:

*Hale v. ARcare*, No. 3:22-cv-00117 (E.D. Ark.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against ARcare, an Arkansas healthcare network, alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*Hightower v. Receivables Performance Management, LLC*, No. 2:22-cv-01683 (W.D. Wash.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Receivables Performance Management, LLC, a Washington-based debt collection company, alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*Johnson v. Yuma Regional Medical Center*, No. 2:22-cv-01061 (D. Ariz.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Yuma Regional Medical Center, an Arizona healthcare network, and related entities alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*In Re: Pawn America Consumer Data Breach Litigation*, No. 21-cv-2544-PJS-HB (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Pawn America and related entities alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*In Re: Netgain Technology, LLC, Consumer Data Breach Litigation*, No. 21-cv-1210-SRN-LIB (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Netgain Technology alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*Lutz v. Electromed, Inc.*, No. 21-cv-2198-SRN-DTS (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Electromed alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Chestnut Cambronne is prosecuting the case with two additional plaintiffs' law firms.

*Baker v. Parkmobile, LLC*, No. 21-cv-2181-SCJ (N.D. Ga.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Parkmobile, LLC alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed to the Interim Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.

*DeSue v. 20/20 Eye Care Network, Inc.*, No. 21-cv-61275-RAR (S.D. Fla.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against 20/20 Eye Care Network alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*Garrett v. Herff Jones, LLC*, No. 21-cv-01329-TWP-DLP (S.D. Ind.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Herff Jones alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*In re EyeMed Vision Care, LLC Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 21-cv-00036-DRC (S.D. Ohio). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against EyeMed alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*In re Luxottica of America, Inc. Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 20-cv-00908-MRB (S.D. Ohio). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Luxottica alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed as Interim Co-Lead Counsel.

*Greenstate Credit Union v. Hy-Vee, Inc.*, No. 20-cv-00621-DSD-DTS (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against Hy-Vee alleging negligence and violations of the Minnesota Plastic Card Security Act in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner currently serves as co-counsel.

*Village Bank v. Caribou Coffee Company, Inc.*, No. 19-cv-01640-JNE-HB (D. Minn.). A recently settled class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against Hy-Vee alleging negligence and violations of the Minnesota Plastic Card Security Act in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner serves as court appointed settlement class counsel.

*Walker v. Nautilus, Inc.*, No. 20-cv-3414-EAS-EPD (S.D. Ohio). A pending consumer protection class action against Nautilus, Inc. alleging Defendant materially misrepresented the horsepower produced by the electric motors in its treadmills. Chestnut Cambronne currently serves as Plaintiffs' counsel.

*In re DPP Beef Litig.*, No. 20-cv-1319-JRT/HB (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of direct purchasers against beef product producers alleging claims of price fixing. Chestnut Cambronne serves as Plaintiffs' Counsel.

*Alicia Schaeffer v. Life Time Fitness, Inc. et al.*, No. 27-cv-20-10513 (Minn. 2020). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of group fitness instructors against Life Time Fitness, Inc. alleging Defendants refused to compensate Plaintiff and class members for work performed for their employer's benefit. Chestnut Cambronne currently serves as Plaintiffs' counsel.

*In re WaWa, Inc. Data Security Litig.*, No. 19-cv-6019-GEKP (E.D. Pa.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against WaWa, Inc. alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner serves on the Financial Institution Track Defendant Discovery and ESI Committee

*Teeda Barclay v. Icon Health & Fitness, Inc., et al.*, No. 19-cv-02970-ECT-DTS (D. Minn.). A pending consumer protection class action against Icon Health & Fitness and NordicTrack alleging Defendants materially misrepresented the horsepower produced by the electric motors in its treadmills. Bryan L. Bleichner currently serves as Plaintiffs' counsel.

*In re Resideo Technologies, Inc. Securities Litig.*, No. 19-cv-02863-WMW-KMM (D. Minn.). A pending shareholder class action against Resideo and its directors and officers for failing to disclose material information about its spin-off from Honeywell. Chestnut Cambronne serves as liaison counsel on this matter.

*Delamarter v. Supercuts, Inc.*, No. 19-3158-DSD-TNL (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Supercuts alleging violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act. Bryan L. Bleichner serves as Plaintiff's Counsel.

*Kenneth Peterson v. JBS USA Food Company Holdings, et al.*, No. 19-cv-1129-JRT-HB (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of indirect purchasers against beef product producers alleging claims of price fixing. Chestnut Cambronne served as Plaintiffs' Counsel.

*In re: FedLoan Student Loan Servicing Litigation*, No. 2:18-md-02833-CDJ (E.D. Pa.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of student loan borrowers against FedLoan Servicing / Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency alleging consumer fraud violations and other claims. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed to the Executive Committee.

*ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 Health Benefits Trust v. St. Jude Medical, LLC, et al.*, No. 18-cv-02124-DSD-HB (D. Minn.). A class action on behalf of a putative class of third party health benefits payors against St. Jude Medical and Abbott Laboratories alleging product liability and other claims. Chestnut Cambronne served as Plaintiffs' Counsel.

*In Re Pork Antitrust Litigation*, No. 18-cv-1776-JRT-HB (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of direct purchasers against pork product producers alleging claims of price fixing. Chestnut Cambronne currently serves as Plaintiffs' Counsel.

*James Bruner, et al. v. Polaris Industries Inc. et al.*, No. 18-cv-00939-WMW-DTS (D. Minn.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of consumers against Polaris Industries alleging product liability claims. Chestnut Cambronne was court appointed as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel.

*In re: Equifax, Inc., Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 17-md-2800-TWT (N.D. Ga.). A settled class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against Equifax alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed to the Financial Institution Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.

*Marie Travis v. Navient Corp. et al.*, No. 17-cv-04885-JFB-GRB (E.D.N.Y.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of student loan borrowers against Navient

Corp. alleging consumer fraud act violations and other claims. Bryan L. Bleichner serves as Plaintiffs' Counsel.

*Midwest Am. Fed. Credit Union v. Arby's Rest. Grp. Inc.*, No. 17-cv-00514-AT (N.D. Ga.). A pending class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against Arby's alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was appointed to the Interim Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

*Veridian Credit Union v. Eddie Bauer LLC*, No. 2:17-cv-00356 (W.D. Wash.). A settled class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against Eddie Bauer alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner served as Plaintiff's counsel.

*Bellwether Community Credit Union v. Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc.*, No. 17-cv-1102 (D. Colo.). A settled class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against Chipotle alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed to Chair of the Executive Committee.

*First Choice Fed. Credit Union et al. v. The Wendy's Company et al.*, No. 2:16-cv-00506 (W.D. Pa.). An ongoing class action on behalf of a putative class of financial institutions against Wendy's alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed to the Executive Committee.

*Gordon v. Amadeus IT Group, S.A.*, No. 1:15-cv-05457 (S.D.N.Y. July 14, 2015). A resolved putative class action alleging collusion and anticompetitive behavior among the companies that provide the systems used by travel agents to link to airline flight and fare information known as global distribution systems (GDS). Chestnut Cambronne served as Plaintiffs' Counsel in this litigation.

*In re: Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litigation*, No. 5:15-md-02617 (LHK) (N.D. Cal. March 13, 2015). A settled class action against Anthem alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach affecting in excess of 80 million consumers. Chestnut Cambronne served as Plaintiffs' Counsel in the litigation.

*Gassoway v. Benchmark Energy Transport Services, Inc.*, (S.D. Tex. February 23, 2015). A certified and settled class action case alleging Benchmark Energy Transport Services deducted and withheld an undisclosed surcharge from trucking owner-operators in violation of Federal Regulations. Chestnut Cambronne served as co-lead counsel for the certified class.

*In re: The Home Depot, Inc., Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 1:14-md-02583 (TWT) (N.D. Ga.). This is an ongoing putative class action against The Home Depot alleging negligence and other claims in a data security breach affecting 56 million consumers and tens of thousands of financial institutions. Bryan L. Bleichner was court appointed to the Financial Institution Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.

*In re: Target Corporation Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 0:14-md-02522 (PAM/JJK) (D. Minn. December 26, 2013). This is a settled class action against Target Corporation alleging negligence and violations of the Minnesota Plastic Card Security Act in a data security breach affecting 70 million consumers and tens of thousands of financial institutions. Chestnut Cambronne served as Co-Lead Counsel for the Financial Institution Class and Coordinating Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs.

*Christian v. National Hockey League*, No. 0:14-md-02551 (SRN/JSM) (D. Minn. April 15, 2014) This is a settled putative class action against the National Hockey League (NHL) alleging that the NHL ignored the known risks of concussive injuries and failed to safeguard its players. Chestnut Cambronne was court appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee.

*Puerta v. Tile Shop Holdings, Inc.*, No. 0:14-cv-00786 (ADM/TNL) (D. Minn. March 21, 2014). A settled shareholder class action against Tile Shop Holdings and its directors and officers for failing to disclose material information about a supplier relationship. Chestnut Cambronne served as liaison counsel on this matter.

*In re: Domestic Drywall Antitrust Litig.*, No. 2:13-md-2437; 939 F. Supp. 2d 1371 (E.D. Pa. 2013). This is an ongoing antitrust putative class action against domestic manufacturers of drywall alleging price-fixing. Chestnut Cambronne is acting as plaintiffs' counsel in this matter.

*Lucas v. SCANA Energy Marketing, Inc.*, No. 1:12-cv-02356 (SCJ) (N.D. Ga. Feb. 8, 2013). A settled consumer protection class action in which Chestnut Cambronne served as co-lead counsel.

*In re: Imprelis Herbicide Mktg., Sales Practices and Products Liability Litig.*, No. 2:11-md-02284 (GP) (E.D. Pa. Oct. 20, 2011). This is a settled products liability class action against the manufacturer of Imprelis Herbicide, DuPont. The class has recovered over \$378 million to date.

*Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Ass'n v. Medtronic, Inc.*, No. 08-6324 (PAM/AJB) (D. Minn. 2009); 618 F. Supp. 1016 (D. Minn. 2009); 278 F.R.D. 454 (D. Minn. 2011). This is a settled securities fraud class action in which Chestnut Cambronne was lead and liaison counsel. The class recovered \$80 million.

*In re: American Express Anti-Steering Rules Antitrust Litig. (No. II)*, MDL No. 2221, 764 F. Supp. 2d 1343 (E.D.N.Y. 2010). This is a settled class action alleging that Defendant American Express' policies prohibiting merchants from offering customers incentives to use a particular card or type of payment violated antitrust laws. The case is currently under appellate review before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

*Mooney v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of North America*, No. 06-545 (ADM/FLN); 2010 WL 419962 (D. Minn. Jan. 29, 2010). This was a certified class action in which Chestnut Cambronne was co-lead counsel seeking damages of \$2 billion. After a three-week trial, the jury concluded Allianz made false and misleading statements intentionally in violation of the statute, but did not award damages.

*In re United Healthcare, Inc. Shareholder Derivative Litig.*, 631 F.3d 913 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2011), *affirming* 631 F. Supp. 2d 1151 (D. Minn. 2009). This is a settled shareholder derivative case involving the backdating of stock options. Chestnut Cambronne served as lead counsel and recovered on behalf of the company a settlement valued at \$922 million. Today, it remains the largest recovery in a shareholder derivative case in United States history.

*San Francisco Health Plan v. McKesson Corp.*, No. 1:08-cv-10843 (D. Mass. May 20, 2008). A settled RICO and Clayton Act class action challenging the pricing of pharmaceutical drugs. The class recovered \$82 million. Chestnut Cambronne represented Plaintiff Anoka County.

*In re MoneyGram Int'l, Inc. Securities Litig.*, No. 08-cv-883 (DSD/JJG) (D. Minn. July 22, 2008); 626 F. Supp. 2d 947 (D. Minn. 2009). This is a settled securities fraud class action in which Chestnut Cambronne was co-lead counsel and recovered \$80 million for the class.

*Avritt v. Reliastar Life Ins. Co.*, No. 0:07-cv-01817 (JNE/JJG) (D. Minn. April 9, 2007). This is a settled class action that alleged Defendant defrauded consumers in the sale of its Fixed Annuities. Chestnut Cambronne served as local counsel and recovered \$31 million for the class.

*In re: Air Cargo Shipping Services Antitrust Litig.*, No. 1:06-md-01775 (JG/VVP) (E.D.N.Y. June 27, 2006). This is a partially settled class action alleging a price-fixing conspiracy by dozens of international air cargo carriers. To date over \$500 million has been recovered for the class.

*In re: Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litig.*, MDL No. 1720, 398 F. Supp. 2d 1356 (E.D.N.Y. 2005). A settled class action alleging that the rules Defendants Visa and MasterCard impose upon merchants violate antitrust laws. The case is currently on appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The current settlement value is in excess of \$7.25 billion.

*In re Xcel Energy, Inc. Sec. Derivative & "ERISA" Litig.*, 364 F. Supp. 980, 995-996 (D. Minn. 2005); *In re Xcel Energy Securities, Derivative & "ERISA" Litigation*, 286 F. Supp. 2d 1047 (D. Minn. 2003). This was a securities fraud class action in which Chestnut Cambronne was co-lead counsel. The class recovered \$80 million.

*Cooper v. Miller, Johnson, Steichen & Kinnard*, No. 0:02-cv-01236 (RHK/AJB) (D. Minn. June 5, 2002) This is a settled securities fraud class action in which Chestnut Cambronne served as lead counsel. The class recovered \$5.6 million.

*In Re E.W. Blanch Holdings, Inc. Securities Litig.*, No. 0:01-cv-00258 (JNE/JGL) (D. Minn. Feb. 12, 2001) This is a settled securities fraud class action in which Chestnut Cambronne served as lead counsel. The class recovered \$20 million.

*In re Blue Cross Subscriber Litig.*, No. 19-C3-98-7780 (Minn. Dist. Ct. 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.) This was a consumer protection class action on behalf of Blue Cross subscribers. Over \$41 million was recovered for Blue Cross policy holders. Chestnut Cambronne served as lead counsel.

*Alford v. Mego Mortgage Home Loan Owner Trust 1997-1; Mazur v. Empire Funding Home Loan Owner Trust 1997-1; and Banks, et al. v. FirstPlus Home Loan Trust 1996-2* (Minn. Dist. Ct. 4<sup>th</sup> Dist.). These are settled consumer-lending cases in which Chestnut Cambronne acted as co-lead counsel.

Chestnut Cambronne also has experience successfully defending class litigation.

*See, e.g., In re K-Tel*, 300 F.3d 881 (8th Cir. 2002); *Wylde v. Champps of New Brighton*, No. 10-



cv-4953 (ADM/JJK) (D. Minn. 2011); *Johnson v. BP America, Inc.* No. 12-cv-00417 (RHK/JSM) (D. Minn. 2012).

Not only do the results obtained in the above cases attest to the skill and competence of Chestnut Cambronne lawyers in shareholder litigation, various courts have publicly commended Chestnut Cambronne for its efforts:

Plaintiffs' co-lead counsel have significant experience in representing shareholders and shareholder classes in federal securities actions around the country and in this district in particular. Counsel-both the lawyers representing lead plaintiffs and defendants-conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. ... Thus, the effort of counsel in efficiently bringing this case to fair, reasonable and adequate resolution is the best indicator of the experience and ability of the attorneys involved, and this factor supports the court's award of 25%.

*In re Xcel Energy, Inc. Sec, Derivative & "ERISA" Litig*, 364 F. Supp. 980, 995 (D. Minn. 2005).

**UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 21-CV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, *individually and  
as legal guardian of N.D. and M.D. and  
all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants,

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS

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**DECLARATION OF NATHAN D. PROSSER  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
FEE AWARD AND LITIGATION COSTS**

Nathan D. Prosser, pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am a partner of Hellmuth & Johnson PLLC and am one of the attorneys personally involved in the litigation of this matter.

2. I submit this Declaration in connection with and in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Fee Award and Litigation Costs.

3. My law firm and I were fully and unequivocally committed to this action and the prosecution this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. The formidable resources and experience of the counsel involved in this matter, combined with our substantial data privacy and

class litigation experience, allowed us to achieve a favorable result for the class of consumers who were affected by the Data Incident which is the subject of this suit.

4. The tasks undertaken by my firm in this action were as follows: Drafting complaint, amended consolidated complaint, joint scheduling report, response to motion to dismiss, mediation statement, settlement agreement, responding to discovery, attend status conference, ongoing communications with Plaintiffs, and communications with class notice and administration companies.

5. My firm was the primary contact for Plaintiff David Runkle. We maintained regular communication with Mr. Runkle and kept him apprised of the progress of the litigation. Mr. Runkle was advised on his obligations as a class representative to select adequate and skilled counsel, to cooperate with counsel, and to place the interests of the class on a level equal to or above his own interests. Mr. Runkle has met and continues to meet these obligations, cooperating fully with counsel to fulfill his fiduciary duties to the Class.

6. Mr. Runkle did everything asked of him in the course of this litigation. His interests in the litigation are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the Settlement Class. At all times, he has acted in the best interest of the Class in pursuit of this litigation.

7. My firm kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation.

8. Below is a summary of the hours billed by each timekeeper of my firm, their positions, and hourly rates:

<b>Billor Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Years in Practice</b>	<b>Hours Billed</b>	<b>Lodestar</b>
Nathan D. Prosser	Partner	\$740	20	56.7	\$41,958.00
Lindsey A. Larson	Associate	\$430	4	2.3	\$989.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>59.0</b>	<b>\$42,947.00</b>

9. The billable rates charged by the attorneys and other professionals in my law firm as set forth above have been approved by other federal and state courts as follows: *Bechtel, et al. v. Fitness Equipment Services, LLC dba Sole Fitness* (S.D. Ohio), No. 1:19-cv-00726; *Walker v. Nautilus, Inc.* (S.D. Ohio), No. 2:20-cv-03414; *Al's Discount Plumbing, et al. v. Viega LLC* (M.D. Pa.), No. 1:19-cv-00159; *In re Interior Molded Doors Indirect Purchaser Antitrust Litigation* (E.D.Va.), No. 3:18-cv-00580.

10. My firm has not incurred any expense in this litigation to date.

11. As set forth in the attached firm resume, the lawyers in my firm have considerable experience in class actions and have litigated to resolution many large data breach and privacy cases. We have active litigation practices. The time and effort we devoted to this case would have been spent on other cases but for our commitment to Plaintiffs and their claims.

12. It is my considered opinion as an experienced class action lawyer that the requested attorneys' fees and costs are reasonable and appropriate.

13. I respectfully request that the Court award the requested unopposed attorneys' fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 in Edina, Minnesota.

/s/ Nathan D. Prosser

Nathan D. Prosser, Esq.



## HELLMUTH & JOHNSON CLASS ACTION LITIGATION

The Hellmuth & Johnson (“H&J”) complex class action litigation team of attorneys has represented clients in many of the most challenging antitrust, data breach, consumer fraud, mass tort, MDL, class action and complex business litigation cases in venues across the United States. Our experience successfully resolving high-profile, high-exposure cases includes matters involving price-fixing, data breaches, monopolization, unfair competition, consumer fraud, intellectual property, financial institutions, and sports law. H&J’s commitment to efficiency and efficacy is the cornerstone of client service that we provide in every matter.

H&J has recently earned from *Forbes* a “most recognized for” designation in “Antitrust and Competition Law.” In addition, H&J was recently named to the *Forbes* list of “America’s Top Trusted Corporate Law Firms” in the field of Antitrust and Competition Law.

Because we have represented both plaintiffs and defendants, our attorneys have developed keen insights and experience, which allow us to provide unique perspectives and strategies in the representation of our clients. We are better able to understand and anticipate the objectives and tactics of opposing counsel, giving our clients a distinct advantage. We are particularly adept at avoiding unnecessary tasks and expenses in pursuit of the most favorable outcomes. H&J clients appreciate our commitment to try cases only when necessary to achieve the best possible result. If a trial is inevitable, our extensive experience, especially in complex matters, gives us a decided strategic advantage and enables us to utilize lean staffing all while delivering exceptional service and consistent results.

Our complex litigation group attorneys offer experience and in-depth knowledge across a wide range of industries, and utilizes their subject-matter knowledge to determine how the specific needs of our clients in each case relate to the broader implications of any dispute. Our complex litigation team has extensive experience with careful and thorough investigation and evaluation of the facts and applicable law, and with novel approaches to help our clients achieve success.

### CONSUMER FRAUD / DATA BREACH / FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The H&J complex litigation group attorneys have represented consumers, investors, and others as plaintiffs in consumer fraud, data breach, securities fraud, financial services, unfair competition, unfair business practices, product liability, mass tort, property rights, and ERISA claims. While a significant portion of the class action cases are part of MDL or federal district

court proceedings, H&J attorneys are also commonly involved in state court class actions across the country.

### **Representative Experience of H&J Attorneys**

*In re Pawn America Consumer Data Breach Litigation*, Case No. 0:21-cv-02554 (D. Minn.). Appointed Interim Co-Lead counsel representing putative class of individuals whose highly sensitive personal data was exfiltrated in a cyber-security attack.

*In re Lakeview Loan Servicing Data Breach Litig.*, 1:22-cv-20955 (S.D. Fla.). Appointed to Plaintiffs' Law and Briefing/Class Certification Committee, representing a putative class of mortgage loan service customers damaged by a data breach of Defendants' network systems.

*In re Netgain Technology, LLC Consumer Data Breach Litigation*, 21-cv-01210 (D. Minn.). Appointed to Plaintiffs' Executive Committee member representing putative class of individuals whose highly sensitive personal data was exfiltrated in a cyber-security attack.

*Thomsen, et al. v. Morley Companies, Inc.*, 1:22-cv-10271 (E.D. Mich.). Member of plaintiff litigation group that successfully represented a class of individuals whose highly sensitive personal data was exfiltrated in a cyber-security attack.

*Desue, et al. v. 20/20 Eye Care Network, Inc., et al.*, 21-cv-61275 (S.D. Fla.). Appointed Executive Committee member representing putative class of individuals whose highly sensitive personal data was exfiltrated in a cyber-security attack.

*H&T Fairhills, Ltd., et al. v. Alliance Pipeline, L.P.*, Case No. 19-cv-01095 (D. Minn.). Lead counsel representing land interest holders in ND, MN, IA and IL in a class action involving the failure to pay those land interest holders compensation for damages caused by construction and maintenance of natural gas pipeline.

*Taqueria El Primo LLC et al. v. Farmers Ins., Co.*, 19-cv-03071 (D. Minn.). Represent certified class of Minnesota auto insurance consumers alleging violations of state consumer laws, breach of contract and declaratory judgment against defendant auto insurance provider for no-fault auto insurance violations in its sales practices.

*In re CenturyLink Residential Customer Billing Disputes Litigation*, MDL 1795 (D. Minn.). Executive committee member representing class for unlawful sales and billing practices in consumer fraud action.

*In re NHL Concussion Injury Litigation*, MDL 2551 (D. Minn.). Executive committee member representing retired players concerning the devastating long-term brain injuries including CTE, resulting from repeated concussive and sub-concussive blows sustained when playing in the NHL.

*In re Target Corporation Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, MDL 2522 (D. Minn.).

Member of lead counsel Daubert briefing team that successfully represented a class of individuals whose highly sensitive personal data was exfiltrated in a cyber-security attack.

*Haritos, et al. v. American Express Financial Advisors*, (D. Ariz.). Represented consumers who purchased financial plans tainted by conflicts of interest.

*In re Medtronic Securities Litigation*. (D. Minn.). Represented securities purchasers alleging misrepresentations and omissions regarding adverse outcomes relating to medical device.

*Menzel v. Beneficial Loan & Thrift Co.* (Minn. Dist. Ct.). Represented financial institutions in consumer class action by loan customers alleging improper addition of points to loan principal.

*Nathan, et al. v. Whirlpool Corp.*, 3:19-cv-00226 (D. Ohio). Represented putative class of consumers who purchased high performance KitchenAid blenders and allege violations of state consumer laws and breach of warranty claims for misrepresentations concerning the performance capabilities of its blenders.

*Barclay, et al., v. ICON Health & Fitness, Inc. et al.*, 0:19-cv-02970 (D. Minn.). Represent putative class of fitness equipment purchaser consumers alleging violations of state consumer laws and breach of warranty claims for misleading performance representations in the sale of treadmills.

*Bechtel v. Fitness Equipment Services, LLC*, 1:19-cv-00726 (N.D. Ohio). Represent putative class of fitness equipment purchaser consumers alleging violations of state consumer laws and breach of warranty claims for misleading performance representations in the sale of treadmills.

*Camden Asset Management, L.P. v. Sunbeam Corp.* (S.D. Fla.). Represented debenture holders in class action based on company's improper early recognition of sales to boost quarterly reported results.

## ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Our approach to antitrust matters is decidedly different from other firms. In addition to representing classes composed of individuals, businesses, and governmental entities, H&J has represented multi-national corporations, along with medium and small businesses as both plaintiffs and defendants. We are selective in the disputes we pursue and consistently position that litigation for success in the courtroom. H&J has found this approach yields the best results for our clients at the settlement table or at trial. We carefully consider the objectives and economic realities in every case, looking for the best way to achieve an outcome that meets the needs and expectations of our clients.

The experience and track record of our antitrust attorneys has been recognized in courts across the nation. We have reached settlements and judgments of approximately one billion dollars for our plaintiff clients, and we have successfully defended other clients in mitigating their

most significant exposures. We have substantial experience both settling and trying the most challenging antitrust cases.

### **Representative Experience of H&J Attorneys**

*In re Microsoft Antitrust Litigation*, (MDL 1332 and Multiple State Class Cases). Represented indirect purchaser antitrust class action in federal MDL, and appointed co-lead counsel in several states including Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin, to represent separate state classes of indirect purchasers for Microsoft's illegal monopolization of the markets for personal computer operating system, word processing and spreadsheet software. Consultant to Canadian counsel for the prosecution of a nationwide indirect purchaser class action against Microsoft. Settlements of these actions totaled nearly \$1 billion.

*In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation*, 16-cv-8637 (N.D. Ill.). Represent foodservice providers that purchased raw and processed chicken in case asserting coordinated supply cuts and price fixing.

*In re Interior Molded Doors Indirect Purchaser Antitrust Litigation*, 18-cv-850 (E.D. Va.). Represent consumers that purchased interior molded doors in case asserting coordinated price increases among purported competitors in price fixing conspiracy.

*In re Aftermarket Automotive Filters Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1957 (N.D. Ill.). Co-Lead counsel of indirect purchaser class.

*In re NCAA Athletic Grant-In-Aid-Cap Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 2541 (N.D. Cal.). Representation of student athletes to recover shortfalls from grants intended to cover the cost of college attendance.

*In re DRAM Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1486 (N.D. Cal.). Representation of a nationwide class of indirect purchasers for conspiracy to fix prices.

*In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1827 (N.D. Cal.). Representation of a nationwide class of indirect purchasers of LCD products, as flat panel televisions and computer monitors, in this multi-district antitrust class action filed against the world's leading manufacturers of thin-film transistor liquid crystal displays (TFT-LCD), and alleging that these companies engaged in a conspiracy to artificially inflate the prices of their LCD products.

*In re Suboxone Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 2445 (E.D. Pa.). Member of executive committee representing end-payors who alleged drug maker illegally sought to extend its drug monopoly and keep opiate addiction treatment off the market.

*State of New Mexico, et al., v. Visa, Inc., et al.* (New Mexico D. Ct., Santa Fe District). Special Assistant Attorney General to the State of New Mexico in case alleging payment card interchange fees violate state antitrust and consumer fraud laws.



*In re Midwest Milk Monopolization Litigation*, MDL 83 (W.D. Mo.). Represented milk cooperatives in defense of claims under Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act.

*In re Viega Copper Press Fitting Antitrust Litigation*, Case No. 1:19-cv-00159 (M.D. Pa.). Represented nationwide class of indirect purchasers for conspiracy to fix prices through the tying of carbon steel press fittings and copper press fittings under state antitrust and consumer fraud laws.

## PRODUCT LIABILITY

### Representative Experience of H&J Attorneys

*In re KIA Hyundai Vehicle Theft Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 3052 (C.D. Cal.). Representing a putative class of vehicle owners alleging KIA and Hyundai sold vehicles with substandard ignition security allowing thieves to bypass the ignition and start the vehicle without the keys inside.

*Tharpe v. Hyundai Motor Am., Inc.*, 8:21-cv-01428 (C.D. Cal.). Lead counsel representing a putative class of vehicle owners alleging Hyundai concealed and misrepresented a manufacturing defect causing the vehicle interior to emit a foul odor.

*In re Intel Corp. CPU Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability. Litigation*, MDL 2828 (D. Or.). Member of the Interim Plaintiffs' Steering Committee appointed to represent the interests of all Entity Plaintiffs nationwide for claimed security vulnerabilities in Intel's processors that may be exploited to permit unauthorized access to stored confidential information.

*In re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2672 (N.D. Cal.). Member of discovery team representing consumers defrauded by concealment of software which defeated clean air technology under normal vehicle operation.

## EMPLOYMENT LAW

H&J attorneys are at the forefront of cutting-edge employment issues in the context of class and collective action claims. We act intelligently and proactively every step of the way helping to identify the best options for resolving difficult and challenging conflicts and balancing the financial and emotional costs surrounding these disputes. Our experience in jurisdictions throughout the country involves success in settling and trying class claims involving independent contractor issues, ERISA, donning and doffing, discrimination, misclassification from overtime, and other wage and hour disputes.

### Representative Experience of H&J Attorneys

*In re FedEx Ground Package System Inc. Employment Practices Litigation*, MDL 1700 (N.D. Ind.). Member of Plaintiff's Steering Committee team representing misclassified package delivery

drivers nationwide. Successfully challenged FedEx's independent contractor model in multiple cases brought under federal and state wage and hour laws and ERISA, leading to multi-million dollar class and aggregate settlements.

*DeKeyser, et al. v. ThyssenKrupp Waupaca, Inc.*, 1:08-cv-00488 (E.D. Wisc.). Class counsel in wage and hour case challenging foundry's practice of not compensating workers for pre- and post-shift work.

*Garner, et al. v. Butterball, LLC, et al.*, 4:10-cv-01025 (E.D. Ark.) Class counsel for Arkansas poultry processing workers who were not paid for time spent performing work before and after paid shifts. Obtained \$4.25 million settlement and change in employer practices.

*Daud, et al. v. Gold'n Plump Poultry, Inc.*, 06-cv-4013 (D. Minn.). Successfully represented employees facing religious discrimination in the workplace, leading to a \$1.35 million settlement and change in practices.

*Frank, et al. v. Gold'n Plump Poultry, Inc.*, 04-cv-1018 (D. Minn.) Class counsel for Minnesota and Wisconsin poultry processing workers who were not paid for time spent performing work before and after paid shifts. Settlement resulted in change of practices and \$2.65 million monetary settlement for employees.

*Milner v. Farmers Ins. Exchange*, 27-cv-01-015004 (Hennepin County District Court). Represented class of Minnesota insurance claims adjusters misclassified as exempt from overtime laws. Jury found employer liable for misclassification; case settled after multiple appeals.



## Hellmuth & Johnson - Class Action Attorney Profiles

**Nathan D. Prosser** - Nate is a partner whose practice focuses on complex civil litigation and class actions. His experience includes disputes involving consumer protection, data breach, antitrust and unfair competition, products liability, securities/financial fraud, and general business litigation. Nate has represented individual consumers, small businesses in consumer, data breach and price fixing matters, shareholders, institutional investors, and individual investors in financial fraud matters involving false or misleading material statements against publicly traded corporations, as well as misappropriation of funds by financial advisors. He was recognized on the Minnesota Rising Stars list from 2008-2012.

Nate also has unique experience in legal administration services as an e-discovery consultant and in class action administration making him extremely knowledgeable in understanding litigation technology capabilities and the associated costs. He has been retained by law firms and corporations to consult on numerous e-discovery processes including information governance, legal hold processes, data collection, and the processing, review, and production of electronically stored information. He is also well versed in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23, due process notice requirements and best practices.

### Recent Representative Experience:

- *In re Pawn America Consumer Data Breach Litig.*, 21-cv-2554 (D. Minn.) (Interim Co-Lead Counsel);
- *Lutz v. Electromed, Inc.*, 21-cv-02198 (D. Minn.) (Interim Co-Lead Counsel);
- *In re Netgain Technologies, LLC Consumer Data Breach Litig.*, 21-cv-1210 (D. Minn.) (Exec. Committee);
- *Taqueria El Primo, et al. v. Illinois Farmers Ins. Co.*, 19-cv-3071 (D. Minn.) (Co-Lead Counsel);
- *Desue et al. v. 20/20 Eye Care Network, Inc.*, 21-cv-61275 (S.D. Fla.) (Exec. Committee);
- *Nathan, et al. v. Whirlpool, Corp.*, 19-cv-0226 (S.D. Ohio) (Co-Lead Counsel);
- *Bechtel et al. v. Fitness Equipment Services, LLC dba Sole Fitness*, 19-cv-0726 (S.D. Ohio) (Co-Lead Counsel);
- *Barclay, et al. v. ICON Health & Fitness*, 19-cv-2970 (D. Minn.) (Co-Lead Counsel).

### Education

- University of North Dakota School of Law, J.D., with distinction, 2003
- Concordia College (Moorhead), B.A., 1997

### Admitted

- Minnesota State Court
- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota
- U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

**Lindsey LaBelle Larson** - Lindsey is an associate attorney with Hellmuth & Johnson's litigation group where she focuses on complex civil litigation and consumer class action litigation. Lindsey is adept at understanding an issue from multiple perspectives and taking a calm, collected approach no matter how contentious that issue may be.

Lindsey joined the firm after clerking for the Criminal Presiding Judge of Minnesota's 4th Judicial District. Lindsey clerked jury trials and helped maintain court operations at the Hennepin County Government Center throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and months of civil unrest with a goal in mind: Equal access to justice.

Before law school, Lindsey was a journalist and worked as an assignment editor at Fox 9 - KMSP - you may have caught her on-air on the morning news or reporting breaking news from the assignment desk during evening broadcasts. She also worked as an editorial assistant for the Minnesota Timberwolves where she conducted player and coach interviews and wrote stories for the team website.

#### Education

- University of St. Thomas School of Law, J.D., 2019
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.A., 2012

#### Admitted

- Minnesota State Court
- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota

**UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 21-CV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, *individually and  
as legal guardian of N.D. and M.D. and  
all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants,

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECLARATION OF JOSEPH M. LYON  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
FEE AWARD AND LITIGATION COSTS**

I, Joseph M. Lyon, pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am Joseph M. Lyon of The Lyon Firm and am one of the attorneys personally involved in the litigation of this matter.

2. I submit this Declaration in connection with and in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Fee Award and Litigation Costs.

3. My law firm and I were fully and unequivocally committed to this action and the prosecution this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. The formidable resources and experience of the counsel involved in this matter, combined with our substantial data privacy and class

litigation experience, allowed us to achieve a favorable result for the class of consumers who were affected by the Data Incident which is the subject of this suit.

4. The tasks undertaken by my firm in this action were as follows: Complaint drafting, Plaintiff vetting, researching and drafting responses to the Motion to Dismiss, attending conference calls on mediation strategy, answering Class Representative and class members questions on the settlement, and assisting class members in claims submissions.

5. My firm represented lead Plaintiff Stephany Alcalá. We maintained regular communication with Ms. Alcalá. We kept her apprised of the progress of the litigation. Plaintiff Alcalá was advised of her obligations as a class representative to select adequate and skilled counsel, to cooperate with counsel, and to place the interests of the class on a level equal to or above her own interests. Plaintiff met and continues to meet these obligations, cooperating fully with counsel to fulfill her fiduciary duties to the Class.

6. Plaintiff Alcalá did everything asked of her in the course of this litigation. Her interests in the litigation are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the Settlement Class. At all times, she has acted in the best interest of the Class in pursuit of this litigation.

7. My firm kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation.

8. Below is a summary of the hours billed by each timekeeper of my firm, their positions, and hourly rates:

<b>Billor Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Years in Practice</b>	<b>Hours Billed</b>	<b>Lodestar</b>
Joseph M. Lyon	Partner	\$725	19	32.1	\$23,272.50
Tatyana Reitjes	Associate	\$375	4	7.8	\$2,925.00
Keianna Coulter	Paralegal	\$150	3	1.5	\$225.00

<b>Total</b>					<b>\$26,422.50</b>

9. As set forth in the attached firm resume, the lawyers in my firm have considerable experience in class actions and have litigated to resolution many large data breach and privacy cases. We have active litigation practices. The time and effort we devoted to this case would have been spent on other cases but for our commitment to Plaintiffs and their claims.

10. It is my considered opinion as an experienced class action lawyer that the requested attorneys' fees and costs are reasonable and appropriate.

11. I respectfully request that the Court award the requested unopposed attorneys' fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 in St. Louis, MO

/s/ Joseph M. Lyon  
Joseph M. Lyon



THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

*The Lyon Firm* is a Cincinnati, Ohio based law firm representing individuals nationwide in class action and product liability litigation. Joe Lyon founded the Firm in 2006 following his work as an associate for a national complex litigation firm. Over the past 19 years, Mr. Lyon has represented thousands of individual clients in over 47 Multi-District Litigations (“MDL”) in both federal and state court consolidated actions. Mr. Lyon has also served, and is serving, as Class Counsel, on Executive and Steering Committees, and as plaintiffs’ counsel in over 60 class actions. These complex cases have involved a diverse range of legal, scientific, regulatory, and public policy issues involving medical devices, pharmaceutical products, toxic consumer products, and data privacy matters.

Recent Class Counsel roles include, among others, *Hawkins v. Navy Federal Credit Union*, Case No: 1:19-cv-01186 (U.S District Court, E.D. of VA)(Co-Lead Counsel in TCPA class action; Final Approval of \$9.25 million nationwide non-reversionary common fund); *Engle v. Talbert House*, No. A 2103650 (Hamilton County, OH): Co-lead Counsel in a data breach class action impacting over 300,000 medical patients; Final approval granted for nationwide claims made settlement providing monetary benefits and additional identity theft protection with claimed value at \$1.17 million and offered class value of \$49 million; *In Re Southern Ohio Health System Data Breach*, Case No:A210886 (Hamilton County, OH)(Co-Lead Counsel in data breach class action impacting over 400,000 patients; Final Approval granted for nationwide non-reversionary common fund settlement of \$1.95 million); *Migliaccio v. Parker Hannifin Corp.*, Case No. 1:22-cv-00835 (U.S. District Court, N.D. of OH)(Interim Class Counsel in data breach class action impacting over 100,00 current and former employees); *Forslund v. R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co.*, Case No: 1:22-cv-04260 (U.S. District Court, N.D. of IL)(Interim Class Counsel in data breach impacting over 100,000 customers); and *Rodriquez v. Professional Finance Co., Inc.*, Case No: 1:22-cv-01679 (U.S. District Court, Dist. of CO)(Interim Class Counsel in data breach action impacting over a million customers).

The Firm has a long history of successful MDL work having developed supportive evidence on numerous specific causation issues to support claims within the MDL case structure. In addition, Mr. Lyon has worked alongside many of the leading Plaintiff Firms on leadership committees to develop common benefit evidence on general liability and general causation. Notably, Mr. Lyon has served on several MDL Discovery Committees, where he has participated in large scale e-discovery document reviews, 30(b)(6) depositions, expert development, medical literature surveys, FDA regulatory reviews, and bellwether trial preparation: e.g., MDL 1748: *In re Testosterone Replacement Therapy*; MDL 2327: *In Re Ethicon Pelvic Repair Systems*; and MDL 1598: *In Re: Ephedra Products Liability Litigation*. Moreover, Mr. Lyon has contributed as a member of several bellwether trial teams including, *Wisniewski v Taketa Pharmaceuticals America Inc.* Case No: 120702272 (Philadelphia County, PA), which resulted in a favorable Plaintiff’s verdict that assisted in the global resolution of the national litigation.

Finally, Mr. Lyon has dedicated much of his career to representing individual plaintiffs in catastrophic single event litigation. This rewarding work has provided families with answers to difficult questions of liability and has resulted in numerous life changing settlements that have assisted with long term medical needs and compensation for significant financial and personal loss. The single event litigation has required the Firm to consistently learn new subject matters, develop new case themes, and create new relationships. These cases have addressed a variety of legal, medical, and engineering issues arising from automotive product defects, firearm defects, medical malpractice, workplace injuries, toxic exposure, environmental contamination, and asbestos exposure.





THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### Professional Experience

- The Lyon Firm, LLC; Founder & Managing Partner (9/2006-Present)
- Lopez, Hodes, Restaino, Milman & Skikos, A Law Corp.; Associate

### Admissions to Practice Law

- Ohio
- Kentucky
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court, Colorado
- United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- United States District Court, Nebraska
- United States District Court, North Dakota
- United States Court of Appeals, 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

### Education

- Chicago Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL, J.D. (2002)
  - Honors:
    - Federal Judicial Externship: United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge William Hibbler; (January 2001-September 2001)
    - Law Review: Member of Chicago-Kent Journal of International and Comparative Law.
- Loyola University, Baltimore MD, B.A. in Political Science (1999)
  - International Study:
    - Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium (9/1997-6/1998)
    - St. Louis University, Madrid, Spain (9/1998-12/1998)



THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

### Representative Lead Class Counsel Experience:

- ***Hawkins v. Navy Federal Credit Union*, Case No: 1:19-cv-01186** (E.D. of VA): Appointed co-lead class counsel in TCPA class action. Judge Brinkema approved nationwide class and non-reversionary common fund settlement of \$9,250,000 providing monetary compensation for class of over 66,000.
- ***Wade v. U.S. Bank National Association*, Case No: A1501522** (Hamilton County, Ohio): Appointed co-lead class counsel in state mortgage satisfaction class action. Judge Winkler approved an Ohio class and common fund settlement of \$1,750,000.00 providing monetary compensation to a class of over 45,000.00 mortgage holders.
- ***Devine et al, v. Health Aide of Ohio*, Case No: CV-21-948117** (Cuyahoga County, OH): Appointed as co-lead class counsel in consolidated data breach class action involving 141,149 medical patients; Judge Russo granted Final Approval for a claims made nationwide settlement providing monetary benefits and additional identity theft protection valued at over \$12.5 million.
- ***In Re Southern Ohio Health System Data Breach*, Case No: A2101886** (Hamilton County, OH): Appointed as co-lead counsel in consolidated data breach class action impacting two Ohio hospital systems; Final approval granted for nationwide non-reversionary common fund settlement of \$1,950,000.00 that provides monetary compensation to 420,433 class members.
- ***Engle v. Talbert House*, No. A 2103650** (Hamilton County, OH): Appointed as co-lead class counsel in a data breach class action impacting over 300,000 medical patients; Final approval granted for nationwide claims made settlement providing monetary benefits and additional identity theft protection with claimed value at \$1,171,000.00 and offered class value of \$49,840,000.00.
- ***Migliaccio v. Parker Hannifin Corp.*, Case No. 1:22-cv-00835** (U.S. District Court, N.D. of OH)(Appointed interim co-lead class counsel by Judge Polster in data breach class action against multi-national manufacturer impacting thousands of current and former employees.)
- ***Tucker v. Marietta Area Health Care, Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00184** (U.S. District Court, S.D. of OH): Serving as proposed interim co-lead in consolidated data breach class action involving ransomware attack on Ohio hospital that compromised the PII and PHI of thousands of patients. Motion to Dismiss fully briefed and pending, and case management order entered.
- ***Bae v. Pacific City Bank*, No. 21STCV45922** (Los Angeles County Superior Court, CA): Serving as proposed interim co-lead class counsel in a data breach class action involving thousands of CA residents under CCPA violations against a regional bank; Parties are working on mediation following briefing on Motions to Dismiss which was preliminarily denied.



THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

- ***Miranda v. Xavier University***, No. 1:20-cv-00539 (U.S. District Court, S.D. of OH); Serving as proposed interim co-lead class counsel for nursing students in a class action arising from the breach of contract to provide clinical education and experience through the coursework. Motion to Dismiss denied in part and granted in part. Discovery ongoing.
- ***Reynolds v. Concordia***, No. 21-cv-02560 (U.S. District Court, Minn.); Serving as proposed interim co-lead class counsel for nursing students in a class action arising from the breach of contract to provide clinical education and experience through the coursework. Motion to Dismiss denied in part and granted in part. Discovery ongoing.

### Executive & Steering Committee Experience:

- ***Desue, et al. v. 20/20 Eye Care***, Case No: 21-CV-61275 (S.D. of FL; Appointed to Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in data breach class action impacting 3.2 million patients' personal and healthcare information. Motion to Dismiss denied in part and granted in part. Preliminary approval of \$3,000,000 non-reversionary common fund.
- ***Baker, et al. v. Parkmobile, LLC***, Case No: 1:21-CV-2182 (N.D. of GA; Appointed to Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in data breach class action impacting the personal information of over 21 million customers. Motion to Dismiss fully briefed and pending.
- ***MDL 1748 In Re: Testosterone Replacement Therapy Products Liability Litigation.*** Assisted in the formation of the litigation and the consolidation of over 4,000 cases before Judge Kennelly in the Northern District of Illinois. Performed document review and coding on regulatory and custodial files related to deceptive and off label marketing claims and adverse events; Developed consulting relationship with leading experts and created medical literature summaries; Organized deposition summaries for bellwether trials.
- ***MDL 2327 In Re: Ethicon, Inc. Pelvic Repair Systems Product Liability Litigation.*** Performed document review and coding on custodial files on product design, labelling, opinion leaders, adverse events, and regulatory approval; Assisted in preparation for corporate 30(b)(6) depositions, opinion leader depositions, and bellwether trials.
- ***In Re: Actos (Pioglitazone) Products Liability Litigation. Wisniewski v. Takeda Pharmaceuticals et al.*** (Case No. 120702272) Co-Counsel for bellwether trial in Philadelphia County. Jury awarded \$2,340,000.00 in compensatory damages.
- ***MDL 1598 In Re: Ephedra Products Liability Litigation:*** Coordinated GNC document review, assisted in deposition preparation for 30(b)(6) depositions, and participated in bellwether trial support.



THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

### **Representative Current Multi District Litigation (Case Specific Work):**

- MDL 2738 In Re: Johnson & Johnson Talcum Powder
- MDL 2885 In Re: 3M Product Liability Litigation
- MDL 3004 In Re: Paraquat Product Liability Litigation
- MDL 2974 In Re: Paragard IUD Product Liability Litigation
- In Re Pam Cooking Spray Consolidated Actions (Cook County, IL)

### **Representative Past Multi District Litigation (Case Specific Work):**

- MDL 2741 In Re: Roundup Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2441 In Re: Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Hip Implant Litigation
- MDL 2768 In Re: Stryker LFIT V-40 Femoral Head Product Liability Litigation
- MDL 2391 In Re: Biomet M2A Magnum Hip Implant Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2734 In Re: Abilify (Aripiprazole) Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2244 In Re: Depuy Orthopaedics, Inc. Pinnacle Hip Implant Litigation
- MDL 1748 In Re: Testosterone Replacement Therapy Products Liability Litigation.
- JCCP 4887 In Re Essure Product Cases
- MDL 2591 In Re: Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litigation
- MDL 2000 In Re: Yaz/ Yasmin/ Ocella Litigation (Philadelphia Consolidated Actions)
- MDL 2197 In Re: Depuy Orthopaedics, Inc., ASR Hip Implant Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1871 In Re: Avandia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1598 In Re: Ephedra Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1905 In Re: Medtronic, Inc. Sprint Fidelis Leads Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1769 In Re: Seroquel Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1928 In Re: Trasylol Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1785 In Re: Bausch & Lomb Inc. Contact Lens Solution Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1657 In Re: Vioxx Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2226 In Re: Darvocet, Darvon, and Propoxyphene Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2327 In Re: Ethicon, Inc. Pelvic Repair Systems Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2325 In Re: AMS, Inc., Pelvic Repair System Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2187 In Re: C.R. Bard, Inc., Pelvic Repair System Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2387 In Re: Coloplast Corp. Pelvic Support Systems Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2326 In Re: Boston Scientific Corp. Pelvic Repair Systems Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 2299 In Re: Actos (Pioglitazone) products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1842 In Re: Kugel Mesh Hernia Patch Products Liability Litigation
- MDL 1708 In Re: Guidant Implantable Defibrillators Product Liability Litigation
- MDL 1905 In Re: Medtronic Sprint Fidelis Leads Product Liability Litigation
- In Re Depo Provera: New Jersey Consolidated State Litigation



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## FIRM PROFILE

### Representative Single Event Settlements

- ***Estate of Gabrielle Walker v. The Toledo Hospital*** (2021) Lucas County, Ohio, Case No: G-4801. Lead counsel in medical malpractice/ wrongful death case involving allegations of negligent discharge of a suspected child abuse patient. The discharge resulted in returning the child to the suspected home environment where she sustained terminal injuries that evening. The four years of litigation entailed lead counsel taking over twenty depositions, preparing and disclosing four liability experts, filing several motions to compel discovery (ESI and 30B5 Witnesses) that the Court granted, and obtaining the Court's denial of two motions for summary judgment. The parties entered a confidential settlement two months before trial after months of negotiation.
- ***Murphy v. University Hospital*** (2019) Hamilton County, Ohio A-18-03027. Lead Counsel in medical malpractice case involving the alleged misdiagnosis of cancer and unnecessary operation to remove 17 lymph nodes. The patient was cancer free and the unnecessary surgery left her with permanent lymphedema. Confidential Settlement following disclosure of expert reports on liability, causation and life care plan.
- ***Gray v. Graham KTM Sport Motorbikes*** (2018) N. Dist. of Mississippi Case No: 3:17-cv-092. Lead counsel in automotive product liability matter involving a recalled accelerator of a motor-cross bike. The recall was noticed due to the accelerator sticking and resulting in unintended acceleration. Plaintiff experienced this event losing control, whereby the bike fell onto him as he attempted to jump from the out-of-control bike. His arm was trapped in the rear wheel resulting in catastrophic amputation. Confidential settlement following limited discovery and disclosure of life care plan.
- ***Harrell et al. v. WWS Associates*** (2018) Hamilton County, Ohio, Case No: A1600701. Lead counsel in lead exposure case involving the secondary exposure of two minor children to industrial lead dust. It was alleged the children were poisoned when their father returned home from a recycling job that did not provide adequate protective clothing or require showers before returning home. The children suffered neurological injuries related to elevated lead levels. Confidential settlement following factual discovery and disclosure of expert reports on causation and damages.
- ***Lemon v. FMK Firearms, Inc. et al.*** (2016) E. Dist. of KY Case No: 2:15-cv-00128. Lead Counsel in complex product liability case involving a defective handgun that was subject to a recall due to drop-fire risks. Plaintiff suffered severe injuries including compartment syndrome when gun was accidentally dropped and fired. Confidential settlement following initial factual discovery.



THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

- ***Waters v. F&P America MFG, Inc.*** (2016) Miami County, Ohio Case No: 15-103. Lead Counsel. Workplace intentional tort claim involving a corporate policy to circumvent a perimeter cage designed to protect workers from hydraulic equipment malfunction. Plaintiff suffered catastrophic amputation of multiple fingers when a machine misfired. Confidential settlement following corporate depositions and while motion for summary judgment on employer intentional tort and workers compensation immunity issues was pending.
- ***Estate of Ralph Jamison v. Continental Appliances, Inc.*** (2013) Adams County, Ohio Case No. CVB 20120499. Lead Counsel in complex Product Liability case involving a defective propane wall heater that resulted in severe burn injuries and wrongful death. Confidential Settlement following motion to compel documents was granted and 30(b)(5) deposition.
- ***Estate of Joseph Ponsi v. RCD Sales, Inc.*** (2012) Ashland County, Ohio Case No. 12-CVI-017). Lead Counsel in dealership negligence involving the sale of a recreational towing vehicle that exceeded towing capacity of tow vehicle resulting in rollover and wrongful death. Confidential settlement following multiple depositions on liability and disclosure of expert reports.
- ***Armesia Thomas v. General Motors et al.*** (2011) E. Dist. of KY Case No. 08-228-ART. Lead Counsel in complex Product Liability action involving claims of defective seat belt design resulting in catastrophic spinal cord injury to a 19 year old female. Confidential settlement with General Motors and Takata Defendants following full factual discovery and disclosure of expert reports and life care plan.
- ***Michael Urchak v. Donnell Ford Lincoln Mercury of Salem, Inc.*** (2010) Mahoning County, Ohio Case No 08-CV-3700). Lead Counsel in dealership negligence causing mechanical failure and loss of control of vehicle resulting in spinal cord injury. Confidential Settlement following full factual discovery and disclosure of expert reports and life care plan.
- ***Charles & Jennifer Briner, Individually and on Behalf of Christopher Briner, A Minor v Daimler Chrysler Corporation.*** (2007) (Richland County, Ohio Case No. 05-CV-371). Co-lead counsel in complex product liability action involving claims of defective seat belt buckle resulting in inadvertent buckle release and catastrophic brain injury to a minor. Confidential settlement two weeks before trial following full factual discovery and expert disclosures on liability and life care plan.
- ***Marlene Lewis et al v. Alex Saba,, M.D.*** (2006) Hamilton County, Ohio, Case No. A0501599. Co-lead counsel in medical malpractice claims arising from the failure to diagnose breast cancer resulting in cancer progression, loss of survival, and additional invasive medical care. Confidential Settlement a few months before trial following full discovery and expert disclosures on liability and damages.



THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

### Memberships & Board Positions

Attorneys Information Exchange Group (2006- Present)  
American Association for Justice, Trial Magazine, Peer Review Panel (2018-Present)  
American Association for Justice, TRT Litigation Group Co-Chair (2014-Present)  
American Association for Justice Litigation Group Leaders Council (2014- Present)  
American Association for Justice, Member (2003- Present)  
American Association for Justice, “New Lawyers Board of Governors” (2004-2013)  
Kentucky Association for Justice (2011- Present)  
National Trial Lawyers (2009-Present)  
Ohio Association for Justice (2003-2007; 2013-Present)  
Ohio Association for Justice, Product Liability Section Chair (2014-2015)

### Publications & Presentations

- *Mass Torts in State Court*. OAJ Summer Convention, Columbus, OH (2017)
- *Managing Client Expectations*. OAJ Summer Convention. Columbus, OH (2015)
- *The Wheels of Justice: Mass Torts in State Courts*. OAJ Quarterly. Product Liability Section. (2015)
- *“Low T”- The Creation of a Disease*. OAJ Quarterly. Product Liability Section. (2014)
- *Ethical Aspects of Mass Tort Marketing*. AAJ Summer Convention. Baltimore, MD (2014)
- *Testosterone Replacement Therapy MDL Update and Case Criteria*. AAJ Summer Convention. Baltimore, MD (2014)
- *Testosterone Replacement Therapy --Specific Causation*. AAJ Mass Tort Update Seminar. San Diego, CA (2014)
- *Testosterone Replacement Therapy –MDL Case Management Orders*. AAJ Mass Tort Update Seminar. Santa Barbara, CA (2014)
- *Testosterone Replacement Therapy --Causes of Action*. AAJ Emerging Mass Tort Seminar. Louisville, KY (2014)
- *Parallel Claims & Reporting Requirements: New Motivation for Drug Manufacturers to Give Adequate Warning*. OAJ Quarterly. Product Liability Section (2013)
- *Where to Begin Your Search for the Smoking Gun: Organizing Your Strategy and Informal Discovery*. National Business Institute Seminar. Cincinnati, OH (2010)
- *Written Discovery Strategies*. National Business Institute Seminar. Cincinnati, OH (2010)



THE LYON FIRM  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

## FIRM PROFILE

- *A Separate Piece in Seeking Justice: Civil Themes and Skills in Public Defense.* AAJ, Criminal Law Section, Vol. 16, No.2 Winter (2009)
- *The Weight of Expert Testimony.* National Business Institute Seminar. Cincinnati, OH (2009)
- *Punitive Damages: Current Trends and Strategies.* National Business Institute Seminar. Cincinnati, Ohio (2009)
- *Jury Selection: Your First Trial.* Northern Kentucky College of Law. (2009)
- *Utilizing ATLA Resources for Law Students.* University of Cincinnati College of Law. (2003)

## Honors & Awards

- Super Lawyers (Class Action and Mass Torts) (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Super Lawyers, Rising Stars (Class Action and Mass Torts) (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)
- National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 Trial Lawyers for Ohio (2009-Present)
- National Trial Lawyers: Top 20 Mass Tort Lawyers (2018- Present)



**UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 21-CV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, *individually and  
as legal guardian of N.D. and M.D. and  
all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants,

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECLARATION OF GARY E. MASON  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
FEE AWARD AND LITIGATION COSTS**

Gary E. Mason, pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am a partner of the law firm Mason LLP (“my Firm”), which was founded in March 2020 (f/k/a Mason Lietz & Klinger LLP) and am one of the attorneys personally involved in the litigation of this matter.

2. I submit this Declaration in connection with and in support of Plaintiffs’ Unopposed Fee Award and Litigation Costs.

3. My Firm and I were fully and unequivocally committed to this action and the prosecution this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. The formidable resources and experience of the counsel involved in this matter, combined with our substantial data privacy and class

litigation experience, allowed us to achieve a favorable result for the class of consumers who were affected by the Data Incident which is the subject of this suit.

4. The tasks undertaken by my Firm in this action were as follows: investigating the facts and law relevant to Plaintiff Suzanne Johnson's claims; drafting and filing the original Complaint in *Johnson v. 20/20 Hearing Care Network, LLC*, No. 0:21-cv-61755-RAR; preparing for and attending the status conference held on 8/25/2021; drafting and filing the first amended Complaint (ECF No. 37); and maintaining regular contact with Plaintiff Suzanne Johnson.

5. My Firm was the primary contact for Plaintiff Suzanne Johnson. We maintained regular communication with Mrs. Johnson and kept her apprised of the progress of the litigation. Mrs. Johnson was advised on her obligations as a Class Representative to select adequate and skilled counsel, to cooperate with counsel, and to place the interests of the Class on a level equal to or above her own interests. Mrs. Johnson has met and continues to meet these obligations, cooperating fully with counsel to fulfill her fiduciary duties to the Class.

6. Mrs. Johnson did everything asked of her in the course of this litigation. Her interests in the litigation are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the Settlement Class. At all times, she has acted in the best interest of the Class in pursuit of this litigation.

7. My Firm kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation.

8. Below is a summary of the hours billed by each timekeeper of my Firm, their positions, and hourly rates:

<b>Biller Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Years in Practice</b>	<b>Hours Billed</b>	<b>Lodestar</b>
Gary Mason	Partner	\$1050.00	35	0.5	\$525.00
David Lietz	Partner	\$800.00	32	1.6	\$1,280.00
Gary Klinger	Partner	\$800.00	13	3.4	\$2,720.00
Danielle Perry	Partner	\$750.00	10	0.2	\$150.00

David Beiss	Legal Fellow	\$350.00	-	12.3	\$4,305.00
Jenni Suhr	Paralegal	\$225.00	-	0.1	\$22.50
Taylor Heath	Paralegal	\$225.00	-	10.4	\$2,340.00
Sandra Martin	Paralegal	\$170.00	-	5.9	\$1,003.00
Carol Corneilse	Client Specialist	\$150.00	-	1.7	\$255.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$12,600.50</b>

9. The billable rates charged by the attorneys and other professionals in my law firm as set forth above have been approved by other federal and state courts in other contingent class action litigation and for our hourly clients. *See, e.g., Hill v. Canidae Corp.*, No. 5:20-cv-1374 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 28, 2021) (approving Mr. Mason’s rate of \$875 per hour and all rates submitted by Mason Lietz & Klinger LLP); *Newman v. Metro. Life Ins. Co.*, No. 1:16-cv-03530 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 20, 2020) (approving Mr. Mason’s rate of \$875 per hour); *In re Adobe Sys. Inc. Priv. Litig.*, No. 5:13-cv-05226 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 13, 2015) (approving Mr. Mason’s rate of \$775 per hour).

10. My Firm has not incurred any expenses in this litigation to date.

11. As set forth in the attached firm resume, the lawyers in my Firm have considerable experience in class actions and have litigated to resolution many large data breach and privacy cases. We have active litigation practices. The time and effort we devoted to this case would have been spent on other cases but for our commitment to Plaintiffs and their claims.

12. It is my considered opinion as an experienced class action lawyer that the requested attorneys’ fees and costs are reasonable and appropriate.

13. I respectfully request that the Court award the requested unopposed attorneys’ fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GEM', written over a horizontal line.

Gary E. Mason



Mason LLP is dedicated to representing plaintiffs in class actions, mass torts and individual cases in courts throughout the United States

Our attorneys have a long history of obtaining major verdicts and settlements. We frequently lead, co-lead, or perform other leadership roles in class actions of national significance. Examples include the Office of Personal Management (OPM) data breach litigation (in which one of our attorneys is appointed Liaison Counsel) and the Entran II product liability litigation (in which one of our attorneys served as Co-Lead Counsel and successfully resolved the case for \$330 million).

### THE FIRM'S PRINCIPAL LAWYERS

#### **Gary E. Mason** *Founding Partner*



Gary graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Brown University and Duke University Law School, where he was an editor of *Law and Contemporary Problems*. He then served as a law clerk for the Honorable Andrew J. Kleinfeld of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska. *Gary was previously an Associate at Skadden Arps and a Partner at Cohen Milstein where he was the first Co-Chair of its Consumer Protection Practice Group.*

Gary is a nationally recognized leader of the class action bar. Focusing on consumer class actions and mass torts, Gary has recovered more than **\$1.5 billion** in the 29 years he has represented plaintiffs. With his broad experience, Gary is nationally known for representing consumers in class actions involving a wide range of defective products, including Chinese drywall, fire retardant plywood, polybutylene pipe, high-temperature plastic venting, hardboard siding, pharmaceutical products, consumer electronics and automobiles. He also is recognized for his successful representation of persons injured by negligently discharged pollutants (e.g., *In re the Exxon Valdez*) and victims of wage theft. He currently represents more than 2,000 Customs and Border Patrol Agents in FLSA litigation against the federal government, more than 1,500 women injured by use of a defective tampon product, thousands of owners of animals injured by contaminated dog food, and over 23 million individuals whose personal data was compromised by the U.S. Office of Personal Management data breach.

Gary was an early advocate for victims of security breaches and privacy violations, starting with the first settlement arising from a Google data breach (*In re Google Buzz*), the Department of Veterans

Affairs stolen laptop case, and continuing on more recently to his position as Liaison Counsel in *In re OPM Data Breach Litigation*.

Gary has served in leadership positions in many consumer class actions in State and Federal courts nationwide as well as in MDLs. Gary writes and speaks frequently on topics related to class action litigation. He was the 2012–2013 Co-Chair of the Class Action Litigation group for the American Association for Justice and presently serves as the Chairman of its Rule 23 Task Group. He has repeatedly been named a Washington, DC Super Lawyer for Class Actions.

Gary lives in Bethesda, Maryland.

## **Danielle Perry**

### ***Partner***



Danielle L. Perry is a partner at Mason LLP, and offers nearly a decade of class action litigation experience to the benefit of her clients. Graduating from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010 and from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in 2013, Ms. Perry is licensed to practice in the State of California, District of Columbia, and in numerous federal district courts across the country as well as the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and the Fifth, Seventh, and Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals. While Ms. Perry originally focused her career on employment law class actions, after her first few years of practice she expanded her experience and resume to cover numerous data breach and consumer class actions as well. Ms. Perry, either as an individual or as a member of her firm, has been named class counsel in numerous cases including: *Richardson v. Overlake Hosp. Med. Ctr. et al.*, No. 20-2-07460-8 SEA (Wash. Super. Ct. King Cnty.) (appointed class counsel in data breach class action involving approximately 109,000 individuals; final approval granted Sept. 2021); *Cece et al. v. St. Mary's Health Care Sys., Inc. et al.*, No. SU20CV0500 (Ga. Super. Ct. Athens-Clarke Cnty.) (appointed class counsel in data breach case involving 55,652 people; final approval granted Apr. 2022).

Ms. Perry also has extensive experience providing support to appointed committees in MDL cases across the country. *See, e.g., In re Deva Concepts Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 1:20-cv-01234-GHW (S.D.N.Y.) (final approval granted Jan. 3, 2022) (Mason LLP served as court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel and Ms. Perry undertook significant work for clients and class members with extensive hair loss, leading client interviews, drafting pleadings, and preparing settlement and settlement approval papers); *In re Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. Dog Food Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:19-md-02887, MDL No. 2887 (D. Kan.) (final approval granted Oct. 2021) (Mason LLP served as court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel and Ms. Perry played a significant roll for clients and class members who purchased dog food with sometimes lethal amounts of vitamin D, participating in client intake, discovery, and preparing settlement and settlement approval papers); *In re Marriott Int'l Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, No. 8:19-md-02879 (D. Md.) (Ms. Perry contributed to the plaintiff interview process and drafting of the consolidated amended complaint in data breach case); *In re U.S. Off. of Pers. Mgmt. Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, 266 F. Supp. 3d 1 (D.D.C. 2017) (Mason LLP served as Liaison Counsel, and Ms. Perry has completed research assignments in support of and at the request of Lead Counsel in data breach case). Most recently, Ms. Perry has also been appointed to the Leadership Development Committee in *In re SoClean, Inc., Mktg., Sales Practs. & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:22-

mc-00152, MDL No. 3021 (W.D. Pa. Apr. 27, 2022), where she works closely with Lead Counsel in all areas of litigation and fights for consumers rights pertaining to the purchase of defective and/or unsafe products.

**Lisa White**  
***Senior Attorney***



Lisa A. White is a writer and researcher at heart, known for her attention to detail, optimism, and creative approach to legal problem-solving. Most of Lisa’s work is in the federal court system, both in the District Courts and Circuit Courts of Appeals. She is licensed to practice in the State of Tennessee, and in numerous federal district courts across the country as well as the Seventh and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Lisa’s primary areas of practice are product defect, product misrepresentation, data breach litigation, and wage and hour class actions. Her role at Mason LLP frequently involves investigating and researching potential cases and claims prior to a complaint being filed, as well as drafting pleadings and detailed research required for and during litigation. Prior to joining Mason LLP, Lisa practiced at another plaintiffs’ class action firm, where she advocated for employees who were improperly paid, especially in the airline industry. She also worked on lawsuits related to defective products and deceptive advertising. She was frequently called on to research and draft appellate briefs.

Lisa returned to law school after completing her Bachelor's and Master's in Sociology from The University of Tennessee, then teaching for a number of years at universities. She completed the coursework for her Ph.D. in American Studies at The College of William and Mary, then opted to go to law school—a childhood goal. Lisa is a graduate of The University of Tennessee College of Law. While at The University of Tennessee College of Law, Lisa was a Co-Coordinator of the Tennessee Innocence Project, the Research Editor for Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy. While a law student, she practiced in both the Domestic Violence Clinic and the Advocacy Clinic. Lisa has published peer-reviewed papers in three academic fields: law, sociology, and history.

Lisa and her family are avid travelers, and she has visited all seven continents. In addition, for three years, she worked remotely practicing class action law while living in Greymouth, New Zealand.

## **NOTABLE CLASS ACTION CASES**

### **Antitrust**

*In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig.*, No. 3:07-cv-01827, MDL No. 1827 (N.D. Cal.) (combined settlement totaling nearly \$1.1 billion in suit alleging the illegal formation of an international cartel to restrict competition in the LCD panel market) (2012).

### **Products**

*In re SoClean, Inc., Mktg., Sales Pracs. & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:22-mc-00152, MDL No. 3021 (W.D. Pa) (court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

*In re Deva Concepts Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 1:20-cv-01234 (S.D.N.Y.) (court appointed Co-Lead Counsel; \$5.2 million settlement).

*In re Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., Dog Food Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 19-md-2887-JAR-TJJ, MDL No. 2887 (D. Kan.) (court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel; \$12.5 million settlement).

*Smid et al. v. Nutranext, LLC*, No. 20L0190 (Ill. Cir. Ct. St. Clair Cnty. 2020) (\$6.7 million settlement).

*Ersler, et. al v. Toshiba Am., et. al*, No. 1:07-cv-02304 (E.D.N.Y. 2009) (settlement of claims arising from allegedly defective television lamps).

*Maytag Neptune Washing Machines* (class action settlement for owners of Maytag Neptune washing machines).

*Stalcup, et al. v. Thomson, Inc.* (Ill. Cir. Ct. 2004) (\$100 million class settlement of claims that certain GE, PROSCAN and RCA televisions may have been susceptible to temporary loss of audio when receiving broadcast data packages that were longer than reasonably anticipated or specified).

*Hurkes Harris Design Assocs., Inc., et al. v. Fujitsu Comput. Prods. of Am., Inc.* (2003) (settlement provides \$42.5 million to pay claims of all consumers and other end users who bought certain Fujitsu Desktop 3.5" IDE hard disk drives).

*Turner v. Gen. Elec. Co.*, No. 2:05-cv-00186 (M.D. Fla. 2006) (national settlement of claims arising from allegedly defective refrigerators).

### **Automobiles**

*Falk v. Nissan N. Am., Inc.*, No. 4:17-cv-04871 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (Co-Lead Counsel in litigation alleging damages from defective transmissions; national settlement extending warranty for 1.5 million vehicles).



*In re Gen. Motors Corp. Speedometer Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 1896 (W.D. Wash. 2007) (national settlement for repairs and reimbursement of repair costs incurred in connection with defective speedometers).

*Baugh v. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* (2002) (class settlement of claims that Goodyear sold defective tires that are prone to tread separation when operated at highway speeds; Goodyear agreed to provide a combination of both monetary and non-monetary consideration to the Settlement Class in the form of an Enhanced Warranty Program and Rebate Program).

*Lubitz v. Daimler Chrysler Corp.*, No. L-4883-04 (N.J. Super. Ct. Bergen Cnty. 2006) (national settlement for repairs and reimbursement of repair costs incurred in connection with defective brake system; creation of \$12 million fund; 7th largest judgment or settlement in New Jersey).

*Berman et al. v. Gen. Motors LLC*, No. 2:18-cv-14371 (S.D. Fla. 2019) (Co-Lead Counsel; national settlement for repairs and reimbursement of repair costs incurred in connection with Chevrolet Equinox excessive oil consumption).

### **Civil Rights**

*In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litig.*, No. 1:08-mc-00511 (D.D.C. 2013) (\$1.25 billion settlement fund for black farmers who alleged U.S. Department of Agriculture discriminated against them by denying farm loans).

*Bruce, et. al. v. County of Rensselaer et. al.*, No. 02-cv-0847 (N.D.N.Y. 2004) (class settlement of claims that corrections officers and others employed at the Rensselaer County Jail (NY) engaged in the practice of illegally strip searching all individuals charged with only misdemeanors or minor offenses).

### **Commercial**

*In re Outer Banks Power Outage Litig.*, No. 4:17-cv-141 (E.D.N.C. 2018) (Co-Lead Counsel; \$10.35 million settlement for residents, businesses, and vacationers on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands who were impacted by a 9-day power outage).

### **Construction Materials**

*Cordes et al v. IPEX, Inc.*, No. 08-cv-02220-CMA-BNB (D. Colo. 2011) (class action arising out of defective brass fittings; court-appointed member of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee).

*Elliott et al v. KB Home North Carolina Inc. et al*, No. 08-cv-21190 (N.C. Super. Ct. Wake Cnty. 2017) (Lead Counsel; class action settlement for those whose homes were constructed without a weather-resistant barrier).

*In re Pella Corp. Architect & Designer Series Windows Mktg., Sales Pracs. & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2514 (D.S.C.) (class action arising from allegedly defective windows; Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

*In re MI Windows & Doors, Inc., Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2333 (D.S.C) (National class action settlement for homeowners who purchased defective windows; Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

*In re Atlas Roofing Corp. Chalet Shingle Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2495 (N.D. Ga.) (class action arising from allegedly defective shingles; Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

*Helmer et al. v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, No. 12-cv-00685-RBJ, 2014 WL 3353264 (D. Colo. July 9, 2014) (class action arising from allegedly defective radiant heating systems; Colorado class certified).

*In re Zurn Pex Plumbing Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 0:08-md-01958, MDL No. 1958 (D. Minn. 2012) (class action arising from allegedly plumbing systems; member of Executive Committee; settlement).

*Hobbie et al. v. RCR Holdings II, LLC, et al.*, No. 10-1113, MDL No. 2047 (E.D. La. 2012) (\$30 million settlement for remediation of 364-unit residential high-rise constructed with Chinese drywall).

*In re Chinese Manufactured Drywall Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:09-md-02047, MDL No. 2047 (E.D. La. 2012) (litigation arising out of defective drywall) (appointed Co-Chair, Insurance Committee).

*Galanti v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, No. 03-209 (D.N.J. 2003) (national settlement and creation of \$330 million fund for payment to owners of homes with defective radiant heating systems).

*In re Synthetic Stucco Litig.*, No. 5:96-CV-287-BR(2) (E.D.N.C.) (member of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee; settlements with four EIFS Manufacturers for North Carolina homeowners valued at more than \$50 million).

*In re Synthetic Stucco (EIFS) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 1132 (E.D.N.C.) (represented over 100 individual homeowners in lawsuits against homebuilders and EIFS manufacturers).

*Posey et al. v. Dryvit Sys., Inc.*, No. 17,715-IV (Tenn. Cir. Ct. 2002) (Co-Lead Counsel; national class action settlement provided cash and repairs to more than 7,000 claimants).

*Sutton, et al. v. The Fed. Materials Co., et al.*, No. 07-CI-00007 (Ky. Cir. Ct.) (Co- Lead Counsel; \$10.1 million class settlement for owners of residential and commercial properties constructed with defective concrete).

*Staton v. IMI South, et al.* (Ky. Cir. Ct.) (Co-Lead Counsel; class settlement for approximately \$30 million for repair and purchase of houses built with defective concrete).

*In re Elk Cross Timbers Decking Mktg., Sales Pracs. & Prod. Liab. Litig.*, No. 15-cv-0018, MDL No. 2577 (D.N.J. 2017) (Lead Counsel; national settlement to homeowners who purchased defective GAF decking and railings).

*Bridget Smith v. Floor & Decor Outlets of America, Inc.*, No. 1:15-cv-4316 (N.D. Ga.) (Co- Lead Counsel; National class action settlement for homeowners who purchased unsafe laminate wood flooring).

*In re Lumber Liquidators Chinese-Manufactured Laminate Flooring Durability Mktg., Sales Pracs. Litig.*, No. 1:16-md-2743 (E.D. Va.) (Co-Lead Counsel; Durability case; \$36 million national class action settlement for member who purchased a certain type of laminate flooring).

*In re Windsor Wood Clad Window Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:16-md-02688 (E.D. Wis.) (National class action settlement for homeowners who purchased defective windows; Court-appointed Lead Counsel).

*In re Allura Fiber Cement Siding Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:19-md-02886 (D.S.C.) (class action arising from allegedly defective cement board siding; Court-appointed Lead Counsel).

### **Environmental**

*Bell v. WestRock, CP, LLC*, No. 3:17-cv-829-JAG (E.D. Va. 2020) (Co-Lead Counsel in litigation alleging nuisance from wood dust from paper mill; class certification motion pending; class certified; \$700,000 settlement).

*Nnadili, et al. v. Chevron U.S.A., Inc*, No. 02-cv-1620 (D.D.C. 2008) (\$6.2 million settlement for owners and residents of 200 properties located above underground plume of petroleum from former Chevron gas station).

*In re Swanson Creek Oil Spill Litig.*, No. 8:00-cv-01429-PJM (D. Md. 2002) (Lead Counsel; \$2.25 million settlement of litigation arising from largest oil spill in history of State of Maryland).

### **Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) / Wage and Hour**

*Craig v. Rite Aid Corp.*, No. 08-2317 (M.D. Pa. 2013) (FLSA collective action and class action settled for \$20.9 million).

*Stillman v. Staples, Inc.*, No. 2:07-cv-00849-PS (D.N.J. 2009) (FLSA collective action, plaintiffs' trial verdict for \$2.5 million; national settlement approved for \$42 million).

*Lew v. Pizza Hut of Maryland, Inc.*, No. CBB-09-CV-3162 (D. Md. 2011) (FLSA collective action, statewide settlement for managers-in-training and assistant managers, providing recompense of 100% of lost wages).

### **Financial**

*Roberts v. Fleet Bank (R.I.), N.A.*, No. 00-6142 (E. D. Pa. 2003) (\$4 million dollar settlement on claims that Fleet changed the interest rate on consumers' credit cards which had been advertised as "fixed.").

*Penobscot Indian Nation v U.S. Dep't of Housing & Urban Dev.*, No. 07-1282 (PLF) (D.D.C. 2008) (represented charitable organization which successfully challenged regulation barring certain kinds of down-payment assistance; Court held that HUD's promulgation of rule violated the Administrative Procedure Act).

### **Insurance**

*Young, et al. v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co., et al.*, No. 11-5015 (E.D. Ky. 2014) (series of class actions against multiple insurance companies arising from unlawful collection of local taxes on premium payments; class certified and affirmed on appeal, 693 F.3d 532 (6th Cir. 2012); settlements with all defendants for 100% refund of taxes collected).

*Nichols v. Progressive Direct Ins. Co., et al.*, No. 2:06-cv-146 (E.D. Ky. 2012) (Class Counsel; class action arising from unlawful taxation of insurance premiums; statewide settlement with Safe Auto Insurance Company and creation of \$2 million Settlement Fund; statewide settlement with Hartford Insurance Company and tax refunds of \$1.75 million).

### **Privacy / Data Breach**

*Farley v. Eye Care Leaders*, No. 22-cv-468 (M.D.N.C.) (Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

*Nierman v. Schneck Med. Ctr.*, No. 36D01-2206-CT-000013 (Ind. Super. Ct. Jackson Cnty.) (Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel).

*Dekenipp v. Gastroenterology Consultants, P.A.*, No. 202161470 (Tex. 295th Jud. Dist. Ct. Harris Cnty.) (Lead Counsel; claims made settlement and 18 months credit monitoring for class of 162,000 patients).

*Bailey v. Grays Harbor Cnty. Pub. Hosp. Dist.*, No. 20-2-00217-14 (Wash. Super. Ct. Grays Harbor Cnty.) (Mr. Mason appointed Class Counsel in hospital data breach class action; final approval granted Sept. 2020).

*Mowery v. Saint Francis Healthcare Sys.*, No. 1:20-cv-00013-SRC (E.D. Mo.) (Mr. Mason appointed Class Counsel; final approval granted Dec. 2020).

*Chatelain v. C, L & W PLLC d/b/a Affordacare Urgent Care Clinics*, No. 50742-A (Tex. 42d Jud. Dist. Ct. Taylor Cnty.) (data breach class action settlement valued at over \$7 million; final approval granted Feb. 2021).

*Jackson-Battle v. Navicent Health, Inc.*, No. 2020-CV-072287 (Ga. Super. Ct. Bibb Cnty.) (data breach case involving 360,000 patients; final approval granted Aug. 2021).

*Chacon v. Nebraska Med.*, No. 8:21-cv-00070-RFR-CRZ (D. Neb) (data breach settlement, final approval granted Sept. 2021).

*Richardson v. Overlake Hosp. Med. Ctr.*, No. 20-2-07460-8 SEA (Wash. Super. Ct. King Cnty.) (data breach class action involving approximately 109,000 individuals, final approval granted Sept. 2021).

*Martinez v. NCH Healthcare Sys., Inc.*, No. 2020-CA-000996 (Fla. 20th Jud. Cir. Ct. Collier Cnty.) (data breach class action settlement, final approval granted Oct. 2021).

*Carr v. Beaumont Health et al.*, No. 2020-181002-NZ (Mich. Cir. Ct. Oakland Cnty.) (data breach class action involving 112,000 people; final approval granted Oct. 2021).

*Klemm v. Maryland Health Enters. Inc.*, No. C-03-CV-20-022899 (Md. Cir. Ct. Balto. Cnty.) (appointed Class Counsel, final approval granted Nov. 2021).

*In re Ambry Genetics Data Breach Litig.*, No. 8:20-cv-00791 (C.D. Cal.) (court-appointed member Executive Committee; \$12 million settlement).

*Baksh v. Ivy Rehab Network, Inc.*, No. 7:20-cv-01845-CS (S.D.N.Y.) (Court-appointed Class Counsel; final approval granted Feb. 2021).

*Kenney v. Centerstone of America, Inc.*, No. 3:20-cv-01007 (M.D. Tenn.) (settlement involving over 63,000 class members; final approval granted August 2021);

*North v. Hunt Mem'l Hosp. Dist.*, No. 89642 (Tex. 196th Jud. Dist. Ct. Hunt Cnty) (settlement; final approval granted Dec. 2021).

*Cece v. St. Mary's Health Care Sys., Inc.*, No. SU20CV0500 (Ga. Super. Ct. Athens-Clarke Cnty.) (data breach case involving 55,652 people; final approval granted Apr. 2022).

*In re U.S. Off. of Pers. Mgmt. Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, No. 15-1393 (ABJ), MDL No. 2664 (D.D.C.) (court appointed interim Liaison Counsel; \$60 million settlement).

*In re Google Buzz Priv. Litig.*, No. 5:10-cv-00672 (N.D. Cal. 2010) (court-appointed Lead Class Counsel; \$8.5 million cy pres settlement).

*In re Dept. of Veterans Affs. (VA) Data Theft Litig.*, No. 1:2006-cv-00506, MDL 1796 (D.D.C. 2009) (Co-Lead Counsel representing veterans whose privacy rights had been compromised by the theft of an external hard drive containing personal information of approximately 26.6 million veterans and their spouses; creation of a \$20 million fund for affected veterans and a cy pres award for two non-profit organizations).

*In re Adobe Sys. Inc. Priv. Litig.*, No. 5:13-cv-05226 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (settlement requiring enhanced cyber security measures and audits).

**UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 21-CV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, *individually and  
as legal guardian of N.D. and M.D. and  
all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants,

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS

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**DECLARATION OF TERENCE R. COATES  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
FEE AWARD AND LITIGATION COSTS**

Terence R. Coates, pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, hereby declares as follows:

1. I am Managing Partner of Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC and am one of the attorneys personally involved in the litigation of this matter as a Court-appointed member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee (Doc. No. 29, at 4).

2. I submit this Declaration in connection with and in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Fee Award and Litigation Costs.

3. My law firm and I were committed to this action and the prosecution this litigation to conclusion, and even to trial. The formidable resources and experience of the counsel involved in this matter, combined with our substantial data privacy and class litigation experience, allowed

us to achieve a favorable result for the class of consumers who were affected by the Data Incident which is the subject of this suit.

4. The tasks undertaken by my firm in this action were as follows: interviewing plaintiffs before filing a complaint, drafting a complaint and researching appropriate causes of action, discussing the case with local counsel, communicating with counsel for plaintiffs on other cases filed against Defendant relating to the Data Breach, coordinating with other plaintiffs' counsel for the benefit of the Plaintiffs and Class, working on the consolidated complaint, working on the response to the motion to dismiss, attending a hearing via phone with the Court, drafting a section of the mediation statement, reviewing the settlement demand with Plaintiff Liang, reviewing the term sheet with Plaintiff Liang, reviewing the terms of the settlement agreement with Plaintiff Liang, continuing to monitor the case and communicate with my co-counsel, and assisting Plaintiff Liang and other Class Members in submitting claims under the Settlement

5. My firm was the primary contact for Plaintiff Benjamin Liang. We maintained regular communication with Mr. Liang and kept him apprised of the progress of the case. Mr. Liang understood his obligations as a class representative to select experienced counsel, to cooperate with counsel, and to place the interests of the class on a level equal to or above his own interests. Mr. Liang has met and continues to meet these obligations, cooperating fully with counsel to fulfill his fiduciary duties to the Class.

6. Mr. Liang completed every task asked of him and stayed informed about this case. His interests in the litigation are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the Settlement Class. At all times, Mr. Liang has acted in the best interest of the Class in pursuit of this case.

7. My firm kept contemporaneous, daily time records throughout the course of this litigation.

8. Below is a summary of the hours billed by each timekeeper of my firm, their positions, and hourly rates:

<b>Timekeeper Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Years in Practice</b>	<b>Hours Billed</b>	<b>Lodestar</b>
W.B. Markovits	Partner	\$750	40	3	\$2,250.00
Terence R. Coates	Managing Partner	\$730	13	3.9	\$2,847.00
Terence R. Coates	Managing Partner	\$695	13	32.9	\$22,865.50
Dylan J. Gould	Attorney	\$350	5	44.0	\$15,400.00
Laura M. Linneman	Paralegal	\$185	n/a	1.4	\$259.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>85.2</b>	<b>\$43,621.50</b>

9. The billable rates charged by the attorneys and other professionals in my law firm as set forth above have been approved by other federal and state courts.

10. My firm has also incurred \$16.20 in expenses in this litigation to date for Pacer research. The expenses pertaining to this action are reflected in the books and records of my firm. These books and records are prepared from expense vouchers, check records, invoices, and other documents maintained in the ordinary course of litigation and the business operations of the firm.

11. I have extensive experience handling complex class action cases. I am currently participating as a member of plaintiffs’ counsel in the over 70 data breach and data privacy cases pending around the country, including serving as co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in *John v. Advocate Aurora Health, Inc.*, No. 22-CV-1253-JPS (E.D. Wis.); *Tucker v. Marietta Area Health Care, Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00185 (S.D. Ohio); *Vansickle v. C.R. England, Inc.*, No. 2:22-cv-00374 (D. Utah); *Rodriguez v. Professional Finance Company, Inc.*, No. 1:22-cv-1679 (D. Colo.); *Migliaccio v. Parker Hannifin Corp.*, No. 1:22-CV-00835 (N.D. Ohio) (Class Counsel in a preliminarily-approved \$1.75 million common fund settlement); *Sherwood v. Horizon Actuarial Services, LLC*, No. 1:22-cv-1495 (N.D. Ga); *Tracy v. Elekta, Inc.*, No. 1:21-cv-02851-SDG (N.D. Ga.); *Devine v.*



*Health Aid of Ohio, Inc.*, No. CV-21-948117 (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio) (court-appointed class counsel in finally-approved class action settlement); *Engle v. Talbert House*, No. A 2103650 (Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio) (court-appointed class counsel in preliminarily-approved class action settlement); *Lutz v. Electromed, Inc.*, No. 0:21-cv-02198 (D. Minn.; co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in preliminarily-approved \$825,000 settlement); and, *Morelli v. Jim Koons Management Co.*, No. 8:22-cv-00292-GJH (D. Md.; court-approved co-lead counsel in finally-approved settlement). Furthermore, I hold leadership positions in many other data privacy lawsuits including *In re Luxottica of America, Inc. Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 1:20-cv-00908-MRB (S.D. Ohio; court-approved interim co-liaison counsel); *Tate v. EyeMed Vision Care, LLC*, No. 1:21-cv-00036 (S.D. Ohio; court-approved liaison counsel); *Medina v. PracticeMax Inc.*, No. CV-22-01261 (D. Ariz.) (court-appointed Executive Leadership Committee); *In re Netgain Technology, LLC Consumer Data Breach Litigation*, No. 2:10-cv-01210 (D. Minn.; court-appointed member of plaintiffs' steering committee); and, *Baker v. ParkMobile, LLC*, No. 1:21-cv-02182 (N.D. Ga.; Plaintiffs' Steering Committee).

12. Federal courts have recognized me and my firm as experienced in handling complex cases including class actions. *Shy v. Navistar Int'l Corp.*, No. 3:92-CV-00333, 2022 WL 2125574, at \*4 (S.D. Ohio June 13, 2022) ("Class Counsel, the law firm Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC, are qualified and are known within this District for handling complex including class action cases such as this one."); *Bechtel v. Fitness Equip. Servs., LLC*, 339 F.R.D. 462, 480 (S.D. Ohio 2021) ("plaintiffs' attorneys have appeared in this Court many times and have substantial experience litigating class actions and other complex matters."); *Schellhorn v. Timios, Inc.*, No. 2:221-cv-08661, 2022 WL 4596582, at \*4 (C.D. Cal. May 10, 2022) (noting that Class

Counsel, including “Terence R. Coates of Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC, have extensive experience litigation consumer protection class actions ....”).

13. As set forth in the attached firm resume, the lawyers in my firm have considerable experience in class actions and have litigated to resolution many large data breach and privacy cases. The time and effort we devoted to this case would have been spent on other cases but for our commitment to Plaintiffs and their claims.

14. Based on my experience litigating over 70 data breach class actions on behalf of plaintiffs, it is my informed opinion that the requested attorneys’ fees and costs are reasonable and appropriate.

15. I respectfully request that the Court award the requested unopposed attorneys’ fees and costs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023 in Cincinnati, OH.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terence R. Coates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Terence R. Coates



MARKOVITS  
STOCK  
DeMARCO

## MARKOVITS, STOCK & DeMARCO, LLC

Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC is a boutique law firm whose attorneys have successfully represented clients in some of the largest and most complex legal matters in U.S. history. Our deep and varied experience extends from representing businesses, public pension funds, and individuals in federal and state courts across the nation, to successfully arguing appeals at the highest levels of the legal system – including prevailing before the United States Supreme Court. This broad-based litigation and trial expertise, coupled with no overstaffing and overbilling that can typify complex litigation, sets us apart as a law firm. But expertise is only part of the equation.

“Legal success comes only from recognizing a client’s goals and being able to design and effectively execute strategies that accomplish those goals. We understand that every client is different, which is why we spend so much time learning what makes them tick.”

As the business world becomes increasingly complex, you need to be able to trust your law firm to help you make the right decisions. Whether you seek counsel in resolving a current conflict, avoiding a future conflict, or navigating the sometimes choppy state and local government regulatory waters, the lawyers at Markovits, Stock & DeMarco have both the experience and track record to meet your legal needs.

## BILL MARKOVITS

Bill Markovits practices in the area of complex civil litigation, with an emphasis on securities, antitrust, RICO, and False Claims Act cases. Bill began his career as a trial lawyer at the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division in Washington, D.C. He continued a focus on antitrust after moving to Cincinnati, where he became an adjunct professor of antitrust law at the University of Cincinnati Law School. Bill has been involved in the past in a number of notable cases, including: the Choice Care securities, antitrust and RICO class action in which the jury awarded over \$100 million to a class of physicians; a fraud/RICO case on behalf of The Procter & Gamble Company, which resulted in a settlement of \$165 million; an eleven year antitrust and RICO class action against Humana, including appeals that reached the United States Supreme Court, which culminated in a multi-million dollar settlement; and a national class action against Microsoft, in which he was chosen from among dozens of plaintiffs' attorneys to depose Bill Gates. More recently, Bill was: a lead counsel for plaintiffs in the Fannie Mae Securities Litigation that settled for \$153 million; a lead counsel for plaintiffs in a class action against Duke Energy that settled for \$80.75 million; and lead counsel for plaintiff in *Collins v. Eastman Kodak*, where he successfully obtained a preliminary injunction against Kodak on an antitrust tying claim. Based upon the result in *Collins*, Bill was a 2015 finalist in the American Antitrust Institute's Antitrust Enforcement Awards under the category "Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice."

Bill has received a number of awards and designations, including current and past designations as a "Best Lawyer in America" in the fields of antitrust and commercial litigation.

### Education:

Harvard Law School, J.D. (1981), cum laude

Washington University, A.B. (1978), Phi Beta Kappa

### Significant and Representative Cases:

- *Collins v. Eastman Kodak*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Lead counsel representing Collins in antitrust tying claim, resulting in preliminary injunction against Kodak.
- *In Re Federal National Mortgage Association Securities, Derivative, and "ERISA" Litigation*, United States District Court, District of Columbia. Co-lead counsel representing Ohio pension funds in securities class action that settled for \$153 million.
- *Ohio Employees Retirement System v. Federal Home Loan Mortgage, aka Freddie Mac, et al.*, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division. Special counsel representing Ohio pension fund in securities class action.
- *Williams v. Duke Energy et al.*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Representing class of energy consumers against energy provider in complex antitrust and RICO class action that settled for \$80.75 million.
- *In Re Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, United States District Court, Central District of California. Former member of economic loss lead counsel committee, representing class of consumers in litigation relating to sudden acceleration.
- *In Re Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. RICO workgroup coordinator in class action resulting from oil spill.
- *In Re Microsoft Corp. Litigation*, United States District Court, District of Maryland. Member of co-lead counsel firm in antitrust class action.
- *Procter & Gamble v. Amway Litigation*, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, at

Houston; United States District Court, District of Utah, at Salt Lake City. Member of trial team representing Procter & Gamble in obtaining jury verdict against Amway distributors relating to spreading of false business rumors.

- *United States ex rel. Brooks v. Pineville Hospital*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky. One of the lead counsel in successful False Claims Act litigation.
- *Procter & Gamble v. Bankers' Trust Litigation*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Co-counsel in successful \$165 million settlement; developed the RICO case.
- *United States ex rel. Watt v. Fluor Daniel*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Co-lead counsel of successful False Claims Act case.
- *Forsyth v. Humana*, United States District Court, District of Nevada. Represented class of consumers in antitrust and RICO class action; successfully argued antitrust appeal; co-chaired successful Supreme Court appeal on RICO.
- *In Re Choice Care Litigation*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division. Trial attorney on largest antitrust/RICO/securities verdict.

#### **Presentations & Publications:**

- "Implications of Sixth Circuit *Collins Inkjet Corp. v. Eastman Kodak Co. Decision*," American Bar Association panel discussion, December 10, 2015
- "Defining the Relevant Market in Antitrust Litigation," Great Lakes Antitrust Seminar, October 29, 2010
- "Beyond Compensatory Damages – Tread, RICO and The Criminal Law Implications," HarrisMartin's Toyota Recall Litigation Conference, Part II, May 12, 2010
- "The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO)," HarrisMartin's Toyota Recall Litigation Conference, March 24, 2010
- "The False Claims Act: Are Healthcare Providers at Risk?," presentation to Robert Morris College Second Annual Health Services Conferences, Integrating Health Services: Building a Bridge to the 21st Century, Moon Township, PA, October 9, 1997
- "The Federal False Claims Act: Are Health Care Providers at Risk?," (Co-Speaker), Ohio Hospital Association, April, 1996
- "A Focus on Reality in Antitrust," Federal Bar News & Journal, Nov/Dec 1992
- "Using Civil Rico and Avoiding its Abuse," Ohio Trial, William H. Blessing, co-author, Summer 1992
- "Antitrust in the Health Care Field," a chapter published in *Legal Aspects of Anesthesia*, 2nd ed., William H. L. Dornette, J.D., M.D., editor
- *Antitrust Law Update, National Health Lawyers Health Law Update and Annual Meeting (Featured Speaker)*, San Francisco, California, 1989

#### **Affiliations:**

- American Association for Justice
- American Bar Association
- American Trial Lawyers Association
- Cincinnati Bar Association
- District of Columbia Bar Association (non-active)
- Hamilton County Trial Lawyers Association
- National Health Lawyers Association
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio Trial Lawyers Association

#### **Courts Admitted:**

- District of Columbia (1981)
- State of Ohio (1983)
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (1983)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit (1991)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit (1995)
- U.S. Supreme Court, United States of America (1998)
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2008)

### PAUL M. DEMARCO

Paul M. De Marco is a founding member of Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC. He is an Appellate Law Specialist certified by the Ohio State Bar Association and has handled more than 100 appellate matters, including cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, six federal circuits, and five state supreme courts.

Paul's practice also focuses on class actions and other complex litigation. During his 25 years in Cincinnati, Paul has been actively involved in successful litigation related to the U.S. Department of Energy's Fernald nuclear weapons plant, the Lucasville (Ohio) prison riot, Lloyd's of London, defective Bjork-Shiley heart valves, Holocaust-related claims against Swiss and Austrian banks, the Bankers Trust derivative scheme, Cincinnati's Aronoff Center, the San Juan DuPont Plaza Hotel fire, the Procter & Gamble Satanism rumor, the Hamilton County (Ohio) Morgue photograph scandal, defective childhood vaccines, claims arising from tire delamination and vehicle roll-over, racial hostility claims against one of the nation's largest bottlers, fiduciary breach claims against the nation's largest pharmacy benefits manager, and claims arising from the heatstroke death of NFL lineman Korey Stringer.

#### Education:

College of Wooster (B.A., 1981)

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (J.D. with distinction, 1983)

University of Cambridge (1985)

#### Significant and Representative Appeals:

- *Arthur Anderson LLP v. Carlisle*, 556 U.S. 624, 129 S.Ct. 1896 (2009): In a case involving allegations of a fraudulent tax shelter and accounting and legal malpractice, the Supreme Court of the United States resolved the issue of the rights of non-parties to arbitration clauses to enforce them against parties, which had divided the circuits.
- *Williams v. Duke Energy International, Inc.*, 681 F.3d 788 (6th Cir. 2012): In a case brought as a class action by a utility's ratepayers for selective payment of illegal rebates to certain ratepayers, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed a district court's dismissal of the excluded ratepayers' claims that the utility violated the RICO statute, the Robinson-Patman Act, and the state corrupt practices act.
- *State of Ohio ex rel. Bd. of State Teachers Retirement Sys. of Ohio v. Davis*, 113 Ohio St.3d 410, 865 N.E.2d 1289 (2007): The Supreme Court of Ohio upheld the appellate court's issuance of the extremely rare writ of procedendo commanding the trial judge to proceed with a trial on claims he mistakenly believed the previous jury had resolved.
- *Chesher v. Neyer*, 477 F.3d 784 (6th Cir. 2007): The Sixth Circuit affirmed the district court's rejection of qualified immunity defenses raised by the Hamilton County (Ohio) coroner, his chief deputy, the coroner's administrative aide, a staff pathologist, and a pathology fellow in connection with the Hamilton County Morgue photo scandal.
- *State of Ohio ex rel. CNG Fin'l Corp. v. Nadel*, 111 Ohio St.3d 149, 855 N.E.2d 473 (2006): The Supreme Court of Ohio affirmed the appellate court's refusal to issue a writ of procedendo commanding the trial judge to halt injunctive proceedings and decide an arbitration issue.
- *Smith v. North American Stainless, L.P.*, 158 F. App'x. 699 (6th Cir. 2006): Rejecting a steel manufacturer's "up-the-ladder" immunity defense, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed the district court's dismissal of a wrongful claim brought by the widow and estate of a steel worker killed on the job.
- *Procter & Gamble Co. v. Haugen*, 427 F.3d 727 (10th Cir. 2005): The United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit reversed the district court's dismissal of Procter & Gamble's Lanham Act claims, paving the way for a \$19.25 million jury verdict in its favor.

- *Roetenberger v. Christ Hospital*, 163 Ohio App.3d 555, 839 N.E.2d 441 (2005): In this medical malpractice action for wrongful death, the Ohio court of appeals reversed the jury verdict in the physician’s favor due to improper arguments by his attorney and instructional error by the trial court.
- *City of Cincinnati v. Beretta U.S.A. Corp.*, 95 Ohio St.3d 416, 768 N.E.2d 1136 (2002): In this landmark decision on public nuisance law, the Supreme Court of Ohio held that a public nuisance action could be maintained for injuries caused by a product — in this case, guns — if the design, manufacture, marketing, or sale of the product unreasonably interferes with a right common to the general public.
- *Norgard v. Brush Wellman, Inc.*, 95 Ohio St.3d 165, 766 N.E.2d 977 (2002): In an employee’s intentional tort action alleging that his employer subjected him to long-term beryllium exposure, the Supreme Court of Ohio ruled that a cause of action for an employer intentional tort accrues when the employee discovers, or by the exercise of reasonable diligence should have discovered, the workplace injury and — here’s the ground-breaking part of the holding — the wrongful conduct of the employer.
- *Wallace v. Ohio Dep’t of Commerce*, 96 Ohio St.3d 266, 773 N.E.2d 1018 (2002): In overturning the dismissal of a suit against the state fire marshal for negligently inspecting a fireworks store that caught fire killing nine people, the Supreme Court of Ohio held for the first time that the common-law public-duty rule cannot be applied in cases against the state in the Ohio Court of Claims.

**Courts Admitted:**

- Ohio
- California
- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Since 1994, Paul has worked to promote professional responsibility among lawyers, serving first as a member and eventually the chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association Certified Grievance Committee, and since 2008 as a member of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

He also is a member of many legal organizations, including the Federal Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Cincinnati Bar Association, American Bar Association, ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers, and the Cincinnati Bar Association’s Court of Appeals Committee.

Paul was one of the founders of the Collaborative Law Center in Cincinnati, a member of Cincinnati’s Citizens Police Review Panel (1999-2002), and a member of Cincinnati CAN and its Police and Community Subcommittee following the 2001 riots.

He currently serves on the boards of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center and the Mercantile Library and on the advisory committees of the Fernald Community Cohort and the Fernald Workers’ Medical Monitoring Program.

## TERENCE R. COATES

Terry Coates is Markovits, Stock & DeMarco's managing partner. His legal practice focuses on personal injury law, sports & entertainment law, business litigation and class action litigation. Mr. Coates is currently participating as a member of plaintiffs' counsel in the over 70 data breach cases pending around the country, including serving as co-lead counsel for plaintiff in *Rodriguez v. Professional Finance Company, Inc.*, No. 1:22-cv-1679 (D. Colo.; court-appointed interim lead counsel); *Migliaccio v. Parker Hannifin Corp.*, No. 1:22-CV-00835 (N.D. Ohio; court-appointed interim lead counsel); *Sherwood v. Horizon Actuarial Services, LLC*, No. 1:22-cv-1495 (N.D. Ga.; court-appointed interim class counsel); *Tracy v. Elekta, Inc.*, No. 1:21-cv-02851-SDG (N.D. Ga.; court-appointed interim class counsel); *Devine v. Health Aid of Ohio, Inc.*, No. CV-21-948117 (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio) (court appointed class counsel); *Engle v. Talbert House*, No. A 2103650 (Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio) (court-appointed class counsel).

### Education:

Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D. (2009)

Wittenberg University, B.A. (2005)

### Representative Cases:

- *Bechtel v. Fitness Equipment Services, LLC*, No. 1:19-cv-726-KLL (S.D. Ohio) (\$3.65 million common fund settlement finally approved on September 20, 2022);
- *Bowling v. Pfizer, Inc.*, Case No. C-1-95-256, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Class Counsel for recipients of defective mechanical heart valves including continued international distribution of settlement funds to remaining class members);
- *Collins Inkjet Corp. v. Eastman Kodak Company*, Case No. 1:13-cv-0664, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (trial counsel for Collins in an antitrust tying claim resulting in a preliminary injunction against Kodak – a decision that was affirmed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals: *Collins Inkjet Corp. v. Eastman Kodak Co.*, 781 F.3d 264 (6th Cir. 2015));
- *Day v. NLO, Inc.*, Case No. C-1-90-67, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Class Counsel for certain former workers at the Fernald Nuclear weapons facility; the medical monitoring program continues);
- *In re Fannie Mae Securities Litigation*, Case No. 1:04-cv-1639, United States District Court, District of Columbia (represented Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b securities class action litigation resulting in a \$153 million court-approved settlement);
- *In re Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Marketing, Sales Practices, & Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2151, United States District Court, Southern District of California (represented plaintiffs and prepared class representatives for deposition testimony resulting in a court-approved settlement valued in excess of \$1.5 billion);
- *In re NCAA Student-Athlete Name & Likeness Licensing Litigation*, Case No. 09-1967, United States District Court, Northern District of California (represented NCAA, Olympic, and NBA legend, Oscar Robertson, in antitrust claims against the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC), and Electronic Arts (EA) leading to a \$40 million settlement with EA and CLC and the Court issuing a permanent injunction against the NCAA for unreasonably restraining trade in violation of antitrust law);
- *Linneman v. Vita-Mix Corp.*, Case No. 14-cv-748, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Class Counsel for a nationwide class of Vita-Mix blender consumers resulting in a nationwide settlement);
- *Ryder v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 1:2019-cv-00638 (S.D. Ohio) (member of class counsel in a \$12 million settlement on behalf of roughly 1,830 class members);



- *Shy v. Navistar International Corp.*, No. 92-cv-0333-WHR (S.D. Ohio) (class counsel for a class action settlement valued at over \$742 million);
- *Walker v. Nautilus, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-3414-EAS (S.D. Ohio) (\$4.25 million common fund settlement finally approved on June 28, 2022);
- *Williams v. Duke Energy*, Case No. 1:08-cv-00046, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (representing class of energy consumers against energy provider in complex antitrust and RICO class action resulting in the court granting final approval of an \$80.875 million settlement); and,
- *Ohio Public Employees Retirement System v. Federal Home Loan Mortgage ("Freddie Mac")*, Case No. 4:08-cv-0160, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (Special counsel for Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b-5 securities class action litigation).

**Community Involvement:**

- Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers (CALL), Class XXI, *Participant* (2017)
- Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce C-Change Class 9, *Participant* (2014)
- Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, *Ambassador* (2014)
- Cincinnati Athletic Club, *President* (2015-2017)
- Cincinnati Athletic Club, *Vice President* (2014-2015)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, Board of Trustees, *Trustee* (2019-present)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, Board of Trustees, *Executive Committee* (2021-present)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Membership Services & Development Committee* (2014-present)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Run for Kids Committee* (2009-2014)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Social Committee* (2011-2014)
- Clermont County Humane Society, *Board Member* (2014-2017)
- Clermont County Humane Society, *Legal Adviser* (2017-present)
- Potter Stewart Inn of Court, *Executive Director* (2021-present)
- Summit Country Day High School, *Mock Trial Adviser* (2013-2016)
- St. Peter in Chains, Cathedral, Parish Council (2014-2017)

**Recognitions:**

- Super Lawyers, Rising Star (2014 – present)
- Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation (2020-present)
- Wittenberg University Outstanding Young Alumnus Award (2014)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section Professionalism Award (2015)
- JDRF Bourbon & Bow Tie Bash, *Young Professional (Volunteer) of the Year* for the Flying Pig Marathon (2016)
- Cincinnati Business Courier, Forty Under 40 (2019)
- Cincinnati Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Cincinnati's Finest Honoree (2020)

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2009)
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2010)
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2010)
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan (2021)
- United States District Court, District of Colorado (2022)
- United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit (2018)

**JUSTIN C. WALKER**

Justin C. Walker is Of Counsel at Markovits, Stock & DeMarco. Justin’s practice areas are focused on complex civil litigation and constitutional law, with an emphasis on consumer fraud and defective products. Before joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco in April 2019, Justin practiced at the Finney Law Firm, a boutique law firm specializing in complex litigation and constitutional law. At the beginning of his legal career, Justin served as a judicial extern for Senior United States District Judge Sandra S. Beckwith before taking a full-time position as a law clerk and magistrate in the Hamilton County Ohio Court of Common Pleas for the Honorable Norbert A. Nadel. After completing his clerkship, Justin took a position as a prosecutor, serving as first chair for multiple jury trials. Justin then entered private practice, shifting his practice to focus on litigation matters.

**Education:**

University of Cincinnati, J.D. (2005)

Miami University, B.S. (2001)

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2005)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit (2017)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2008)
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Ohio (2009)

**Representative Cases:**

- *Linneman v. Vita-Mix Corp.*, Case No. 15-cv-748, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Co-Class Counsel for a nationwide class of Vita-Mix blender consumers resulting in a nationwide settlement).
- *Baker v. City of Portsmouth*, Case No. 1:14-cv-512, 2015 WL 5822659 (S.D. Ohio Oct. 1, 2015) (Co-Counsel for a class of property owners, the Court ruled that City violated the Fourth Amendment when it required property owners to consent to a warrantless inspection of their property or face a criminal penalty where not valid exception to the warrant requirement exists).
- *E.F. Investments, LLC v. City of Covington, Kentucky*, Case No. 17-cv-00117-DLB-JGW, United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky (Lead Counsel on case brought on behalf of local property owners, contending that City’s rental registration requirements violated the Fourth Amendment resulting in a settlement).
- *State of Ohio ex rel. Patricia Meade v. Village of Bratenahl*, 2018-04409, Supreme Court State of Ohio (Co-Counsel on behalf of local taxpayer contending that Defendant’s violated Ohio Open Meetings Law).
- *Dawson v. Village of Winchester*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Lead Counsel represented Plaintiff claiming Federal Civil Rights violations due to unconstitutional arrest and detainment).

**Affiliations and Presentations:**

- Cincinnati Bar Association
- Clermont County Bar Association
- American Association for Justice
- “Municipal Bankruptcy: Chapter 9 – Should Cincinnati Consider Filing for Bankruptcy”
- “Ohio CLE Introduction to Bankruptcy for Lawyers CLE”

## CHRISTOPHER D. STOCK

Chris's legal practice focuses on securities class action and multi-district products liability litigation, as well as appellate advocacy. Serving as a judicial law clerk for Ohio Supreme Court Justice Terrence O'Donnell gave Chris invaluable insight into how courts synthesize and deconstruct legal arguments. Since then, Chris has briefed and argued numerous cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the Ohio Supreme Court, and Ohio appellate courts, including obtaining a rare summary reversal from the United States Supreme Court.

Chris also served as both Deputy First Assistant Attorney General and Deputy State Solicitor for Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro. In these positions, Chris was principal counsel to the Attorney General on a wide variety of legal and policy-oriented issues, including numerous constitutional and regulatory matters arising from state agencies, boards, and commissions. Prior to his service in state government, Chris was an attorney at a 500-lawyer nationally-recognized law firm.

He received multiple designations as an Ohio Super Lawyers "Rising Star." This distinction is awarded to less than 2.5 percent of Ohio attorneys under the age of 40.

### Education:

The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, J.D. (2002)

The Ohio State University, BA (1997)

### Significant Cases:

- *In re Fannie Mae Securities Litigation*, Case No. 1:04-cv-1639 (D.D.C.). Representing Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b-5 securities class action litigation.
- *Ohio Public Employees Retirement System v. Freddie Mac, et al.*, Case No. 4:08-cv-160 (N.D. Ohio). Representing Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b-5 securities class action litigation.
- *Williams v. Duke Energy*, Case No.: 1:08-CV-00046 (S.D. Ohio). Representing class of energy consumers against energy provider in complex antitrust and RICO class action.
- *Slaby v. Wilson*, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. Lead trial counsel representing two private individuals who were falsely accused by a County Commissioner of murdering their child and covering up the child's death (as well as sexual abuse of child).
- *Kelci Stringer, et al. v. National Football League, et al.*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division. Represented professional football player against NFL and helmet manufacturer in wrongful death/products liability litigation related to professional football player's death.
- *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division. Represented former Congressman in defamation action against organization who published false statements about former Congressman's voting record and alleged influence over organization's commercial activities.
- *Mitchell v. Esparza*, Case No. 02-1369 (United States Supreme Court). Obtained summary reversal of Sixth Circuit decision on Eighth Amendment capital sentencing issue.
- *Cleveland Bar Association v. CompManagement, Inc.*, Case No. 04-0817 (Ohio Supreme Court). Represented the State of Ohio as amicus in landmark workers' compensation lawsuit.

### Presentations:

- Class Action Boot Camp: The Basics and Beyond (2012).
- Harris Martin Toyota Sudden Unintended Acceleration Litigation Conference: TREAD Act Liability and Toyota (2010).
- Harris Martin BP Oil Spill Litigation Conference: The RICO Act's Application to the BP Oil Spill (2010).

**Affiliations:**

- Ohio State Bar Association
- Cincinnati Bar Association

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2002)
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2003)
- Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Ohio (2003)
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2007)

**DYLAN J. GOULD**

Dylan J. Gould is an associate attorney at Markovits, Stock & DeMarco. Dylan’s practice primarily focuses on class action litigation representing consumers who have been harmed by data breaches or unfair and deceptive trade practices. Before joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco as an attorney, Dylan spent a summer interning for the Kenton County, Kentucky, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, and clerked for both Markovits, Stock & DeMarco and another law firm, Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff. During law school, Dylan competed in competitions around the country as a member of both the Cincinnati College of Law Trial Practice and Moot Court teams. Since joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, Dylan has worked on numerous complex and class action cases against some of America’s largest corporations.

**Education:**

University of Cincinnati, J.D. (2018)

University of Colorado at Boulder, B.A. (2015)

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2018)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2019)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2022)

**Representative Cases:**

- *Benedetto v. The Huntington National Bank*, No. A1903532, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio (served as member of class counsel in class action related to untimely mortgage releases that recently received final approval of class action settlement);
- *Gilbert et al v. BioPlus Specialty Pharmacy Services, LLC*, No. 6:21-CV-02158, United States District Court, Middle District of Florida (serving as a member of plaintiffs’ counsel in a putative data breach class action)
- *Lutz v. Electromed, Inc.*, No. 21-cv-2198, United States District Court, District of Minnesota (serving as a member of plaintiffs’ counsel in a putative data breach class action)
- *Morano v. Fifth Third Bank*, No. A2003954, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio (serving as member of class counsel in class action related to untimely mortgage releases that recently received preliminary approval of class action settlement);
- *Reynolds v. Concordia University*, St. Paul, No. 0:21-CV-2560, United States District Court, District of Minnesota (serving as a member of proposed class counsel for the plaintiff in case based on the unavailability of clinical experience for nursing students);
- *Voss v. Quicken Loans*, No. A 2002899, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio (serving as a member of proposed class counsel for the plaintiff in a putative class action against a mortgagee relating to violations of R.C. 5301.36 relating to the untimely filing of mortgages releases in Ohio).

**Affiliations:**

Cincinnati Bar Association

Ohio State Bar Association

## JONATHAN T. DETERS

Jon is a Cincinnati native whose legal practice is focused on complex civil litigation, class action litigation, personal injury law, and sports & entertainment law. Jon has been a litigator since the start of his career, and his clients have included individuals, businesses, local governments, and government officials. Jon's experience serving as both plaintiff and defense counsel make him uniquely qualified and well-suited to represent individual and corporate clients in litigation. Jon has been designated as an Ohio Super Lawyers "Rising Star" from 2019-present, which is a distinction awarded to less than 2.5% of Ohio attorneys under the age of 40.

Before joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco in January 2022, Jon practiced at Schroeder, Maundrell, Barbieri & Powers, an Ohio law firm specializing in civil litigation, personal injury, and constitutional law. While in law school, Jon served as a constable in the Hamilton County Ohio Court of Common Pleas for the Honorable Steven E. Martin and worked as law clerk at the Law Office of Steven R. Adams.

### Education:

Salmon P. Chase School of Law at Northern Kentucky University, J.D. (2015)

Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, Honors Bachelor of Arts (2012)

### Representative Cases:

- *Baker v. Carnine*, No. 1:19-CV-60 (2022), United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- *Jones v. Vill. of Golf Manor*, No. 1:18-CV-403 (2020), United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- *Vaduva v. City of Xenia*, 780 F. App'x 331 (2019), United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- *Gillispie v. Miami Twp.*, No. 3:13-CV-416 (2017), United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- *City of Mt. Healthy v. Fraternal Ord. of Police, Ohio Lab. Council, Inc.*, 101 N.E.3d 1163 (2017), Ohio First District Court of Appeals

### Community Involvement:

- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Member*
- Ohio Bar Association, *Member*
- Boy Hope Girls Hope of Cincinnati, *Young Professionals Board Member*
- Board of Trustees of the New St. Joseph Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio, *Member*

### Courts Admitted:

- State of Ohio
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit



MARKOVITS  
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DeMARCO

## MARKOVITS, STOCK & DeMARCO, LLC

Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC is a boutique law firm whose attorneys have successfully represented clients in some of the largest and most complex legal matters in U.S. history. Our deep and varied experience extends from representing businesses, public pension funds, and individuals in federal and state courts across the nation, to successfully arguing appeals at the highest levels of the legal system – including prevailing before the United States Supreme Court. This broad-based litigation and trial expertise, coupled with no overstaffing and overbilling that can typify complex litigation, sets us apart as a law firm. But expertise is only part of the equation.

“Legal success comes only from recognizing a client’s goals and being able to design and effectively execute strategies that accomplish those goals. We understand that every client is different, which is why we spend so much time learning what makes them tick.”

As the business world becomes increasingly complex, you need to be able to trust your law firm to help you make the right decisions. Whether you seek counsel in resolving a current conflict, avoiding a future conflict, or navigating the sometimes choppy state and local government regulatory waters, the lawyers at Markovits, Stock & DeMarco have both the experience and track record to meet your legal needs.

## BILL MARKOVITS

Bill Markovits practices in the area of complex civil litigation, with an emphasis on securities, antitrust, RICO, and False Claims Act cases. Bill began his career as a trial lawyer at the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division in Washington, D.C. He continued a focus on antitrust after moving to Cincinnati, where he became an adjunct professor of antitrust law at the University of Cincinnati Law School. Bill has been involved in the past in a number of notable cases, including: the Choice Care securities, antitrust and RICO class action in which the jury awarded over \$100 million to a class of physicians; a fraud/RICO case on behalf of The Procter & Gamble Company, which resulted in a settlement of \$165 million; an eleven year antitrust and RICO class action against Humana, including appeals that reached the United States Supreme Court, which culminated in a multi-million dollar settlement; and a national class action against Microsoft, in which he was chosen from among dozens of plaintiffs' attorneys to depose Bill Gates. More recently, Bill was: a lead counsel for plaintiffs in the Fannie Mae Securities Litigation that settled for \$153 million; a lead counsel for plaintiffs in a class action against Duke Energy that settled for \$80.75 million; and lead counsel for plaintiff in *Collins v. Eastman Kodak*, where he successfully obtained a preliminary injunction against Kodak on an antitrust tying claim. Based upon the result in *Collins*, Bill was a 2015 finalist in the American Antitrust Institute's Antitrust Enforcement Awards under the category "Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice."

Bill has received a number of awards and designations, including current and past designations as a "Best Lawyer in America" in the fields of antitrust and commercial litigation.

### Education:

Harvard Law School, J.D. (1981), cum laude

Washington University, A.B. (1978), Phi Beta Kappa

### Significant and Representative Cases:

- *Collins v. Eastman Kodak*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Lead counsel representing Collins in antitrust tying claim, resulting in preliminary injunction against Kodak.
- *In Re Federal National Mortgage Association Securities, Derivative, and "ERISA" Litigation*, United States District Court, District of Columbia. Co-lead counsel representing Ohio pension funds in securities class action that settled for \$153 million.
- *Ohio Employees Retirement System v. Federal Home Loan Mortgage, aka Freddie Mac, et al.*, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division. Special counsel representing Ohio pension fund in securities class action.
- *Williams v. Duke Energy et al.*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Representing class of energy consumers against energy provider in complex antitrust and RICO class action that settled for \$80.75 million.
- *In Re Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, United States District Court, Central District of California. Former member of economic loss lead counsel committee, representing class of consumers in litigation relating to sudden acceleration.
- *In Re Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. RICO workgroup coordinator in class action resulting from oil spill.
- *In Re Microsoft Corp. Litigation*, United States District Court, District of Maryland. Member of co-lead counsel firm in antitrust class action.
- *Procter & Gamble v. Amway Litigation*, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, at



Houston; United States District Court, District of Utah, at Salt Lake City. Member of trial team representing Procter & Gamble in obtaining jury verdict against Amway distributors relating to spreading of false business rumors.

- *United States ex rel. Brooks v. Pineville Hospital*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky. One of the lead counsel in successful False Claims Act litigation.
- *Procter & Gamble v. Bankers' Trust Litigation*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Co-counsel in successful \$165 million settlement; developed the RICO case.
- *United States ex rel. Watt v. Fluor Daniel*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio. Co-lead counsel of successful False Claims Act case.
- *Forsyth v. Humana*, United States District Court, District of Nevada. Represented class of consumers in antitrust and RICO class action; successfully argued antitrust appeal; co-chaired successful Supreme Court appeal on RICO.
- *In Re Choice Care Litigation*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division. Trial attorney on largest antitrust/RICO/securities verdict.

#### **Presentations & Publications:**

- "Implications of Sixth Circuit *Collins Inkjet Corp. v. Eastman Kodak Co. Decision*," American Bar Association panel discussion, December 10, 2015
- "Defining the Relevant Market in Antitrust Litigation," Great Lakes Antitrust Seminar, October 29, 2010
- "Beyond Compensatory Damages – Tread, RICO and The Criminal Law Implications," HarrisMartin's Toyota Recall Litigation Conference, Part II, May 12, 2010
- "The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO)," HarrisMartin's Toyota Recall Litigation Conference, March 24, 2010
- "The False Claims Act: Are Healthcare Providers at Risk?," presentation to Robert Morris College Second Annual Health Services Conferences, Integrating Health Services: Building a Bridge to the 21st Century, Moon Township, PA, October 9, 1997
- "The Federal False Claims Act: Are Health Care Providers at Risk?," (Co-Speaker), Ohio Hospital Association, April, 1996
- "A Focus on Reality in Antitrust," Federal Bar News & Journal, Nov/Dec 1992
- "Using Civil Rico and Avoiding its Abuse," Ohio Trial, William H. Blessing, co-author, Summer 1992
- "Antitrust in the Health Care Field," a chapter published in *Legal Aspects of Anesthesia*, 2nd ed., William H. L. Dornette, J.D., M.D., editor
- *Antitrust Law Update, National Health Lawyers Health Law Update and Annual Meeting (Featured Speaker)*, San Francisco, California, 1989

#### **Affiliations:**

- American Association for Justice
- American Bar Association
- American Trial Lawyers Association
- Cincinnati Bar Association
- District of Columbia Bar Association (non-active)
- Hamilton County Trial Lawyers Association
- National Health Lawyers Association
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio Trial Lawyers Association

#### **Courts Admitted:**

- District of Columbia (1981)
- State of Ohio (1983)
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (1983)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit (1991)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit (1995)
- U.S. Supreme Court, United States of America (1998)
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2008)

## PAUL M. DEMARCO

Paul M. De Marco is a founding member of Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, LLC. He is an Appellate Law Specialist certified by the Ohio State Bar Association and has handled more than 100 appellate matters, including cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, six federal circuits, and five state supreme courts.

Paul's practice also focuses on class actions and other complex litigation. During his 25 years in Cincinnati, Paul has been actively involved in successful litigation related to the U.S. Department of Energy's Fernald nuclear weapons plant, the Lucasville (Ohio) prison riot, Lloyd's of London, defective Bjork-Shiley heart valves, Holocaust-related claims against Swiss and Austrian banks, the Bankers Trust derivative scheme, Cincinnati's Aronoff Center, the San Juan DuPont Plaza Hotel fire, the Procter & Gamble Satanism rumor, the Hamilton County (Ohio) Morgue photograph scandal, defective childhood vaccines, claims arising from tire delamination and vehicle roll-over, racial hostility claims against one of the nation's largest bottlers, fiduciary breach claims against the nation's largest pharmacy benefits manager, and claims arising from the heatstroke death of NFL lineman Korey Stringer.

### Education:

College of Wooster (B.A., 1981)

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (J.D. with distinction, 1983)

University of Cambridge (1985)

### Significant and Representative Appeals:

- *Arthur Anderson LLP v. Carlisle*, 556 U.S. 624, 129 S.Ct. 1896 (2009): In a case involving allegations of a fraudulent tax shelter and accounting and legal malpractice, the Supreme Court of the United States resolved the issue of the rights of non-parties to arbitration clauses to enforce them against parties, which had divided the circuits.
- *Williams v. Duke Energy International, Inc.*, 681 F.3d 788 (6th Cir. 2012): In a case brought as a class action by a utility's ratepayers for selective payment of illegal rebates to certain ratepayers, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed a district court's dismissal of the excluded ratepayers' claims that the utility violated the RICO statute, the Robinson-Patman Act, and the state corrupt practices act.
- *State of Ohio ex rel. Bd. of State Teachers Retirement Sys. of Ohio v. Davis*, 113 Ohio St.3d 410, 865 N.E.2d 1289 (2007): The Supreme Court of Ohio upheld the appellate court's issuance of the extremely rare writ of procedendo commanding the trial judge to proceed with a trial on claims he mistakenly believed the previous jury had resolved.
- *Chesher v. Neyer*, 477 F.3d 784 (6th Cir. 2007): The Sixth Circuit affirmed the district court's rejection of qualified immunity defenses raised by the Hamilton County (Ohio) coroner, his chief deputy, the coroner's administrative aide, a staff pathologist, and a pathology fellow in connection with the Hamilton County Morgue photo scandal.
- *State of Ohio ex rel. CNG Fin'l Corp. v. Nadel*, 111 Ohio St.3d 149, 855 N.E.2d 473 (2006): The Supreme Court of Ohio affirmed the appellate court's refusal to issue a writ of procedendo commanding the trial judge to halt injunctive proceedings and decide an arbitration issue.
- *Smith v. North American Stainless, L.P.*, 158 F. App'x. 699 (6th Cir. 2006): Rejecting a steel manufacturer's "up-the-ladder" immunity defense, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reversed the district court's dismissal of a wrongful claim brought by the widow and estate of a steel worker killed on the job.
- *Procter & Gamble Co. v. Haugen*, 427 F.3d 727 (10th Cir. 2005): The United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit reversed the district court's dismissal of Procter & Gamble's Lanham Act claims, paving the way for a \$19.25 million jury verdict in its favor.

- *Roetenberger v. Christ Hospital*, 163 Ohio App.3d 555, 839 N.E.2d 441 (2005): In this medical malpractice action for wrongful death, the Ohio court of appeals reversed the jury verdict in the physician's favor due to improper arguments by his attorney and instructional error by the trial court.
- *City of Cincinnati v. Beretta U.S.A. Corp.*, 95 Ohio St.3d 416, 768 N.E.2d 1136 (2002): In this landmark decision on public nuisance law, the Supreme Court of Ohio held that a public nuisance action could be maintained for injuries caused by a product — in this case, guns — if the design, manufacture, marketing, or sale of the product unreasonably interferes with a right common to the general public.
- *Norgard v. Brush Wellman, Inc.*, 95 Ohio St.3d 165, 766 N.E.2d 977 (2002): In an employee's intentional tort action alleging that his employer subjected him to long-term beryllium exposure, the Supreme Court of Ohio ruled that a cause of action for an employer intentional tort accrues when the employee discovers, or by the exercise of reasonable diligence should have discovered, the workplace injury and — here's the ground-breaking part of the holding — the wrongful conduct of the employer.
- *Wallace v. Ohio Dep't of Commerce*, 96 Ohio St.3d 266, 773 N.E.2d 1018 (2002): In overturning the dismissal of a suit against the state fire marshal for negligently inspecting a fireworks store that caught fire killing nine people, the Supreme Court of Ohio held for the first time that the common-law public-duty rule cannot be applied in cases against the state in the Ohio Court of Claims.

#### Courts Admitted:

- Ohio
- California
- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Since 1994, Paul has worked to promote professional responsibility among lawyers, serving first as a member and eventually the chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association Certified Grievance Committee, and since 2008 as a member of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

He also is a member of many legal organizations, including the Federal Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Cincinnati Bar Association, American Bar Association, ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers, and the Cincinnati Bar Association's Court of Appeals Committee.

Paul was one of the founders of the Collaborative Law Center in Cincinnati, a member of Cincinnati's Citizens Police Review Panel (1999-2002), and a member of Cincinnati CAN and its Police and Community Subcommittee following the 2001 riots.

He currently serves on the boards of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center and the Mercantile Library and on the advisory committees of the Fernald Community Cohort and the Fernald Workers' Medical Monitoring Program.

## TERENCE R. COATES

Terry Coates is Markovits, Stock & DeMarco's managing partner. His legal practice focuses on personal injury law, sports & entertainment law, business litigation and class action litigation. Mr. Coates is currently participating as a member of plaintiffs' counsel in the over 70 data breach cases pending around the country, including serving as co-lead counsel for plaintiff in *Rodriguez v. Professional Finance Company, Inc.*, No. 1:22-cv-1679 (D. Colo.; court-appointed interim lead counsel); *Migliaccio v. Parker Hannifin Corp.*, No. 1:22-CV-00835 (N.D. Ohio; court-appointed interim lead counsel); *Sherwood v. Horizon Actuarial Services, LLC*, No. 1:22-cv-1495 (N.D. Ga.; court-appointed interim class counsel); *Tracy v. Elekta, Inc.*, No. 1:21-cv-02851-SDG (N.D. Ga.; court-appointed interim class counsel); *Devine v. Health Aid of Ohio, Inc.*, No. CV-21-948117 (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio) (court appointed class counsel); *Engle v. Talbert House*, No. A 2103650 (Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio) (court-appointed class counsel).

### Education:

Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D. (2009)

Wittenberg University, B.A. (2005)

### Representative Cases:

- *Bechtel v. Fitness Equipment Services, LLC*, No. 1:19-cv-726-KLL (S.D. Ohio) (\$3.65 million common fund settlement finally approved on September 20, 2022);
- *Bowling v. Pfizer, Inc.*, Case No. C-1-95-256, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Class Counsel for recipients of defective mechanical heart valves including continued international distribution of settlement funds to remaining class members);
- *Collins Inkjet Corp. v. Eastman Kodak Company*, Case No. 1:13-cv-0664, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (trial counsel for Collins in an antitrust tying claim resulting in a preliminary injunction against Kodak – a decision that was affirmed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals: *Collins Inkjet Corp. v. Eastman Kodak Co.*, 781 F.3d 264 (6th Cir. 2015));
- *Day v. NLO, Inc.*, Case No. C-1-90-67, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Class Counsel for certain former workers at the Fernald Nuclear weapons facility; the medical monitoring program continues);
- *In re Fannie Mae Securities Litigation*, Case No. 1:04-cv-1639, United States District Court, District of Columbia (represented Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b securities class action litigation resulting in a \$153 million court-approved settlement);
- *In re Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Marketing, Sales Practices, & Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2151, United States District Court, Southern District of California (represented plaintiffs and prepared class representatives for deposition testimony resulting in a court-approved settlement valued in excess of \$1.5 billion);
- *In re NCAA Student-Athlete Name & Likeness Licensing Litigation*, Case No. 09-1967, United States District Court, Northern District of California (represented NCAA, Olympic, and NBA legend, Oscar Robertson, in antitrust claims against the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC), and Electronic Arts (EA) leading to a \$40 million settlement with EA and CLC and the Court issuing a permanent injunction against the NCAA for unreasonably restraining trade in violation of antitrust law);
- *Linneman v. Vita-Mix Corp.*, Case No. 14-cv-748, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Class Counsel for a nationwide class of Vita-Mix blender consumers resulting in a nationwide settlement);
- *Ryder v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 1:2019-cv-00638 (S.D. Ohio) (member of class counsel in a \$12 million settlement on behalf of roughly 1,830 class members);

- *Shy v. Navistar International Corp.*, No. 92-cv-0333-WHR (S.D. Ohio) (class counsel for a class action settlement valued at over \$742 million);
- *Walker v. Nautilus, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-3414-EAS (S.D. Ohio) (\$4.25 million common fund settlement finally approved on June 28, 2022);
- *Williams v. Duke Energy*, Case No. 1:08-cv-00046, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (representing class of energy consumers against energy provider in complex antitrust and RICO class action resulting in the court granting final approval of an \$80.875 million settlement); and,
- *Ohio Public Employees Retirement System v. Federal Home Loan Mortgage ("Freddie Mac")*, Case No. 4:08-cv-0160, United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (Special counsel for Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b-5 securities class action litigation).

**Community Involvement:**

- Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers (CALL), Class XXI, *Participant* (2017)
- Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce C-Change Class 9, *Participant* (2014)
- Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, *Ambassador* (2014)
- Cincinnati Athletic Club, *President* (2015-2017)
- Cincinnati Athletic Club, *Vice President* (2014-2015)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, Board of Trustees, *Trustee* (2019-present)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, Board of Trustees, *Executive Committee* (2021-present)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Membership Services & Development Committee* (2014-present)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Run for Kids Committee* (2009-2014)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Social Committee* (2011-2014)
- Clermont County Humane Society, *Board Member* (2014-2017)
- Clermont County Humane Society, *Legal Adviser* (2017-present)
- Potter Stewart Inn of Court, *Executive Director* (2021-present)
- Summit Country Day High School, *Mock Trial Adviser* (2013-2016)
- St. Peter in Chains, Cathedral, Parish Council (2014-2017)

**Recognitions:**

- Super Lawyers, Rising Star (2014 – present)
- Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation (2020-present)
- Wittenberg University Outstanding Young Alumnus Award (2014)
- Cincinnati Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section Professionalism Award (2015)
- JDRF Bourbon & Bow Tie Bash, *Young Professional (Volunteer) of the Year* for the Flying Pig Marathon (2016)
- Cincinnati Business Courier, Forty Under 40 (2019)
- Cincinnati Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Cincinnati's Finest Honoree (2020)

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2009)
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2010)
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2010)
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan (2021)
- United States District Court, District of Colorado (2022)
- United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit (2018)

### **JUSTIN C. WALKER**

Justin C. Walker is Of Counsel at Markovits, Stock & DeMarco. Justin’s practice areas are focused on complex civil litigation and constitutional law, with an emphasis on consumer fraud and defective products. Before joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco in April 2019, Justin practiced at the Finney Law Firm, a boutique law firm specializing in complex litigation and constitutional law. At the beginning of his legal career, Justin served as a judicial extern for Senior United States District Judge Sandra S. Beckwith before taking a full-time position as a law clerk and magistrate in the Hamilton County Ohio Court of Common Pleas for the Honorable Norbert A. Nadel. After completing his clerkship, Justin took a position as a prosecutor, serving as first chair for multiple jury trials. Justin then entered private practice, shifting his practice to focus on litigation matters.

#### **Education:**

University of Cincinnati, J.D. (2005)

Miami University, B.S. (2001)

#### **Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2005)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit (2017)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2008)
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Ohio (2009)

#### **Representative Cases:**

- *Linneman v. Vita-Mix Corp.*, Case No. 15-cv-748, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Co-Class Counsel for a nationwide class of Vita-Mix blender consumers resulting in a nationwide settlement).
- *Baker v. City of Portsmouth*, Case No. 1:14-cv-512, 2015 WL 5822659 (S.D. Ohio Oct. 1, 2015) (Co-Counsel for a class of property owners, the Court ruled that City violated the Fourth Amendment when it required property owners to consent to a warrantless inspection of their property or face a criminal penalty where not valid exception to the warrant requirement exists).
- *E.F. Investments, LLC v. City of Covington, Kentucky*, Case No. 17-cv-00117-DLB-JGW, United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky (Lead Counsel on case brought on behalf of local property owners, contending that City’s rental registration requirements violated the Fourth Amendment resulting in a settlement).
- *State of Ohio ex rel. Patricia Meade v. Village of Bratenahl*, 2018-04409, Supreme Court State of Ohio (Co-Counsel on behalf of local taxpayer contending that Defendant’s violated Ohio Open Meetings Law).
- *Dawson v. Village of Winchester*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (Lead Counsel represented Plaintiff claiming Federal Civil Rights violations due to unconstitutional arrest and detainment).

#### **Affiliations and Presentations:**

- Cincinnati Bar Association
- Clermont County Bar Association
- American Association for Justice
- “Municipal Bankruptcy: Chapter 9 – Should Cincinnati Consider Filing for Bankruptcy?”
- “Ohio CLE Introduction to Bankruptcy for Lawyers CLE”

## CHRISTOPHER D. STOCK

Chris's legal practice focuses on securities class action and multi-district products liability litigation, as well as appellate advocacy. Serving as a judicial law clerk for Ohio Supreme Court Justice Terrence O'Donnell gave Chris invaluable insight into how courts synthesize and deconstruct legal arguments. Since then, Chris has briefed and argued numerous cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the Ohio Supreme Court, and Ohio appellate courts, including obtaining a rare summary reversal from the United States Supreme Court.

Chris also served as both Deputy First Assistant Attorney General and Deputy State Solicitor for Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro. In these positions, Chris was principal counsel to the Attorney General on a wide variety of legal and policy-oriented issues, including numerous constitutional and regulatory matters arising from state agencies, boards, and commissions. Prior to his service in state government, Chris was an attorney at a 500-lawyer nationally-recognized law firm.

He received multiple designations as an Ohio Super Lawyers "Rising Star." This distinction is awarded to less than 2.5 percent of Ohio attorneys under the age of 40.

### Education:

The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, J.D. (2002)

The Ohio State University, BA (1997)

### Significant Cases:

- *In re Fannie Mae Securities Litigation*, Case No. 1:04-cv-1639 (D.D.C.). Representing Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b-5 securities class action litigation.
- *Ohio Public Employees Retirement System v. Freddie Mac, et al.*, Case No. 4:08-cv-160 (N.D. Ohio). Representing Ohio public pension funds as Lead Plaintiffs in Section 10b-5 securities class action litigation.
- *Williams v. Duke Energy*, Case No.: 1:08-CV-00046 (S.D. Ohio). Representing class of energy consumers against energy provider in complex antitrust and RICO class action.
- *Slaby v. Wilson*, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. Lead trial counsel representing two private individuals who were falsely accused by a County Commissioner of murdering their child and covering up the child's death (as well as sexual abuse of child).
- *Kelci Stringer, et al. v. National Football League, et al.*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division. Represented professional football player against NFL and helmet manufacturer in wrongful death/products liability litigation related to professional football player's death.
- *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Western Division. Represented former Congressman in defamation action against organization who published false statements about former Congressman's voting record and alleged influence over organization's commercial activities.
- *Mitchell v. Esparza*, Case No. 02-1369 (United States Supreme Court). Obtained summary reversal of Sixth Circuit decision on Eighth Amendment capital sentencing issue.
- *Cleveland Bar Association v. CompManagement, Inc.*, Case No. 04-0817 (Ohio Supreme Court). Represented the State of Ohio as amicus in landmark workers' compensation lawsuit.

### Presentations:

- Class Action Boot Camp: The Basics and Beyond (2012).
- Harris Martin Toyota Sudden Unintended Acceleration Litigation Conference: TREAD Act Liability and Toyota (2010).
- Harris Martin BP Oil Spill Litigation Conference: The RICO Act's Application to the BP Oil Spill (2010).

**Affiliations:**

- Ohio State Bar Association
- Cincinnati Bar Association

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2002)
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2003)
- Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Ohio (2003)
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2007)



**DYLAN J. GOULD**

Dylan J. Gould is an associate attorney at Markovits, Stock & DeMarco. Dylan’s practice primarily focuses on class action litigation representing consumers who have been harmed by data breaches or unfair and deceptive trade practices. Before joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco as an attorney, Dylan spent a summer interning for the Kenton County, Kentucky, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, and clerked for both Markovits, Stock & DeMarco and another law firm, Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff. During law school, Dylan competed in competitions around the country as a member of both the Cincinnati College of Law Trial Practice and Moot Court teams. Since joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco, Dylan has worked on numerous complex and class action cases against some of America’s largest corporations.

**Education:**

University of Cincinnati, J.D. (2018)

University of Colorado at Boulder, B.A. (2015)

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio (2018)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio (2019)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio (2022)

**Representative Cases:**

- *Benedetto v. The Huntington National Bank*, No. A1903532, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio (served as member of class counsel in class action related to untimely mortgage releases that recently received final approval of class action settlement);
- *Gilbert et al v. BioPlus Specialty Pharmacy Services, LLC*, No. 6:21-CV-02158, United States District Court, Middle District of Florida (serving as a member of plaintiffs’ counsel in a putative data breach class action)
- *Lutz v. Electromed, Inc.*, No. 21-cv-2198, United States District Court, District of Minnesota (serving as a member of plaintiffs’ counsel in a putative data breach class action)
- *Morano v. Fifth Third Bank*, No. A2003954, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio (serving as member of class counsel in class action related to untimely mortgage releases that recently received preliminary approval of class action settlement);
- *Reynolds v. Concordia University*, St. Paul, No. 0:21-CV-2560, United States District Court, District of Minnesota (serving as a member of proposed class counsel for the plaintiff in case based on the unavailability of clinical experience for nursing students);
- *Voss v. Quicken Loans*, No. A 2002899, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Ohio (serving as a member of proposed class counsel for the plaintiff in a putative class action against a mortgagee relating to violations of R.C. 5301.36 relating to the untimely filing of mortgages releases in Ohio).

**Affiliations:**

Cincinnati Bar Association

Ohio State Bar Association

**JONATHAN T. DETERS**

Jon is a Cincinnati native whose legal practice is focused on complex civil litigation, class action litigation, personal injury law, and sports & entertainment law. Jon has been a litigator since the start of his career, and his clients have included individuals, businesses, local governments, and government officials. Jon’s experience serving as both plaintiff and defense counsel make him uniquely qualified and well-suited to represent individual and corporate clients in litigation. Jon has been designated as an Ohio Super Lawyers “Rising Star” from 2019-present, which is a distinction awarded to less than 2.5% of Ohio attorneys under the age of 40.

Before joining Markovits, Stock & DeMarco in January 2022, Jon practiced at Schroeder, Maundrell, Barbieri & Powers, an Ohio law firm specializing in civil litigation, personal injury, and constitutional law. While in law school, Jon served as a constable in the Hamilton County Ohio Court of Common Pleas for the Honorable Steven E. Martin and worked as law clerk at the Law Office of Steven R. Adams.

**Education:**

Salmon P. Chase School of Law at Northern Kentucky University, J.D. (2015)

Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, Honors Bachelor of Arts (2012)

**Representative Cases:**

- *Baker v. Carnine*, No. 1:19-CV-60 (2022), United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- *Jones v. Vill. of Golf Manor*, No. 1:18-CV-403 (2020), United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- *Vaduva v. City of Xenia*, 780 F. App’x 331 (2019), United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- *Gillispie v. Miami Twp.*, No. 3:13-CV-416 (2017), United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- *City of Mt. Healthy v. Fraternal Ord. of Police, Ohio Lab. Council, Inc.*, 101 N.E.3d 1163 (2017), Ohio First District Court of Appeals

**Community Involvement:**

- Cincinnati Bar Association, *Member*
- Ohio Bar Association, *Member*
- Boy Hope Girls Hope of Cincinnati, *Young Professionals Board Member*
- Board of Trustees of the New St. Joseph Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio, *Member*

**Courts Admitted:**

- State of Ohio
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE DIVISION

Case No. 21-CIV-61275-RAR

WENSTON DESUE, Individually and as Legal)	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
Guardian of N.D. and M.D., and All Others )	
Similarly Situated, )	<b>Consolidated with:</b>
	0:21-cv-61292
Plaintiff, )	0:21-cv-61302
	0:21-cv-61357
vs. )	0:21-cv-61406
	0:21-cv-61755
20/20 EYE CARE NETWORK, INC., et al., )	
Defendants. )	
AND ALL CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS )	
_____ )	

DECLARATION OF DOROTHY P. ANTULLIS FILED ON BEHALF OF ROBBINS  
GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR AWARD OF  
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES

Case No. 21-CIV-61275-RAR

I, DOROTHY P. ANTULLIS, declare as follows:

1. I am a member of the firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP (“Robbins Geller” or the “Firm”). I am submitting this declaration in support of the application for an award of attorneys’ fees, as well as expenses and charges (“expenses”), in connection with services rendered in the above-entitled action (the “Litigation”).

2. This Firm is one counsel of record for Plaintiffs, and I was appointed as Liaison Counsel in this matter by the Court on July 14, 2021. Dkt. No. 29.

3. The information in this declaration regarding the Firm’s time and expenses is taken from time and expense reports and supporting documentation prepared and/or maintained by the Firm in the ordinary course of business. I am the partner who oversaw and/or conducted the day-to-day activities in the Litigation, and I reviewed these reports (and backup documentation where necessary or appropriate) in connection with the preparation of this declaration. The purpose of this review was to confirm both the accuracy of the entries on the printouts as well as the necessity for, and reasonableness of, the time and expenses committed to the Litigation. As a result of this review, I made reductions to both time and expenses in the exercise of my billing judgment. Based on this review and the adjustments made, I believe that the time reflected in the Firm’s lodestar calculation and the expenses for which payment is sought herein are reasonable and were necessary for the effective and efficient prosecution and resolution of the Litigation.

4. After the reductions referred to above, the number of hours spent on the Litigation by the Firm is 404.50. A breakdown of the lodestar is provided in the attached Exhibit A. The lodestar amount for attorney/paraprofessional time based on the Firm’s current rates is \$276,656.50. The hourly rates shown in Exhibit A are the Firm’s current rates in contingent cases set by the Firm for

Case No. 21-CIV-61275-RAR

each individual. These hourly rates are consistent with hourly rates submitted by the Firm to state and federal courts in other class action litigation. The Firm's rates are set based on periodic analysis of rates charged by firms performing comparable work both on the plaintiff and defense side. For personnel who are no longer employed by the Firm, the "current rate" used for the lodestar calculation is based upon the rate for that person in his or her final year of employment with the Firm.

5. The Firm seeks an award of \$2,834.96 in expenses and charges in connection with the prosecution of the Litigation. Those expenses and charges are summarized by category in the attached Exhibit B.

6. The following is additional information regarding certain of these expenses:

(a) Filing Fees: \$1,806.00. These expenses have been paid to the Court for filing fees. A breakdown of these charges is set forth in the attached Exhibit C.

(b) Court Hearing Transcript: \$150.00. This amount represents the cost to obtain a transcript of the status conference held on July 9, 2021.

(c) Online Legal and Financial Research: \$840.51. This category includes vendors such as LexisNexis, Transunion Risk & Alternative Data Solutions, Inc., and Westlaw. These resources were used to obtain access to filings, factual databases, legal research, and for proofreading and "blue-booking" court filings (including checking all legal authorities cited and quoted in briefs). This category represents the expenses incurred by Robbins Geller for use of these services in connection with this Litigation. The charges for these vendors vary depending upon the type of services requested. For example, Robbins Geller has flat-rate contracts with some of these providers for use of their services. When Robbins Geller utilizes online services provided by a

Case No. 21-CIV-61275-RAR

vendor with a flat-rate contract, access to the service is by a billing code entered for the specific case being litigated. At the end of each billing period in which such service is used, Robbins Geller's costs for such services are allocated to specific cases based on the percentage of use in connection with that specific case in the billing period. As a result of the contracts negotiated by Robbins Geller with certain providers, the Class enjoys substantial savings in comparison with the "market-rate" for *a la carte* use of such services which some law firms pass on to their clients. For example, the "market-rate" charged to others by LexisNexis for the types of services used by Robbins Geller is more expensive than the rates negotiated by Robbins Geller.

7. The expenses pertaining to this case are reflected in the books and records of this Firm. These books and records are prepared from receipts, expense vouchers, check records, and other documents and are an accurate record of the expenses.

8. The identification and background of my Firm and its partners is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2023, at Boca Raton, Florida.



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DOROTHY P. ANTULLIS

# **EXHIBIT A**

**EXHIBIT A**

*Wenston Desue v. 20/20 Eye Care Network, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 21-CIV-61275-RAR  
 Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP  
 Inception through January 27, 2023

<i>NAME</i>		<i>HOURS</i>	<i>RATE</i>	<i>LODESTAR</i>
Antullis, Dorothy P.	(P)	147.20	930	\$ 136,896.00
Davidson, Stuart	(P)	20.20	1030	20,806.00
Dearman, Mark J.	(P)	1.30	1070	1,391.00
Dwoskin, Eric S.	(P)	1.30	810	1,053.00
Pintar, Theodore J.	(P)	7.30	1125	8,212.50
Beall, Bradley M.	(A)	30.50	515	15,707.50
Cohen, Alexander C.	(A)	115.60	535	61,846.00
Sawyer, Maxwell H.	(A)	4.00	475	1,900.00
Brandon, Kelley T.	(I)	23.00	325	7,475.00
Hanson, Katina M.	(PL)	1.50	395	592.50
Puerto, Patricia	(PL)	48.10	395	18,999.50
Tack, Deborah V.	(PL)	4.50	395	1,777.50
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>		<b><i>404.50</i></b>		<b><i>\$ 276,656.50</i></b>

- (P) Partner
- (A) Associate
- (I) Investigator
- (PL) Paralegal



# **EXHIBIT B**

**EXHIBIT B**

*Wenston Desue v. 20/20 Eye Care Network, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 21-CIV-61275-RAR  
Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP  
Expense Summary  
Inception through October 10, 2022

<b><i>CATEGORY</i></b>	<b><i>AMOUNT</i></b>
Filing Fees	\$ 1,806.00
Telephone	38.45
Court Hearing Transcript	150.00
Online Legal and Financial Research	840.51
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 2,834.96</i></b>

# **EXHIBIT C**

**EXHIBIT C**

*Wenston Desue v. 20/20 Eye Care Network, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 21-CIV-61275-RAR  
Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP

Filing Fees: \$1,806.00

<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
06/23/21	S.D. Florida	06/22/21 Initial case filing fees
06/24/21	S.D. Florida	06/23/21 Initial case filing fees
06/25/21	S.D. Florida	06/24/21 <i>Pro Hac Vice</i> filing fee – Co-Counsel Joseph M. Lyons
07/01/21	S.D. Florida	06/30/21 <i>Pro Hac Vice</i> filing fee – Co-Counsel Terence Coates
07/03/21	S.D. Florida	07/02/21 <i>Pro Have Vice</i> filing fee – Co-Counsel Nathan D. Prosser

# **EXHIBIT D**

# FIRM RESUME

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## INTRODUCTION

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP (“Robbins Geller” or the “Firm”) is a 200-lawyer firm with offices in Boca Raton, Chicago, Manhattan, Melville, Nashville, San Diego, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. ([www.rgrdlaw.com](http://www.rgrdlaw.com)). The Firm is actively engaged in complex litigation, emphasizing securities, consumer, antitrust, insurance, healthcare, human rights, and employment discrimination class actions. The Firm’s unparalleled experience and capabilities in these fields are based upon the talents of its attorneys, who have successfully prosecuted thousands of class action lawsuits and numerous individual cases, recovering billions of dollars.

This successful track record stems from our experienced attorneys, including many who came to the Firm from federal or state law enforcement agencies. The Firm also includes several dozen former federal and state judicial clerks.

The Firm is committed to practicing law with the highest level of integrity in an ethical and professional manner. We are a diverse firm with lawyers and staff from all walks of life. Our lawyers and other employees are hired and promoted based on the quality of their work and their ability to treat others with respect and dignity.

We strive to be good corporate citizens and work with a sense of global responsibility. Contributing to our communities and environment is important to us. We often take cases on a *pro bono* basis and are committed to the rights of workers, and to the extent possible, we contract with union vendors. We care about civil rights, workers’ rights and treatment, workplace safety, and environmental protection. Indeed, while we have built a reputation as the finest securities and consumer class action law firm in the nation, our lawyers have also worked tirelessly in less high-profile, but no less important, cases involving human rights and other social issues.



# PRACTICE AREAS AND SERVICES

## Securities Fraud

As recent corporate scandals demonstrate clearly, it has become all too common for companies and their executives – often with the help of their advisors, such as bankers, lawyers, and accountants – to manipulate the market price of their securities by misleading the public about the company’s financial condition or prospects for the future. This misleading information has the effect of artificially inflating the price of the company’s securities above their true value. When the underlying truth is eventually revealed, the prices of these securities plummet, harming those innocent investors who relied upon the company’s misrepresentations.

Robbins Geller is the leader in the fight to protect investors from corporate securities fraud. We utilize a wide range of federal and state laws to provide investors with remedies, either by bringing a class action on behalf of all affected investors or, where appropriate, by bringing individual cases.

The Firm’s reputation for excellence has been repeatedly noted by courts and has resulted in the appointment of Firm attorneys to lead roles in hundreds of complex class-action securities and other cases. In the securities area alone, the Firm’s attorneys have been responsible for a number of outstanding recoveries on behalf of investors. Currently, Robbins Geller attorneys are lead or named counsel in hundreds of securities class action or large institutional-investor cases. Some notable current and past cases include:

- *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. H-01-3624 (S.D. Tex.). Robbins Geller attorneys and lead plaintiff The Regents of the University of California aggressively pursued numerous defendants, including many of Wall Street’s biggest banks, and successfully obtained settlements in excess of **\$7.2 billion** for the benefit of investors. ***This is the largest securities class action recovery in history.***
- *Jaffe v. Household Int’l, Inc.*, No. 02-C-05893 (N.D. Ill.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a record-breaking settlement of **\$1.575 billion** after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a securities fraud verdict in favor of the class. In 2015, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the jury’s verdict that defendants made false or misleading statements of material fact about the company’s business practices and financial results, but remanded the case for a new trial on the issue of whether the individual defendants “made” certain false statements, whether those false statements caused plaintiffs’ losses, and the amount of damages. The parties reached an agreement to settle the case just hours before the retrial was scheduled to begin on June 6, 2016. ***The \$1.575 billion settlement, approved in October 2016, is the largest ever following a securities fraud class action trial, the largest securities fraud settlement in the Seventh Circuit and the eighth-largest settlement ever in a post-PSLRA securities fraud case.*** According to published reports, the case was just the seventh securities fraud case tried to a verdict since the passage of the PSLRA.

- *In re Valeant Pharms. Int’l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 3:15-cv-07658 (D.N.J.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$1.2 billion settlement in the securities case that *Vanity Fair* reported as “the corporate scandal of its era” that had raised “fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations.” The settlement resolves claims that defendants made false and misleading statements regarding Valeant’s business and financial performance during the class period, attributing Valeant’s dramatic growth in revenues and profitability to “innovative new marketing approaches” as part of a business model that was low risk and “durable and sustainable.” *Valeant* is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest ever.
- *In re Am. Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.*, No. 1:15-mc-00040 (S.D.N.Y.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys zealously litigated the case arising out of ARCP’s manipulative accounting practices and obtained a \$1.025 billion settlement. For five years, the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages of any major PSLRA case prior to trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history.
- *In re UnitedHealth Grp. Inc. PSLRA Litig.*, No. 06-CV-1691 (D. Minn.). Robbins Geller represented the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (“CalPERS”) and demonstrated its willingness to vigorously advocate for its institutional clients, even under the most difficult circumstances. The Firm obtained an \$895 million recovery on behalf of UnitedHealth shareholders, and former CEO William A. McGuire paid \$30 million and returned stock options representing more than three million shares to the shareholders, bringing the total recovery for the class to over \$925 million, the largest stock option backdating recovery ever, and **a recovery that is more than four times larger than the next largest options backdating recovery**. Moreover, Robbins Geller obtained unprecedented corporate governance reforms, including election of a shareholder-nominated member to the company’s board of directors, a mandatory holding period for shares acquired by executives via option exercise, and executive compensation reforms that tie pay to performance.
- *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. CitiGroup, Inc. (In re WorldCom Sec. Litig.)*, No. 03 Civ. 8269 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys represented more than 50 private and public institutions that opted out of the class action case and sued WorldCom’s bankers, officers and directors, and auditors in courts around the country for losses related to WorldCom bond offerings from 1998 to 2001. The Firm’s attorneys recovered more than \$650 million for their clients, substantially more than they would have recovered as part of the class.
- *Luther v. Countrywide Fin. Corp.*, No. 12-cv-05125 (C.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller attorneys secured a \$500 million settlement for institutional and individual investors in what is the largest RMBS purchaser class action settlement in history, and one of the largest class action securities settlements of all time. The unprecedented settlement resolves claims against Countrywide and Wall Street banks that issued the securities. The action was the first securities class action case filed against originators and Wall Street banks as a result of the credit crisis. As co-lead counsel Robbins Geller forged through six years of hard-fought litigation, oftentimes litigating issues of first impression, in order to secure the landmark settlement for its clients and the class.
- *In re Wachovia Preferred Sec. & Bond/Notes Litig.*, No. 09-cv-06351 (S.D.N.Y.). On behalf of investors in bonds and preferred securities issued between 2006 and 2008, Robbins Geller and co-

counsel obtained a significant settlement with Wachovia successor Wells Fargo & Company and Wachovia auditor KPMG LLP. ***The total settlement – \$627 million – is one of the largest credit-crisis settlements involving Securities Act claims and one of the 20 largest securities class action recoveries in history.*** The settlement is also one of the biggest securities class action recoveries arising from the credit crisis. The lawsuit focused on Wachovia’s exposure to “pick-a-pay” loans, which the bank’s offering materials said were of “pristine credit quality,” but which were actually allegedly made to subprime borrowers, and which ultimately massively impaired the bank’s mortgage portfolio. Robbins Geller served as co-lead counsel representing the City of Livonia Employees’ Retirement System, Hawaii Sheet Metal Workers Pension Fund, and the investor class.

- ***In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. C2-04-575 (S.D. Ohio). As sole lead counsel representing Cardinal Health shareholders, Robbins Geller obtained a recovery of \$600 million for investors on behalf of the lead plaintiffs, Amalgamated Bank, the New Mexico State Investment Council, and the California Ironworkers Field Trust Fund. At the time, the \$600 million settlement was the tenth-largest settlement in the history of securities fraud litigation and is the largest-ever recovery in a securities fraud action in the Sixth Circuit.
- ***AOL Time Warner Cases I & II***, JCCP Nos. 4322 & 4325 (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles Cnty.). Robbins Geller represented The Regents of the University of California, six Ohio state pension funds, Rabo Bank (NL), the Scottish Widows Investment Partnership, several Australian public and private funds, insurance companies, and numerous additional institutional investors, both domestic and international, in state and federal court opt-out litigation stemming from Time Warner’s disastrous 2001 merger with Internet high flier America Online. After almost four years of litigation involving extensive discovery, the Firm secured combined settlements for its opt-out clients totaling over \$629 million just weeks before The Regents’ case pending in California state court was scheduled to go to trial. The Regents’ gross recovery of \$246 million is the largest individual opt-out securities recovery in history.
- ***In re HealthSouth Corp. Sec. Litig.***, No. CV-03-BE-1500-S (N.D. Ala.). As court-appointed co-lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a combined recovery of \$671 million from HealthSouth, its auditor Ernst & Young, and its investment banker, UBS, for the benefit of stockholder plaintiffs. The settlement against HealthSouth represents one of the larger settlements in securities class action history and is considered among the top 15 settlements achieved after passage of the PSLRA. Likewise, the settlement against Ernst & Young is one of the largest securities class action settlements entered into by an accounting firm since the passage of the PSLRA.
- ***Jones v. Pfizer Inc.***, No. 1:10-cv-03864 (S.D.N.Y.). Lead plaintiff Stichting Philips Pensioenfond obtained a \$400 million settlement on behalf of class members who purchased Pfizer common stock during the January 19, 2006 to January 23, 2009 class period. The settlement against Pfizer resolves accusations that it misled investors about an alleged off-label drug marketing scheme. As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys helped achieve this exceptional result after five years of hard-fought litigation against the toughest and the brightest members of the securities defense bar by litigating this case all the way to trial.
- ***In re Dynege Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. H-02-1571 (S.D. Tex.). As sole lead counsel representing The Regents of the University of California and the class of Dynege investors, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a combined settlement of \$474 million from Dynege, Citigroup, Inc., and Arthur Andersen LLP for their involvement in a clandestine financing scheme known as Project Alpha. Most notably, the settlement agreement provides that Dynege will appoint two board members to be nominated by The Regents, which Robbins Geller and The Regents believe will benefit all of Dynege’s stockholders.

- ***In re Qwest Commc'ns Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. 01-cv-1451 (D. Colo.). In July 2001, the Firm filed the initial complaint in this action on behalf of its clients, long before any investigation into Qwest's financial statements was initiated by the SEC or Department of Justice. After five years of litigation, lead plaintiffs entered into a settlement with Qwest and certain individual defendants that provided a \$400 million recovery for the class and created a mechanism that allowed the vast majority of class members to share in an additional \$250 million recovered by the SEC. In 2008, Robbins Geller attorneys recovered an additional \$45 million for the class in a settlement with defendants Joseph P. Nacchio and Robert S. Woodruff, the CEO and CFO, respectively, of Qwest during large portions of the class period.
- ***Fort Worth Emps.' Ret. Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.***, No. 1:09-cv-03701 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel for a class of investors and obtained court approval of a \$388 million recovery in nine 2007 residential mortgage-backed securities offerings issued by J.P. Morgan. The settlement represents, on a percentage basis, the largest recovery ever achieved in an MBS purchaser class action. The result was achieved after more than five years of hard-fought litigation and an extensive investigation.
- ***Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.***, No. 2:12-cv-00555 (D. Ariz.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a \$350 million settlement in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.* The settlement, which was reached after a long legal battle and on the day before jury selection, resolves claims that First Solar violated §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and SEC Rule 10b-5. The settlement is the fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit.
- ***NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.***, No. 1:08-cv-10783 (S.D.N.Y.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a \$272 million settlement on behalf of Goldman Sachs' shareholders. The settlement concludes one of the last remaining mortgage-backed securities purchaser class actions arising out of the global financial crisis. The remarkable result was achieved following seven years of extensive litigation. After the claims were dismissed in 2010, Robbins Geller secured a landmark victory from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals that clarified the scope of permissible class actions asserting claims under the Securities Act of 1933 on behalf of MBS investors. Specifically, the Second Circuit's decision rejected the concept of "tranche" standing and concluded that a lead plaintiff in an MBS class action has class standing to pursue claims on behalf of purchasers of other securities that were issued from the same registration statement and backed by pools of mortgages originated by the same lenders who had originated mortgages backing the lead plaintiff's securities.
- ***Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.***, No. 3:11-cv-01033 (M.D. Tenn.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a groundbreaking \$215 million settlement for former HCA Holdings, Inc. shareholders – the largest securities class action recovery ever in Tennessee. Reached shortly before trial was scheduled to commence, the settlement resolves claims that the Registration Statement and Prospectus HCA filed in connection with the company's massive \$4.3 billion 2011 IPO contained material misstatements and omissions. The recovery achieved represents more than 30% of the aggregate classwide damages, far exceeding the typical recovery in a securities class action.
- ***In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.***, MDL No. 1399 (D.N.J.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel for a class of investors that purchased AT&T common stock. The case charged defendants AT&T and its former Chairman and CEO, C. Michael Armstrong, with violations of the federal securities laws in connection with AT&T's April 2000 initial public offering of its wireless tracking stock, one of the largest IPOs in American history. After two weeks of trial, and on the eve of scheduled testimony by Armstrong and infamous telecom analyst Jack Grubman, defendants agreed to settle the case for \$100 million.

- ***Silverman v. Motorola, Inc.***, No. 1:07-cv-04507 (N.D. Ill.). The Firm served as lead counsel on behalf of a class of investors in Motorola, Inc., ultimately recovering \$200 million for investors just two months before the case was set for trial. This outstanding result was obtained despite the lack of an SEC investigation or any financial restatement.
- ***City of Pontiac Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.***, No. 5:12-cv-05162 (W.D. Ark.). Robbins Geller attorneys and lead plaintiff City of Pontiac General Employees' Retirement System achieved a \$160 million settlement in a securities class action case arising from allegations published by *The New York Times* in an article released on April 21, 2012 describing an alleged bribery scheme that occurred in Mexico. The case charged that Wal-Mart portrayed itself to investors as a model corporate citizen that had proactively uncovered potential corruption and promptly reported it to law enforcement, when in truth, a former in-house lawyer had blown the whistle on Wal-Mart's corruption years earlier, and Wal-Mart concealed the allegations from law enforcement by refusing its own in-house and outside counsel's calls for an independent investigation. Robbins Geller "achieved an exceptional [s]ettlement with skill, perseverance, and diligent advocacy," said Judge Hickey when granting final approval.
- ***Bennett v. Sprint Nextel Corp.***, No. 2:09-cv-02122 (D. Kan.). As co-lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a \$131 million recovery for a class of Sprint investors. The settlement, secured after five years of hard-fought litigation, resolved claims that former Sprint executives misled investors concerning the success of Sprint's ill-advised merger with Nextel and the deteriorating credit quality of Sprint's customer base, artificially inflating the value of Sprint's securities.
- ***In re LendingClub Sec. Litig.***, No. 3:16-cv-02627 (N.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$125 million settlement for the court-appointed lead plaintiff Water and Power Employees' Retirement, Disability and Death Plan of the City of Los Angeles and the class. The settlement resolved allegations that LendingClub promised investors an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a revolutionary lending market fueled by the highest standards of honesty and integrity. The settlement ranked among the top ten largest securities recoveries ever in the Northern District of California.
- ***Knurr v. Orbital ATK, Inc.***, No. 1:16-cv-01031 (E.D. Va.). In the *Orbital* securities class action, Robbins Geller obtained court approval of a \$108 million recovery for the class. The Firm succeeded in overcoming two successive motions to dismiss the case, and during discovery were required to file ten motions to compel, all of which were either negotiated to a resolution or granted in large part, which resulted in the production of critical evidence in support of plaintiffs' claims. Believed to be the fourth-largest securities class action settlement in the history of the Eastern District of Virginia, the settlement provides a recovery for investors that is more than ten times larger than the reported median recovery of estimated damages for all securities class action settlements in 2018.
- ***Hsu v. Puma Biotechnology***, No. SACV15-0865 (C.D. Cal.). After a two-week jury trial, Robbins Geller attorneys won a complete plaintiffs' verdict against both defendants on both claims, with the jury finding that Puma Biotechnology, Inc. and its CEO, Alan H. Auerbach, committed securities fraud. The Puma case is only the fifteenth securities class action case tried to a verdict since the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act was enacted in 1995.
- ***Marcus v. J.C. Penney Co., Inc.***, No. 13-cv-00736 (E.D. Tex.). Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$97.5 million recovery on behalf of J.C. Penney shareholders. The result resolves claims that J.C. Penney and certain officers and directors made misstatements and/or omissions regarding the company's financial position that resulted in artificially inflated stock prices. Specifically, defendants failed to disclose and/or misrepresented adverse facts, including that J.C. Penney

would have insufficient liquidity to get through year-end and would require additional funds to make it through the holiday season, and that the company was concealing its need for liquidity so as not to add to its vendors' concerns.

- ***Monroe County Employees' Retirement System v. The Southern Company***, No. 1:17-cv-00241 (N.D. Ga.). As lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained an \$87.5 million settlement in a securities class action on behalf of plaintiffs Monroe County Employees' Retirement System and Roofers Local No. 149 Pension Fund. The settlement resolves claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 stemming from defendants' issuance of materially misleading statements and omissions regarding the status of construction of a first-of-its-kind "clean coal" power plant in Kemper County, Mississippi. Plaintiffs alleged that these misstatements caused The Southern Company's stock price to be artificially inflated during the class period. Prior to resolving the case, Robbins Geller uncovered critical documentary evidence and deposition testimony supporting plaintiffs' claims. In granting final approval of the settlement, the court praised Robbins Geller for its "hard-fought litigation in the Eleventh Circuit" and its "experience, reputation, and abilities of [its] attorneys," and highlighted that the firm is "well-regarded in the legal community, especially in litigating class-action securities cases
- ***Chicago Laborers Pension Fund v. Alibaba Grp. Holding Ltd.***, No. CIV535692 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cnty.). Robbins Geller attorneys and co-counsel obtained a \$75 million settlement in the Alibaba Group Holding Limited securities class action, resolving investors' claims that Alibaba violated the Securities Act of 1933 in connection with its September 2014 initial public offering. Chicago Laborers Pension Fund served as a plaintiff in the action.
- ***Luna v. Marvell Tech. Grp., Ltd.***, No. 3:15-cv-05447 (N.D. Cal.). In the *Marvell* litigation, Robbins Geller attorneys represented the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund and obtained a \$72.5 million settlement. The case involved claims that Marvell reported revenue and earnings during the class period that were misleading as a result of undisclosed pull-in and concession sales. The settlement represents approximately 24% to 50% of the best estimate of classwide damages suffered by investors who purchased shares during the February 19, 2015 through December 7, 2015 class period.
- ***Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Sols., Inc.***, No. 3:09-cv-00882 (M.D. Tenn.). In the *Psychiatric Solutions* case, Robbins Geller represented lead plaintiff and class representative Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund in litigation spanning more than four years. Psychiatric Solutions and its top executives were accused of insufficiently staffing their in-patient hospitals, downplaying the significance of regulatory investigations and manipulating their malpractice reserves. Just days before trial was set to commence, attorneys from Robbins Geller achieved a \$65 million settlement that was the fourth-largest securities recovery ever in the district and one of the largest in a decade.
- ***Plumbers & Pipefitters Nat'l Pension Fund v. Burns***, No. 3:05-cv-07393 (N.D. Ohio). After 11 years of hard-fought litigation, Robbins Geller attorneys secured a \$64 million recovery for shareholders in a case that accused the former heads of Dana Corp. of securities fraud for trumpeting the auto parts maker's condition while it actually spiraled toward bankruptcy. The Firm's Appellate Practice Group successfully appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals twice, reversing the district court's dismissal of the action.
- ***Villella v. Chemical and Mining Company of Chile Inc.***, No. 1:15-cv-02106 (S.D.N.Y.) Robbins Geller attorneys, serving as lead counsel, obtained a \$62.5 million settlement against Sociedad

Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (“SQM”), a Chilean mining company. The case alleged that SQM violated the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by issuing materially false and misleading statements regarding the company’s failure to disclose that money from SQM was channeled illegally to electoral campaigns for Chilean politicians and political parties as far back as 2009. SQM had also filed millions of dollars’ worth of fictitious tax receipts with Chilean authorities in order to conceal bribery payments from at least 2009 through fiscal 2014. Due to the company being based out of Chile and subject to Chilean law and rules, the Robbins Geller litigation team put together a multilingual litigation team with Chilean expertise. Depositions are considered unlawful in the country of Chile, so Robbins Geller successfully moved the court to compel SQM to bring witnesses to the United States.

- ***In re BHP Billiton Ltd. Sec. Litig.***, No. 1:16-cv-01445 (S.D.N.Y.). As lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a \$50 million class action settlement against BHP, a Australian-based mining company that was accused of failing to disclose significant safety problems at the Fundão iron-ore dam, in Brazil. The Firm achieved this result for lead plaintiffs City of Birmingham Retirement and Relief System and City of Birmingham Firemen’s and Policemen’s Supplemental Pension System, on behalf of purchasers of the American Depositary Shares (“ADRs”) of defendants BHP Billiton Limited and BHP Billiton Plc (together, “BHP”) from September 25, 2014 to November 30, 2015.
- ***In re St. Jude Med., Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. 0:10-cv-00851 (D. Minn.). After four and a half years of litigation and mere weeks before the jury selection, Robbins Geller obtained a \$50 million settlement on behalf of investors in medical device company St. Jude Medical. The settlement resolves accusations that St. Jude Medical misled investors by utilizing heavily discounted end-of-quarter bulk sales to meet quarterly expectations, which created a false picture of demand by increasing customer inventory due of St. Jude Medical devices. The complaint alleged that the risk of St. Jude Medical’s reliance on such bulk sales manifested when it failed to meet its forecast guidance for the third quarter of 2009, which the company had reaffirmed only weeks earlier.
- ***Deka Investment GmbH v. Santander Consumer USA Holdings Inc.***, No. 3:15-cv-02129 (N.D. Tex.). Robbins Geller and co-counsel secured a \$47 million settlement in a securities class action against Santander Consumer USA Holdings Inc. (“SCUSA”). The case alleges that SCUSA, 2 of its officers, 10 of its directors, as well as 17 underwriters of its January 23, 2014 multi-billion dollar IPO violated §§11, 12(a)(2), and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 as a result of their negligence in connection with misrepresentations in the prospectus and registration statement for the IPO (“Offering Documents”). The complaint also alleged that SCUSA and two of its officers violated §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 as a result of their fraud in issuing misleading statements in the IPO Offering Documents as well as in subsequent statements to investors.
- ***Snap Inc. Securities Cases***, JCCP No. 4960 (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles Cnty). Robbins Geller, along with co-counsel, reached a settlement in the Snap, Inc. securities class action, providing for the payment of \$32,812,500 to eligible settlement class members. The securities class action sought remedies under §§11, 12(a)(2) and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933. The case alleged that Snap, certain Snap officers and directors, and the underwriters for Snap’s Initial Public Offering (“IPO”) were liable for materially false and misleading statements and omissions in the Registration Statement for the IPO, related to trends and uncertainties in Snap’s growth metrics, a potential patent-infringement action, and stated risk factors.

Robbins Geller’s securities practice is also strengthened by the existence of a strong appellate department, whose collective work has established numerous legal precedents. The securities practice also utilizes an

extensive group of in-house economic and damage analysts, investigators, and forensic accountants to aid in the prosecution of complex securities issues.

## Shareholder Derivative and Corporate Governance Litigation

The Firm's shareholder derivative and corporate governance practice is focused on preserving corporate assets and enhancing long-term shareowner value. Shareowner derivative actions are often brought by institutional investors to vindicate the rights of the corporation injured by its executives' misconduct, which can effect violations of the nation's securities, anti-corruption, false claims, cyber-security, labor, environmental, and/or health & safety laws.

Robbins Geller attorneys have aided Firm clients in significantly enhancing shareowner value by obtaining hundreds of millions of dollars in financial clawbacks and successfully negotiating corporate governance enhancements. Robbins Geller has worked with its institutional clients to address corporate misconduct such as options backdating, bribery of foreign officials, pollution, off-label marketing, and insider trading and related self-dealing. Additionally, the Firm works closely with noted corporate governance consultants Robert Monks and Richard Bennett and their firm, ValueEdge Advisors LLC, to shape corporate governance practices that will benefit shareowners.

Robbins Geller's efforts have conferred substantial benefits upon shareowners, and the market effect of these benefits measures in the billions of dollars. The Firm's significant achievements include:

- ***City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. Stumpf (Wells Fargo Derivative Litigation)***, No. 3:11-cv-02369 (N.D. Cal.). Prosecuted shareholder derivative action on behalf of Wells Fargo & Co. alleging that Wells Fargo's executives allowed participation in the mass-processing of home foreclosure documents by engaging in widespread robo-signing, *i.e.*, the execution and submission of false legal documents in courts across the country without verification of their truth or accuracy, and failed to disclose Wells Fargo's lack of cooperation in a federal investigation into the bank's mortgage and foreclosure practices. In settlement of the action, Wells Fargo agreed to provide \$67 million in homeowner down-payment assistance, credit counseling, and improvements to its mortgage servicing system. The initiatives will be concentrated in cities severely impacted by the bank's foreclosure practices and the ensuing mortgage foreclosure crisis. Additionally, Wells Fargo agreed to change its procedures for reviewing shareholder proposals and a strict ban on stock pledges by Wells Fargo board members.
- ***In re Ormat Techs., Inc. Derivative Litig.***, No. CV10-00759 (Nev. Dist. Ct., Washoe Cnty.). Robbins Geller brought derivative claims for breach of fiduciary duty and unjust enrichment against the directors and certain officers of Ormat Technologies, Inc., a leading geothermal and recovered energy power business. During the relevant time period, these Ormat insiders caused the company to engage in accounting manipulations that ultimately required restatement of the company's financial statements. The settlement in this action includes numerous corporate governance reforms designed to, among other things: (i) increase director independence; (ii) provide continuing education to directors; (iii) enhance the company's internal controls; (iv) make the company's board more independent; and (iv) strengthen the company's internal audit function.
- ***In re Alphatec Holdings, Inc. Derivative S'holder Litig.***, No. 37-2010-00058586 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Diego Cnty.). Obtained sweeping changes to Alphatec's governance, including separation of the Chairman and CEO positions, enhanced conflict of interest procedures to address related-party transactions, rigorous director independence standards requiring that at least a majority of directors be outside independent directors, and ongoing director education and training.



- ***In re Finisar Corp. Derivative Litig.***, No. C-06-07660 (N.D. Cal.). Prosecuted shareholder derivative action on behalf of Finisar against certain of its current and former directors and officers for engaging in an alleged nearly decade-long stock option backdating scheme that was alleged to have inflicted substantial damage upon Finisar. After obtaining a reversal of the district court's order dismissing the complaint for failing to adequately allege that a pre-suit demand was futile, Robbins Geller lawyers successfully prosecuted the derivative claims to resolution obtaining over \$15 million in financial clawbacks for Finisar. Robbins Geller attorneys also obtained significant changes to Finisar's stock option granting procedures and corporate governance. As a part of the settlement, Finisar agreed to ban the repricing of stock options without first obtaining specific shareholder approval, prohibit the retrospective selection of grant dates for stock options and similar awards, limit the number of other boards on which Finisar directors may serve, require directors to own a minimum amount of Finisar shares, annually elect a Lead Independent Director whenever the position of Chairman and CEO are held by the same person, and require the board to appoint a Trading Compliance officer responsible for ensuring compliance with Finisar's insider trading policies.
- ***Loizides v. Schramm (Maxwell Technology Derivative Litigation)***, No. 37-2010-00097953 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Diego Cnty.). Prosecuted shareholder derivative claims arising from the company's alleged violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 ("FCPA"). As a result of Robbins Geller's efforts, Maxwell insiders agreed to adopt significant changes in Maxwell's internal controls and systems designed to protect Maxwell against future potential violations of the FCPA. These corporate governance changes included establishing the following, among other things: a compliance plan to improve board oversight of Maxwell's compliance processes and internal controls; a clear corporate policy prohibiting bribery and subcontracting kickbacks, whereby individuals are accountable; mandatory employee training requirements, including the comprehensive explanation of whistleblower provisions, to provide for confidential reporting of FCPA violations or other corruption; enhanced resources and internal control and compliance procedures for the audit committee to act quickly if an FCPA violation or other corruption is detected; an FCPA and Anti-Corruption Compliance department that has the authority and resources required to assess global operations and detect violations of the FCPA and other instances of corruption; a rigorous ethics and compliance program applicable to all directors, officers, and employees, designed to prevent and detect violations of the FCPA and other applicable anti-corruption laws; an executive-level position of Chief Compliance Officer with direct board-level reporting responsibilities, who shall be responsible for overseeing and managing compliance issues within the company; a rigorous insider trading policy buttressed by enhanced review and supervision mechanisms and a requirement that all trades are timely disclosed; and enhanced provisions requiring that business entities are only acquired after thorough FCPA and anti-corruption due diligence by legal, accounting, and compliance personnel at Maxwell.
- ***In re SciClone Pharms., Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.***, No. CIV 499030 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cnty.). Robbins Geller attorneys successfully prosecuted the derivative claims on behalf of nominal party SciClone Pharmaceuticals, Inc., resulting in the adoption of state-of-the-art corporate governance reforms. The corporate governance reforms included the establishment of an FCPA compliance coordinator; the adoption of an FCPA compliance program and code; and the adoption of additional internal controls and compliance functions.
- ***Policemen & Firemen Ret. Sys. of the City of Detroit v. Cornelison (Halliburton Derivative Litigation)***, No. 2009-29987 (Tex. Dist. Ct., Harris Cnty.). Prosecuted shareholder derivative claims on behalf of Halliburton Company against certain Halliburton insiders for breaches of fiduciary duty arising from Halliburton's alleged violations of the FCPA. In the settlement, Halliburton agreed, among other things, to adopt strict intensive controls and systems designed to detect and deter the payment of bribes and other improper payments to foreign officials, to

enhanced executive compensation clawback, director stock ownership requirements, a limitation on the number of other boards that Halliburton directors may serve, a lead director charter, enhanced director independence standards, and the creation of a management compliance committee.

- ***In re UnitedHealth Grp. Inc. PSLRA Litig.***, No. 06-CV-1691 (D. Minn.). In the *UnitedHealth* case, our client, CalPERS, obtained sweeping corporate governance improvements, including the election of a shareholder-nominated member to the company's board of directors, a mandatory holding period for shares acquired by executives via option exercises, as well as executive compensation reforms that tie pay to performance. In addition, the class obtained \$925 million, the largest stock option backdating recovery ever and four times the next largest options backdating recovery.
- ***In re Fossil, Inc. Derivative Litig.***, No. 3:06-cv-01672 (N.D. Tex.). The settlement agreement included the following corporate governance changes: declassification of elected board members; retirement of three directors and addition of five new independent directors; two-thirds board independence requirements; corporate governance guidelines providing for "Majority Voting" election of directors; lead independent director requirements; revised accounting measurement dates of options; addition of standing finance committee; compensation clawbacks; director compensation standards; revised stock option plans and grant procedures; limited stock option granting authority, timing, and pricing; enhanced education and training; and audit engagement partner rotation and outside audit firm review.
- ***Pirelli Armstrong Tire Corp. Retiree Med. Benefits Tr. v. Sinegal (Costco Derivative Litigation)***, No. 2:08-cv-01450 (W.D. Wash.). The parties agreed to settlement terms providing for the following corporate governance changes: the amendment of Costco's bylaws to provide "Majority Voting" election of directors; the elimination of overlapping compensation and audit committee membership on common subject matters; enhanced Dodd-Frank requirements; enhanced internal audit standards and controls, and revised information-sharing procedures; revised compensation policies and procedures; revised stock option plans and grant procedures; limited stock option granting authority, timing, and pricing; and enhanced ethics compliance standards and training.
- ***In re F5 Networks, Inc. Derivative Litig.***, No. C-06-0794 (W.D. Wash.). The parties agreed to the following corporate governance changes as part of the settlement: revised stock option plans and grant procedures; limited stock option granting authority, timing, and pricing; "Majority Voting" election of directors; lead independent director requirements; director independence standards; elimination of director perquisites; and revised compensation practices.

- ***In re Community Health Sys., Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.***, No. 3:11-cv-00489 (M.D. Tenn.). Robbins Geller obtained unprecedented corporate governance reforms on behalf of Community Health Systems, Inc. in a case against the company's directors and officers for breaching their fiduciary duties by causing Community Health to develop and implement admissions criteria that systematically steered patients into unnecessary inpatient admissions, in contravention of Medicare and Medicaid regulations. The governance reforms obtained as part of the settlement include two shareholder-nominated directors, the creation of a Healthcare Law Compliance Coordinator with specified qualifications and duties, a requirement that the board's compensation committee be comprised solely of independent directors, the implementation of a compensation clawback that will automatically recover compensation improperly paid to the company's CEO or CFO in the event of a restatement, the establishment of an insider trading controls committee, and the adoption of a political expenditure disclosure policy. In addition to these reforms, \$60 million in financial relief was obtained, which is the largest shareholder derivative recovery ever in Tennessee and the Sixth Circuit.

## Options Backdating Litigation

As has been widely reported in the media, the stock options backdating scandal suddenly engulfed hundreds of publicly traded companies throughout the country in 2006. Robbins Geller was at the forefront of investigating and prosecuting options backdating derivative and securities cases. The Firm has recovered over \$1 billion in damages on behalf of injured companies and shareholders.

- ***In re KLA-Tencor Corp. S'holder Derivative Litig.***, No. C-06-03445 (N.D. Cal.). After successfully opposing the special litigation committee of the board of directors' motion to terminate the derivative claims, Robbins Geller recovered \$43.6 million in direct financial benefits for KLA-Tencor, including \$33.2 million in cash payments by certain former executives and their directors' and officers' insurance carriers.
- ***In re Marvell Tech. Grp. Ltd. Derivative Litig.***, No. C-06-03894 (N.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller recovered \$54.9 million in financial benefits, including \$14.6 million in cash, for Marvell, in addition to extensive corporate governance reforms related to Marvell's stock option granting practices, board of directors' procedures, and executive compensation.
- ***In re KB Home S'holder Derivative Litig.***, No. 06-CV-05148 (C.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller served as co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs and recovered more than \$31 million in financial benefits, including \$21.5 million in cash, for KB Home, plus substantial corporate governance enhancements relating to KB Home's stock option granting practices, director elections, and executive compensation practices.

## Corporate Takeover Litigation

Robbins Geller has earned a reputation as the leading law firm in representing shareholders in corporate takeover litigation. Through its aggressive efforts in prosecuting corporate takeovers, the Firm has secured for shareholders billions of dollars of additional consideration as well as beneficial changes for shareholders in the context of mergers and acquisitions.

The Firm regularly prosecutes merger and acquisition cases post-merger, often through trial, to maximize the benefit for its shareholder class. Some of these cases include:

- ***In re Tesla Motors, Inc. S'holder Litig.***, No. 12711-VCS (Del. Ch.). Robbins Geller, along with co-counsel, secured a \$60 million partial settlement after nearly four years of litigation against Tesla. This partial settlement is one of the largest derivative recoveries in a stockholder action challenging a merger. This partial settlement resolves the claims brought against defendants Kimbal Musk, Antonio J. Gracias, Stephen T. Jurvetson, Brad W. Buss, Ira Ehrenpreis, and Robyn M. Denholm, but not the claims against defendant Elon Musk.
- ***In re Kinder Morgan, Inc. S'holders Litig.***, No. 06-C-801 (Kan. Dist. Ct., Shawnee Cnty.). In the largest recovery ever for corporate takeover class action litigation, the Firm negotiated a settlement fund of \$200 million in 2010.
- ***In re Dole Food Co., Inc. S'holder Litig.***, No. 8703-VCL (Del. Ch.). Robbins Geller and co-counsel went to trial in the Delaware Court of Chancery on claims of breach of fiduciary duty on behalf of Dole Food Co., Inc. shareholders. The litigation challenged the 2013 buyout of Dole by its billionaire Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, David H. Murdock. On August 27, 2015, the court issued a post-trial ruling that Murdock and fellow director C. Michael Carter – who also served as Dole's General Counsel, Chief Operating Officer, and Murdock's top lieutenant – had engaged in fraud and other misconduct in connection with the buyout and are liable to Dole's former stockholders for over \$148 million, the largest trial verdict ever in a class action challenging a merger transaction.
- ***Nieman v. Duke Energy Corp.***, No. 3:12-cv-00456 (W.D.N.C.). Robbins Geller, along with co-counsel, obtained a \$146.25 million settlement on behalf of Duke Energy Corporation investors. The settlement resolves accusations that defendants misled investors regarding Duke's future leadership following its merger with Progress Energy, Inc., and specifically, their premeditated coup to oust William D. Johnson (CEO of Progress) and replace him with Duke's then-CEO, John Rogers. This historic settlement represents the largest recovery ever in a North Carolina securities fraud action, and one of the five largest recoveries in the Fourth Circuit.
- ***In re Rural Metro Corp. S'holders Litig.***, No. 6350-VCL (Del. Ch.). Robbins Geller and co-counsel were appointed lead counsel in this case after successfully objecting to an inadequate settlement that did not take into account evidence of defendants' conflicts of interest. In a post-trial opinion, Delaware Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster found defendant RBC Capital Markets, LLC liable for aiding and abetting Rural/Metro's board of directors' fiduciary duty breaches in the \$438 million buyout of Rural/Metro, citing "the magnitude of the conflict between RBC's claims and the evidence." RBC was ordered to pay nearly \$110 million as a result of its wrongdoing, the largest damage award ever obtained against a bank over its role as a merger adviser. The Delaware Supreme Court issued a landmark opinion affirming the judgment on November 30, 2015, *RBC Cap. Mkts., LLC v. Jervis*, 129 A.3d 816 (Del. 2015).
- ***In re Del Monte Foods Co. S'holders Litig.***, No. 6027-VCL (Del. Ch.). Robbins Geller exposed the unseemly practice by investment bankers of participating on both sides of large merger and acquisition transactions and ultimately secured an \$89 million settlement for shareholders of Del Monte. For efforts in achieving these results, the Robbins Geller lawyers prosecuting the case were named Attorneys of the Year by *California Lawyer* magazine in 2012.
- ***In re TD Banknorth S'holders Litig.***, No. 2557-VCL (Del. Ch.). After objecting to a modest recovery of just a few cents per share, the Firm took over the litigation and obtained a common fund settlement of \$50 million.

- ***In re Chaparral Res., Inc. S'holders Litig.***, No. 2633-VCL (Del. Ch.). After a full trial and a subsequent mediation before the Delaware Chancellor, the Firm obtained a common fund settlement of \$41 million (or 45% increase above merger price) for both class and appraisal claims.
- ***Laborers' Local #231 Pension Fund v. Websense, Inc.***, No. 37-2013-00050879-CU-BT-CTL (Cal. Super. Ct., San Diego Cnty.). Robbins Geller successfully obtained a record-breaking \$40 million in *Websense*, which is believed to be the largest post-merger common fund settlement in California state court history. The class action challenged the May 2013 buyout of Websense by Vista Equity Partners (and affiliates) for \$24.75 per share and alleged breach of fiduciary duty against the former Websense board of directors, and aiding and abetting against Websense's financial advisor, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. Claims were pursued by the plaintiff in both California state court and the Delaware Court of Chancery.
- ***In re Onyx Pharms., Inc. S'holder Litig.***, No. CIV523789 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cnty.). Robbins Geller obtained \$30 million in a case against the former Onyx board of directors for breaching its fiduciary duties in connection with the acquisition of Onyx by Amgen Inc. for \$125 per share at the expense of shareholders. At the time of the settlement, it was believed to set the record for the largest post-merger common fund settlement in California state court history. Over the case's three years, Robbins Geller defeated defendants' motions to dismiss, obtained class certification, took over 20 depositions, and reviewed over one million pages of documents. Further, the settlement was reached just days before a hearing on defendants' motion for summary judgment was set to take place, and the result is now believed to be the second largest post-merger common fund settlement in California state court history.
- ***Harrah's Entertainment***, No. A529183 (Nev. Dist. Ct., Clark Cnty.). The Firm's active prosecution of the case on several fronts, both in federal and state court, assisted Harrah's shareholders in securing an additional \$1.65 billion in merger consideration.
- ***In re Chiron S'holder Deal Litig.***, No. RG 05-230567 (Cal. Super. Ct., Alameda Cnty.). The Firm's efforts helped to obtain an additional \$800 million in increased merger consideration for Chiron shareholders.
- ***In re Dollar Gen. Corp. S'holder Litig.***, No. 07MD-1 (Tenn. Cir. Ct., Davidson Cnty.). As lead counsel, the Firm secured a recovery of up to \$57 million in cash for former Dollar General shareholders on the eve of trial.
- ***In re Prime Hosp., Inc. S'holders Litig.***, No. 652-N (Del. Ch.). The Firm objected to a settlement that was unfair to the class and proceeded to litigate breach of fiduciary duty issues involving a sale of hotels to a private equity firm. The litigation yielded a common fund of \$25 million for shareholders.
- ***In re UnitedGlobalCom, Inc. S'holder Litig.***, No. 1012-VCS (Del. Ch.). The Firm secured a common fund settlement of \$25 million just weeks before trial.
- ***In re eMachines, Inc. Merger Litig.***, No. 01-CC-00156 (Cal. Super. Ct., Orange Cnty.). After four years of litigation, the Firm secured a common fund settlement of \$24 million on the brink of trial.
- ***In re PeopleSoft, Inc. S'holder Litig.***, No. RG-03100291 (Cal. Super. Ct., Alameda Cnty.). The Firm successfully objected to a proposed compromise of class claims arising from takeover defenses by PeopleSoft, Inc. to thwart an acquisition by Oracle Corp., resulting in shareholders receiving an increase of over \$900 million in merger consideration.

- ***ACS S'holder Litig.***, No. CC-09-07377-C (Tex. Cty. Ct., Dallas Cnty.). The Firm forced ACS's acquirer, Xerox, to make significant concessions by which shareholders would not be locked out of receiving more money from another buyer.

## Antitrust

Robbins Geller's antitrust practice focuses on representing businesses and individuals who have been the victims of price-fixing, unlawful monopolization, market allocation, tying, and other anti-competitive conduct. The Firm has taken a leading role in many of the largest federal and state price-fixing, monopolization, market allocation, and tying cases throughout the United States.

- ***In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation***, MDL No. 1720 (E.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys, serving as co-lead counsel on behalf of merchants, obtained a settlement amount of \$5.5 billion. In approving the settlement, the court noted that Robbins Geller and co-counsel "demonstrated the utmost professionalism despite the demands of the extreme perseverance that this case has required, litigating on behalf of a class of over 12 million for over fourteen years, across a changing legal landscape, significant motion practice, and appeal and remand. Class counsel's pedigree and efforts alone speak to the quality of their representation."
- ***Dahl v. Bain Cap. Partners, LLC***, No. 07-cv-12388 (D. Mass). Robbins Geller attorneys served as co-lead counsel on behalf of shareholders in this antitrust action against the nation's largest private equity firms that colluded to restrain competition and suppress prices paid to shareholders of public companies in connection with leveraged buyouts. Robbins Geller attorneys recovered more than \$590 million for the class from the private equity firm defendants, including Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Carlyle Group LP.
- ***Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Bank of Am. Corp.***, No. 14-cv-07126 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys prosecuted antitrust claims against 14 major banks and broker ICAP plc who were alleged to have conspired to manipulate the ISDAfix rate, the key interest rate for a broad range of interest rate derivatives and other financial instruments in contravention of the competition laws. The class action was brought on behalf of investors and market participants who entered into interest rate derivative transactions between 2006 and 2013. Final approval has been granted to settlements collectively yielding \$504.5 million from all defendants.
- ***In re Currency Conversion Fee Antitrust Litig.***, 01 MDL No. 1409 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel and recovered \$336 million for a class of credit and debit cardholders. The court praised the Firm as "indefatigable," noting that the Firm's lawyers "vigorously litigated every issue against some of the ablest lawyers in the antitrust defense bar."
- ***In re SSA Bonds Antitrust Litig.***, No. 1:16-cv-03711 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys are serving as co-lead counsel in a case against several of the world's largest banks and the traders of certain specialized government bonds. They are alleged to have entered into a wide-ranging price-fixing and bid-rigging scheme costing pension funds and other investors hundreds of millions. To date, three of the more than a dozen corporate defendants have settled for \$95.5 million.
- ***In re Aftermarket Auto. Lighting Prods. Antitrust Litig.***, 09 MDL No. 2007 (C.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as co-lead counsel in this multi-district litigation in which plaintiffs allege that defendants conspired to fix prices and allocate markets for automotive lighting products. The last defendants settled just before the scheduled trial, resulting in total settlements of more than \$50 million. Commenting on the quality of representation, the court commended the Firm for

“expend[ing] substantial and skilled time and efforts in an efficient manner to bring this action to conclusion.”

- ***In re Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) Antitrust Litig.***, 02 MDL No. 1486 (N.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller attorneys served on the executive committee in this multi-district class action in which a class of purchasers of dynamic random access memory (or DRAM) chips alleged that the leading manufacturers of semiconductor products fixed the price of DRAM chips from the fall of 2001 through at least the end of June 2002. The case settled for more than \$300 million.
- ***Microsoft I-V Cases***, JCCP No. 4106 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Francisco Cnty.). Robbins Geller attorneys served on the executive committee in these consolidated cases in which California indirect purchasers challenged Microsoft’s illegal exercise of monopoly power in the operating system, word processing, and spreadsheet markets. In a settlement approved by the court, class counsel obtained an unprecedented \$1.1 billion worth of relief for the business and consumer class members who purchased the Microsoft products.

## Consumer Fraud and Privacy

In our consumer-based economy, working families who purchase products and services must receive truthful information so they can make meaningful choices about how to spend their hard-earned money. When financial institutions and other corporations deceive consumers or take advantage of unequal bargaining power, class action suits provide, in many instances, the only realistic means for an individual to right a corporate wrong.

Robbins Geller attorneys represent consumers around the country in a variety of important, complex class actions. Our attorneys have taken a leading role in many of the largest federal and state consumer fraud, privacy, environmental, human rights, and public health cases throughout the United States. The Firm is also actively involved in many cases relating to banks and the financial services industry, pursuing claims on behalf of individuals victimized by abusive telemarketing practices, abusive mortgage lending practices, market timing violations in the sale of variable annuities, and deceptive consumer credit lending practices in violation of the Truth-In-Lending Act. Below are a few representative samples of our robust, nationwide consumer and privacy practice.

- ***In re Nat’l Prescription Opiate Litig.*** Robbins Geller serves on the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee to spearhead more than 2,900 federal lawsuits brought on behalf of governmental entities and other plaintiffs in the sprawling litigation concerning the nationwide prescription opioid epidemic. In reporting on the selection of the lawyers to lead the case, *The National Law Journal* reported that “[t]he team reads like a ‘Who’s Who’ in mass torts.”
- ***Apple Inc. Device Performance Litigation.*** Robbins Geller serves on the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee to advance judicial interests of efficiency and protect the interests of the proposed class in the *Apple* litigation. The case alleges Apple misrepresented its iPhone devices and the nature of updates to its mobile operating system (iOS), which allegedly included code that significantly reduced the performance of older-model iPhones and forced users to incur expenses replacing these devices or their batteries.
- ***In re EpiPen (Epinephrine Injection, USP) Mktg., Sales Pracs. & Antitrust Litig.*** Robbins Geller served as co-lead class counsel in a case against Mylan Pharmaceuticals and Pfizer alleging anti-competitive behavior that allowed the price of ubiquitous, life-saving EpiPen auto-injector devices to rise over 600%, resulting in inflated prices for American families. Two settlements totaling \$609 million were reached after five years of litigation and weeks prior to trial.

- ***Cordova v. Greyhound Lines, Inc.*** Robbins Geller represented California bus passengers *pro bono* in a landmark consumer and civil rights case against Greyhound for subjecting them to discriminatory immigration raids. Robbins Geller achieved a watershed court ruling that a private company may be held liable under California law for allowing border patrol to harass and racially profile its customers. The case heralds that Greyhound passengers do not check their rights and dignity at the bus door and has had an immediate impact, not only in California but nationwide. Within weeks of Robbins Geller filing the case, Greyhound added “know your rights” information to passengers to its website and on posters in bus stations around the country, along with adopting other business reforms.
- ***In re Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Mktg., Sales Pracs., & Prods. Liab. Litig.*** As part of the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee, Robbins Geller reached a series of settlements on behalf of purchasers, lessees, and dealers that total well over \$17 billion, the largest settlement in history, concerning illegal “defeat devices” that Volkswagen installed on many of its diesel-engine vehicles. The device tricked regulators into believing the cars were complying with emissions standards, while the cars were actually emitting between 10 and 40 times the allowable limit for harmful pollutants.
- ***In re Facebook Biometric Info. Privacy Litig.***, No. 3:15-cv-03747 (N.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller served as co-lead class counsel in a cutting-edge certified class action, securing a record-breaking \$650 million all-cash settlement, the largest privacy settlement in history. The case concerned Facebook’s alleged privacy violations through its collection of its users’ biometric identifiers without informed consent through its “Tag Suggestions” feature, which uses proprietary facial recognition software to extract from user-uploaded photographs the unique biometric identifiers (*i.e.*, graphical representations of facial features, also known as facial geometry) associated with people’s faces and identify who they are. The Honorable James Donato called the settlement “a groundbreaking settlement in a novel area” and praised the unprecedented 22% claims rate as “pretty phenomenal” and “a pretty good day in class settlement history.”
- ***Yahoo Data Breach Class Action.*** Robbins Geller helped secure final approval of a \$117.5 million settlement in a class action lawsuit against Yahoo, Inc. arising out of Yahoo’s reckless disregard for the safety and security of its customers’ personal, private information. In September 2016, Yahoo revealed that personal information associated with at least 500 million user accounts, including names, email addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, hashed passwords, and security questions and answers, was stolen from Yahoo’s user database in late 2014. The company made another announcement in December 2016 that personal information associated with more than one billion user accounts was extracted in August 2013. Ten months later, Yahoo announced that the breach in 2013 actually affected all three billion existing accounts. This was the largest data breach in history, and caused severe financial and emotional damage to Yahoo account holders. In 2017, Robbins Geller was appointed to the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee charged with overseeing the litigation.
- ***Trump University.*** After six and a half years of tireless litigation and on the eve of trial, Robbins Geller, serving as co-lead counsel, secured a historic recovery on behalf of Trump University students around the country. The settlement provides \$25 million to approximately 7,000 consumers, including senior citizens who accessed retirement accounts and maxed out credit cards to enroll in Trump University. The extraordinary result means individual class members are eligible for upwards of \$35,000 in restitution. The settlement resolves claims that President Donald J. Trump and Trump University violated federal and state laws by misleadingly marketing “Live Events” seminars and mentorships as teaching Trump’s “real-estate techniques” through his “hand-picked” “professors” at his so-called “university.” Robbins Geller represented the class on a *pro bono* basis.



- ***In re Morning Song Bird Food Litig.*** Robbins Geller obtained final approval of a settlement in a civil Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act consumer class action against The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and its CEO James Hagedorn. The settlement of up to \$85 million provides full refunds to consumers around the country and resolves claims that Scotts Miracle-Gro knowingly sold wild bird food treated with pesticides that are hazardous to birds. In approving the settlement, Judge Houston commended Robbins Geller’s “skill and quality of work [as] extraordinary” and the case as “aggressively litigated.” The Robbins Geller team battled a series of dismissal motions before achieving class certification for the plaintiffs in March 2017, with the court finding that “Plaintiffs would not have purchased the bird food if they knew it was poison.” Defendants then appealed the class certification to the Ninth Circuit, which was denied, and then tried to have the claims from non-California class members thrown out, which was also denied.
- ***Bank Overdraft Fees Litigation.*** The banking industry charges consumers exorbitant amounts for “overdraft” of their checking accounts, even if the customer did not authorize a charge beyond the available balance and even if the account would not have been overdrawn had the transactions been ordered chronologically as they occurred – that is, banks reorder transactions to maximize such fees. The Firm brought lawsuits against major banks to stop this practice and recover these false fees. These cases have recovered over \$500 million thus far from a dozen banks and we continue to investigate other banks engaging in this practice.
- ***Visa and MasterCard Fees.*** After years of litigation and a six-month trial, Robbins Geller attorneys won one of the largest consumer-protection verdicts ever awarded in the United States. The Firm’s attorneys represented California consumers in an action against Visa and MasterCard for intentionally imposing and concealing a fee from cardholders. The court ordered Visa and MasterCard to return \$800 million in cardholder losses, which represented 100% of the amount illegally taken, plus 2% interest. In addition, the court ordered full disclosure of the hidden fee.
- ***Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Security Breach Litigation.*** The Firm served as a member of the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee, helping to obtain a precedential opinion denying in part Sony’s motion to dismiss plaintiffs’ claims involving the breach of Sony’s gaming network, leading to a \$15 million settlement.
- ***Tobacco Litigation.*** Robbins Geller attorneys have led the fight against Big Tobacco since 1991. As an example, Robbins Geller attorneys filed the case that helped get rid of Joe Camel, representing various public and private plaintiffs, including the State of Arkansas, the general public in California, the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Birmingham, 14 counties in California, and the working men and women of this country in the Union Pension and Welfare Fund cases that have been filed in 40 states. In 1992, Robbins Geller attorneys filed the first case in the country that alleged a conspiracy by the Big Tobacco companies.

- ***Garment Workers Sweatshop Litigation.*** Robbins Geller attorneys represented a class of 30,000 garment workers who alleged that they had worked under sweatshop conditions in garment factories in Saipan that produced clothing for top U.S. retailers such as The Gap, Target, and J.C. Penney. In the first action of its kind, Robbins Geller attorneys pursued claims against the factories and the retailers alleging violations of RICO, the Alien Tort Claims Act, and the Law of Nations based on the alleged systemic labor and human rights abuses occurring in Saipan. This case was a companion to two other actions, one which alleged overtime violations by the garment factories under the Fair Labor Standards Act and local labor law, and another which alleged violations of California's Unfair Practices Law by the U.S. retailers. These actions resulted in a settlement of approximately \$20 million that included a comprehensive monitoring program to address past violations by the factories and prevent future ones. The members of the litigation team were honored as Trial Lawyers of the Year by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice in recognition of the team's efforts at bringing about the precedent-setting settlement of the actions.
- ***In re Intel Corp. CPU Mktg., Sales Pracs. & Prods. Liab. Litig.*** Robbins Geller serves on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *Intel*, a massive multidistrict litigation pending in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon. *Intel* concerns serious security vulnerabilities – known as “Spectre” and “Meltdown” – that infect nearly all of Intel's x86 processors manufactured and sold since 1995, the patching of which results in processing speed degradation of the impacted computer, server or mobile device.
- ***West Telemarketing Case.*** Robbins Geller attorneys secured a \$39 million settlement for class members caught up in a telemarketing scheme where consumers were charged for an unwanted membership program after purchasing Tae-Bo exercise videos. Under the settlement, consumers were entitled to claim between one and one-half to three times the amount of all fees they unknowingly paid.
- ***Dannon Activia®.*** Robbins Geller attorneys secured the largest ever settlement for a false advertising case involving a food product. The case alleged that Dannon's advertising for its Activia® and DanActive® branded products and their benefits from “probiotic” bacteria were overstated. As part of the nationwide settlement, Dannon agreed to modify its advertising and establish a fund of up to \$45 million to compensate consumers for their purchases of Activia® and DanActive®.
- ***Mattel Lead Paint Toys.*** In 2006-2007, toy manufacturing giant Mattel and its subsidiary Fisher-Price announced the recall of over 14 million toys made in China due to hazardous lead and dangerous magnets. Robbins Geller attorneys filed lawsuits on behalf of millions of parents and other consumers who purchased or received toys for children that were marketed as safe but were later recalled because they were dangerous. The Firm's attorneys reached a landmark settlement for millions of dollars in refunds and lead testing reimbursements, as well as important testing requirements to ensure that Mattel's toys are safe for consumers in the future.
- ***Tenet Healthcare Cases.*** Robbins Geller attorneys were co-lead counsel in a class action alleging a fraudulent scheme of corporate misconduct, resulting in the overcharging of uninsured patients by the Tenet chain of hospitals. The Firm's attorneys represented uninsured patients of Tenet hospitals nationwide who were overcharged by Tenet's admittedly “aggressive pricing strategy,” which resulted in price gouging of the uninsured. The case was settled with Tenet changing its practices and making refunds to patients.
- ***Pet Food Products Liability Litigation.*** Robbins Geller served as co-lead counsel in this massive,

100+ case products liability MDL in the District of New Jersey concerning the death of and injury to thousands of the nation's cats and dogs due to tainted pet food. The case settled for \$24 million.

## Human Rights, Labor Practices, and Public Policy

Robbins Geller attorneys have a long tradition of representing the victims of unfair labor practices and violations of human rights. These include:

- ***Does I v. The Gap, Inc.***, No. 01 0031 (D. N. Mar. I.). In this groundbreaking case, Robbins Geller attorneys represented a class of 30,000 garment workers who alleged that they had worked under sweatshop conditions in garment factories in Saipan that produced clothing for top U.S. retailers such as The Gap, Target, and J.C. Penney. In the first action of its kind, Robbins Geller attorneys pursued claims against the factories and the retailers alleging violations of RICO, the Alien Tort Claims Act, and the Law of Nations based on the alleged systemic labor and human rights abuses occurring in Saipan. This case was a companion to two other actions: ***Does I v. Advance Textile Corp.***, No. 99 0002 (D. N. Mar. I.), which alleged overtime violations by the garment factories under the Fair Labor Standards Act and local labor law, and ***UNITE v. The Gap, Inc.***, No. 300474 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Francisco Cty.), which alleged violations of California's Unfair Practices Law by the U.S. retailers. These actions resulted in a settlement of approximately \$20 million that included a comprehensive monitoring program to address past violations by the factories and prevent future ones. The members of the litigation team were honored as Trial Lawyers of the Year by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice in recognition of the team's efforts at bringing about the precedent-setting settlement of the actions.
- ***Liberty Mutual Overtime Cases***, No. JCCP 4234 (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles Cnty.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as co-lead counsel on behalf of 1,600 current and former insurance claims adjusters at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and several of its subsidiaries. Plaintiffs brought the case to recover unpaid overtime compensation and associated penalties, alleging that Liberty Mutual had misclassified its claims adjusters as exempt from overtime under California law. After 13 years of complex and exhaustive litigation, Robbins Geller secured a settlement in which Liberty Mutual agreed to pay \$65 million into a fund to compensate the class of claims adjusters for unpaid overtime. The Liberty Mutual action is one of a few claims adjuster overtime actions brought in California or elsewhere to result in a successful outcome for plaintiffs since 2004.
- ***Veliz v. Cintas Corp.***, No. 5:03-cv-01180 (N.D. Cal.). Brought against one of the nation's largest commercial laundries for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act for misclassifying truck drivers as salesmen to avoid payment of overtime.
- ***Kasky v. Nike, Inc.***, 27 Cal. 4th 939 (2002). The California Supreme Court upheld claims that an apparel manufacturer misled the public regarding its exploitative labor practices, thereby violating California statutes prohibiting unfair competition and false advertising. The court rejected defense contentions that any misconduct was protected by the First Amendment, finding the heightened constitutional protection afforded to noncommercial speech inappropriate in such a circumstance.

Shareholder derivative litigation brought by Robbins Geller attorneys at times also involves stopping anti-union activities, including:

- ***Southern Pacific/Overnite***. A shareholder action stemming from several hundred million dollars in loss of value in the company due to systematic violations by Overnite of U.S. labor laws.
- ***Massey Energy***. A shareholder action against an anti-union employer for flagrant violations of environmental laws resulting in multi-million-dollar penalties.
- ***Crown Petroleum***. A shareholder action against a Texas-based oil company for self-dealing and breach of fiduciary duty while also involved in a union lockout.

## Environment and Public Health

Robbins Geller attorneys have also represented plaintiffs in class actions related to environmental law. The Firm's attorneys represented, on a *pro bono* basis, the Sierra Club and the National Economic Development and Law Center as *amici curiae* in a federal suit designed to uphold the federal and state use of project labor agreements ("PLAs"). The suit represented a legal challenge to President Bush's Executive Order 13202, which prohibits the use of project labor agreements on construction projects receiving federal funds. Our *amici* brief in the matter outlined and stressed the significant environmental and socio-economic benefits associated with the use of PLAs on large-scale construction projects.

Attorneys with Robbins Geller have been involved in several other significant environmental cases, including:

- ***Public Citizen v. U.S. D.O.T.*** Robbins Geller attorneys represented a coalition of labor, environmental, industry, and public health organizations including Public Citizen, The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, California AFL-CIO, and California Trucking Industry in a challenge to a decision by the Bush administration to lift a Congressionally-imposed "moratorium" on cross-border trucking from Mexico on the basis that such trucks do not conform to emission controls under the Clean Air Act, and further, that the administration did not first complete a comprehensive environmental impact analysis as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The suit was dismissed by the United States Supreme Court, the court holding that because the D.O.T. lacked discretion to prevent crossborder trucking, an environmental assessment was not required.
- ***Sierra Club v. AK Steel***. Brought on behalf of the Sierra Club for massive emissions of air and water pollution by a steel mill, including homes of workers living in the adjacent communities, in violation of the Federal Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation Recovery Act, and the Clean Water Act.
- ***MTBE Litigation***. Brought on behalf of various water districts for befouling public drinking water with MTBE, a gasoline additive linked to cancer.
- ***Exxon Valdez***. Brought on behalf of fisherman and Alaska residents for billions of dollars in damages resulting from the greatest oil spill in U.S. history.
- ***Avila Beach***. A citizens' suit against UNOCAL for leakage from the oil company pipeline so severe it literally destroyed the town of Avila Beach, California.

Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and state laws such as California's Proposition 65 exist to protect the environment and the public from abuses by corporate and government organizations. Companies can be found liable for negligence, trespass, or intentional environmental damage, be forced to pay for reparations, and to come into

compliance with existing laws. Prominent cases litigated by Robbins Geller attorneys include representing more than 4,000 individuals suing for personal injury and property damage related to the Stringfellow Dump Site in Southern California, participation in the Exxon Valdez oil spill litigation, and litigation involving the toxic spill arising from a Southern Pacific train derailment near Dunsmuir, California.

Robbins Geller attorneys have led the fight against Big Tobacco since 1991. As an example, Robbins Geller attorneys filed the case that helped get rid of Joe Camel, representing various public and private plaintiffs, including the State of Arkansas, the general public in California, the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Birmingham, 14 counties in California, and the working men and women of this country in the Union Pension and Welfare Fund cases that have been filed in 40 states. In 1992, Robbins Geller attorneys filed the first case in the country that alleged a conspiracy by the Big Tobacco companies.

## Pro Bono

Robbins Geller provides counsel to those unable to afford legal representation as part of a continuous and longstanding commitment to the communities in which it serves. Over the years the Firm has dedicated a considerable amount of time, energy, and a full range of its resources for many *pro bono* and charitable actions.

Robbins Geller has been honored for its *pro bono* efforts by the California State Bar (including a nomination for the President's Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year award) and the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer's Program, among others.

Some of the Firm's and its attorneys' *pro bono* and charitable actions include:

- Representing public school children and parents in Tennessee challenging the state's private school voucher law, known as the Education Savings Account (ESA) Pilot Program. Robbins Geller helped achieve favorable rulings enjoining implementation of the ESA for violating the Home Rule provision of the Tennessee Constitution, which prohibits the General Assembly from passing laws that target specific counties without local approval.
- Representing California bus passengers *pro bono* in a landmark consumer and civil rights case against Greyhound for subjecting them to discriminatory immigration raids. Robbins Geller achieved a watershed court ruling that a private company may be held liable under California law for allowing border patrol to harass and racially profile its customers. The case heralds that Greyhound passengers do not check their rights and dignity at the bus door and has had an immediate impact, not only in California but nationwide. Within weeks of Robbins Geller filing the case, Greyhound added "know your rights" information to passengers to its website and on posters in bus stations around the country, along with adopting other business reforms.
- Working with the Homeless Action Center (HAC) to provide no-cost, barrier-free, culturally competent legal representation that makes it possible for people who are homeless (or at risk of becoming homeless) to access social safety net programs that help restore dignity and provide sustainable income, healthcare, mental health treatment, and housing. Based in Oakland and Berkeley, the non-profit is the only program in the Bay Area that specializes in legal services to those who are chronically homeless. In 2016, HAC provided assistance to 1,403 men and 936 women, and 1,691 cases were completed. An additional 1,357 cases were still pending when the year ended. The results include 512 completed SSI cases with a success rate of 87%.

- Representing Trump University students in two class actions against President Donald J. Trump. The historic settlement provides \$25 million to approximately 7,000 consumers. This means individual class members are eligible for upwards of \$35,000 in restitution – an extraordinary result.
- Representing children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as children with significant disabilities, in New York to remedy flawed educational policies and practices that cause substantial harm to these and other similar children year after year.
- Representing 19 San Diego County children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in their appeal of the San Diego Regional Center’s termination of funding for a crucial therapy. The victory resulted in a complete reinstatement of funding and set a precedent that allows other children to obtain the treatments they need.
- Serving as Northern California and Hawaii District Coordinator for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit’s Pro Bono program since 1993.
- Representing the Sierra Club and the National Economic Development and Law Center as *amici curiae* before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Obtaining political asylum, after an initial application had been denied, for an impoverished Somali family whose ethnic minority faced systematic persecution and genocidal violence in Somalia, as well as forced female mutilation.
- Working with the ACLU in a class action filed on behalf of welfare applicants subject to San Diego County’s “Project 100%” program. Relief was had when the County admitted that food-stamp eligibility could not hinge upon the Project 100% “home visits,” and again when the district court ruled that unconsented “collateral contacts” violated state regulations. The decision was noted by the *Harvard Law Review*, *The New York Times*, and *The Colbert Report*.
- Filing numerous *amicus curiae* briefs on behalf of religious organizations and clergy that support civil rights, oppose government-backed religious-viewpoint discrimination, and uphold the American traditions of religious freedom and church-state separation.
- Serving as *amicus* counsel in a Ninth Circuit appeal from a Board of Immigration Appeals deportation decision. In addition to obtaining a reversal of the BIA’s deportation order, the Firm consulted with the Federal Defenders’ Office on cases presenting similar fact patterns, which resulted in a precedent-setting *en banc* decision from the Ninth Circuit resolving a question of state and federal law that had been contested and conflicted for decades.

# PROMINENT CASES, PRECEDENT-SETTING DECISIONS, AND JUDICIAL COMMENDATIONS

## Prominent Cases

Over the years, Robbins Geller attorneys have obtained outstanding results in some of the most notorious and well-known cases, frequently earning judicial commendations for the quality of their representation.

- *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. H-01-3624 (S.D. Tex.). Investors lost billions of dollars as a result of the massive fraud at Enron. In appointing Robbins Geller lawyers as sole lead counsel to represent the interests of Enron investors, the court found that the Firm’s zealous prosecution and level of “insight” set it apart from its peers. Robbins Geller attorneys and lead plaintiff The Regents of the University of California aggressively pursued numerous defendants, including many of Wall Street’s biggest banks, and successfully obtained settlements in excess of **\$7.2 billion** for the benefit of investors. ***This is the largest securities class action recovery in history.***

The court overseeing this action had utmost praise for Robbins Geller’s efforts and stated that “[t]he experience, ability, and reputation of the attorneys of [Robbins Geller] is not disputed; it is one of the most successful law firms in securities class actions, if not the preeminent one, in the country.” *In re Enron Corp. Sec., Derivative & “ERISA” Litig.*, 586 F. Supp. 2d 732, 797 (S.D. Tex. 2008).

The court further commented: “[I]n the face of extraordinary obstacles, the skills, expertise, commitment, and tenacity of [Robbins Geller] in this litigation cannot be overstated. Not to be overlooked are the unparalleled results, . . . which demonstrate counsel’s clearly superlative litigating and negotiating skills.” *Id.* at 789.

The court stated that the Firm’s attorneys “are to be commended for their zealousness, their diligence, their perseverance, their creativity, the enormous breadth and depth of their investigations and analysis, and their expertise in all areas of securities law on behalf of the proposed class.” *Id.*

In addition, the court noted, “This Court considers [Robbins Geller] ‘a lion’ at the securities bar on the national level,” noting that the Lead Plaintiff selected Robbins Geller because of the Firm’s “outstanding reputation, experience, and success in securities litigation nationwide.” *Id.* at 790.

The court further stated that “Lead Counsel’s fearsome reputation and successful track record undoubtedly were substantial factors in . . . obtaining these recoveries.” *Id.*

Finally, Judge Harmon stated: “As this Court has explained [this is] an extraordinary group of attorneys who achieved the largest settlement fund ever despite the great odds against them.” *Id.* at 828.

- *Jaffe v. Household Int’l, Inc.*, No. 02-C-05893 (N.D. Ill). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a record-breaking settlement of **\$1.575 billion** after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a securities fraud verdict in favor of the class. In 2015, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the jury’s verdict that defendants made false or misleading statements of material fact about the company’s business practices and financial results, but remanded the case for a new trial on the issue of whether the individual defendants “made” certain false statements, whether those false statements caused plaintiffs’ losses, and the amount of

damages. The parties reached an agreement to settle the case just hours before the retrial was scheduled to begin on June 6, 2016. *The \$1.575 billion settlement, approved in October 2016, is the largest ever following a securities fraud class action trial, the largest securities fraud settlement in the Seventh Circuit and the eighth-largest settlement ever in a post-PSLRA securities fraud case.* According to published reports, the case was just the seventh securities fraud case tried to a verdict since the passage of the PSLRA.

In approving the settlement, the Honorable Jorge L. Alonso noted the team's "skill and determination" while recognizing that "Lead Counsel prosecuted the case vigorously and skillfully over 14 years against nine of the country's most prominent law firms" and "achieved an exceptionally significant recovery for the class." The court added that the team faced "significant hurdles" and "uphill battles" throughout the case and recognized that "[c]lass counsel performed a very high-quality legal work in the context of a thorny case in which the state of the law has been and is in flux." The court succinctly concluded that the settlement was "a spectacular result for the class." *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, No. 02-C-5892, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 156921, at \*8 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 10, 2016); *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, No. 02-C-05893, Transcript at 56, 65 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 20, 2016).

- ***In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. 3:15-cv-07658 (D.N.J.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$1.2 billion settlement in the securities case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." The settlement resolves claims that defendants made false and misleading statements regarding Valeant's business and financial performance during the class period, attributing Valeant's dramatic growth in revenues and profitability to "innovative new marketing approaches" as part of a business model that was low risk and "durable and sustainable." *Valeant* is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest ever.
- ***In re Am. Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.***, No. 1:15-mc-00040 (S.D.N.Y.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys zealously litigated the case arising out of ARCP's manipulative accounting practices and obtained a \$1.025 billion settlement. For five years, the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages of any major PSLRA case prior to trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history.

In approving the settlement, the Honorable Alvin K. Hellerstein lauded the Robbins Geller litigation team, noting: "My own observation is that plaintiffs' representation is adequate and that the role of lead counsel was fulfilled in an extremely fine fashion by [Robbins Geller]. At every juncture, the representations made to me were reliable, the arguments were cogent, and the representation of their client was zealous."

- ***In re UnitedHealth Grp. Inc. PSLRA Litig.***, No. 06-CV-1691 (D. Minn.). In the *UnitedHealth* case, Robbins Geller represented the California Public Employees' Retirement System ("CalPERS") and demonstrated its willingness to vigorously advocate for its institutional clients, even under the most difficult circumstances. For example, in 2006, the issue of high-level executives backdating stock options made national headlines. During that time, many law firms, including Robbins Geller, brought shareholder derivative lawsuits against the companies' boards of directors for breaches of their fiduciary duties or for improperly granting backdated options. Rather than pursuing a shareholder derivative case, the Firm filed a securities fraud class action against the company on behalf of CalPERS. In doing so, Robbins Geller faced significant and unprecedented legal



obstacles with respect to loss causation, *i.e.*, that defendants' actions were responsible for causing the stock losses. Despite these legal hurdles, Robbins Geller obtained an \$895 million recovery on behalf of the UnitedHealth shareholders. Shortly after reaching the \$895 million settlement with UnitedHealth, the remaining corporate defendants, including former CEO William A. McGuire, also settled. McGuire paid \$30 million and returned stock options representing more than three million shares to the shareholders. The total recovery for the class was over \$925 million, the largest stock option backdating recovery ever, and **a recovery that is more than four times larger than the next largest options backdating recovery**. Moreover, Robbins Geller obtained unprecedented corporate governance reforms, including election of a shareholder-nominated member to the company's board of directors, a mandatory holding period for shares acquired by executives via option exercise, and executive compensation reforms that tie pay to performance.

- ***Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. CitiGroup, Inc. (In re WorldCom Sec. Litig.)***, No. 03 Civ. 8269 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys represented more than 50 private and public institutions that opted out of the class action case and sued WorldCom's bankers, officers and directors, and auditors in courts around the country for losses related to WorldCom bond offerings from 1998 to 2001. The Firm's clients included major public institutions from across the country such as CalPERS, CalSTRS, the state pension funds of Maine, Illinois, New Mexico, and West Virginia, union pension funds, and private entities such as AIG and Northwestern Mutual. Robbins Geller attorneys recovered more than \$650 million for their clients, substantially more than they would have recovered as part of the class.
- ***Luther v. Countrywide Fin. Corp.***, No. 12-cv-05125 (C.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller attorneys secured a \$500 million settlement for institutional and individual investors in what is the largest RMBS purchaser class action settlement in history, and one of the largest class action securities settlements of all time. The unprecedented settlement resolves claims against Countrywide and Wall Street banks that issued the securities. The action was the first securities class action case filed against originators and Wall Street banks as a result of the credit crisis. As co-lead counsel Robbins Geller forged through six years of hard-fought litigation, oftentimes litigating issues of first impression, in order to secure the landmark settlement for its clients and the class.

In approving the settlement, Judge Mariana R. Pfaelzer repeatedly complimented plaintiffs' attorneys, noting that it was "beyond serious dispute that Class Counsel has vigorously prosecuted the Settlement Actions on both the state and federal level over the last six years." Judge Pfaelzer also commented that "[w]ithout a settlement, these cases would continue indefinitely, resulting in significant risks to recovery and continued litigation costs. It is difficult to understate the risks to recovery if litigation had continued." *Me. State Rel. Sys. v. Countrywide Fin. Corp.*, No. 2:10-CV-00302, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 179190, at \*44, \*56 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 5, 2013).

Judge Pfaelzer further noted that the proposed \$500 million settlement represents one of the "largest MBS class action settlements to date. Indeed, this settlement easily surpasses the next largest . . . MBS settlement." *Id.* at \*59.

- ***In re Wachovia Preferred Sec. & Bond/Notes Litig.***, No. 09-cv-06351 (S.D.N.Y.). In litigation over bonds and preferred securities, issued by Wachovia between 2006 and 2008, Robbins Geller and co-counsel obtained a significant settlement with Wachovia successor Wells Fargo & Company (\$590 million) and Wachovia auditor KPMG LLP (\$37 million). ***The total settlement – \$627 million – is one of the largest credit-crisis settlements involving Securities Act claims and one of the 20 largest securities class action recoveries in history.*** The settlement is also one of the biggest securities class action recoveries arising from the credit crisis.

As alleged in the complaint, the offering materials for the bonds and preferred securities misstated and failed to disclose the true nature and quality of Wachovia's mortgage loan portfolio, which exposed the bank and misled investors to tens of billions of dollars in losses on mortgage-related assets. In reality, Wachovia employed high-risk underwriting standards and made loans to subprime borrowers, contrary to the offering materials and their statements of "pristine credit quality." Robbins Geller served as co-lead counsel representing the City of Livonia Employees' Retirement System, Hawaii Sheet Metal Workers Pension Fund, and the investor class.

- ***In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. C2-04-575 (S.D. Ohio). As sole lead counsel representing Cardinal Health shareholders, Robbins Geller obtained a recovery of \$600 million for investors. On behalf of the lead plaintiffs, Amalgamated Bank, the New Mexico State Investment Council, and the California Ironworkers Field Trust Fund, the Firm aggressively pursued class claims and won numerous courtroom victories, including a favorable decision on defendants' motion to dismiss. *In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litigs.*, 426 F. Supp. 2d 688 (S.D. Ohio 2006). At the time, the \$600 million settlement was the tenth-largest settlement in the history of securities fraud litigation and is the largest-ever recovery in a securities fraud action in the Sixth Circuit. Judge Marbley commented: "[T]his is an extraordinary settlement relative to all the other settlements in cases of this nature and certainly cases of this magnitude. . . . This was an outstanding settlement. . . . [I]n most instances, if you've gotten four cents on the dollar, you've done well. You've gotten twenty cents on the dollar, so that's been extraordinary. *In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 2:04-CV-575, Transcript at 16, 32 (S.D. Ohio Oct. 19, 2007). Judge Marbley further stated:

The quality of representation in this case was superb. Lead Counsel, [Robbins Geller], are nationally recognized leaders in complex securities litigation class actions. The quality of the representation is demonstrated by the substantial benefit achieved for the Class and the efficient, effective prosecution and resolution of this action. Lead Counsel defeated a volley of motions to dismiss, thwarting well-formed challenges from prominent and capable attorneys from six different law firms.

*In re Cardinal Health Inc. Sec. Litigs.*, 528 F. Supp. 2d 752, 768 (S.D. Ohio 2007).

- ***AOL Time Warner Cases I & II***, JCCP Nos. 4322 & 4325 (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles Cnty.). Robbins Geller represented The Regents of the University of California, six Ohio state pension funds, Rabo Bank (NL), the Scottish Widows Investment Partnership, several Australian public and private funds, insurance companies, and numerous additional institutional investors, both domestic and international, in state and federal court opt-out litigation stemming from Time Warner's disastrous 2001 merger with Internet high flier America Online. Robbins Geller attorneys exposed a massive and sophisticated accounting fraud involving America Online's e-commerce and advertising revenue. After almost four years of litigation involving extensive discovery, the Firm secured combined settlements for its opt-out clients totaling over \$629 million just weeks before The Regents' case pending in California state court was scheduled to go to trial. The Regents' gross recovery of \$246 million is the largest individual opt-out securities recovery in history.

- ***Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co.***, No. 1:08-cv-07508-SAS-DCF (S.D.N.Y.), and ***King County, Washington v. IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG***, No. 1:09-cv-08387-SAS (S.D.N.Y.). The Firm represented multiple institutional investors in successfully pursuing recoveries from two failed structured investment vehicles, each of which had been rated “AAA” by Standard & Poors and Moody’s, but which failed fantastically in 2007. The matter settled just prior to trial in 2013. This result was only made possible after Robbins Geller lawyers beat back the rating agencies’ longtime argument that ratings were opinions protected by the First Amendment.
- ***In re HealthSouth Corp. Sec. Litig.***, No. CV-03-BE-1500-S (N.D. Ala.). As court-appointed co-lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a combined recovery of \$671 million from HealthSouth, its auditor Ernst & Young, and its investment banker, UBS, for the benefit of stockholder plaintiffs. The settlement against HealthSouth represents one of the larger settlements in securities class action history and is considered among the top 15 settlements achieved after passage of the PSLRA. Likewise, the settlement against Ernst & Young is one of the largest securities class action settlements entered into by an accounting firm since the passage of the PSLRA. HealthSouth and its financial advisors perpetrated one of the largest and most pervasive frauds in the history of U.S. healthcare, prompting Congressional and law enforcement inquiry and resulting in guilty pleas of 16 former HealthSouth executives in related federal criminal prosecutions. In March 2009, Judge Karon Bowdre commented in the *HealthSouth* class certification opinion: “The court has had many opportunities since November 2001 to examine the work of class counsel and the supervision by the Class Representatives. The court finds both to be far more than adequate.” *In re HealthSouth Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 257 F.R.D. 260, 275 (N.D. Ala. 2009).
- ***In re Facebook Biometric Info. Privacy Litig.***, No. 3:15-cv-03747 (N.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller served as co-lead class counsel in a cutting-edge certified class action, securing a record-breaking \$650 million all-cash settlement, the largest privacy settlement in history. The case concerned Facebook’s alleged privacy violations through its collection of its users’ biometric identifiers without informed consent through its “Tag Suggestions” feature, which uses proprietary facial recognition software to extract from user-uploaded photographs the unique biometric identifiers (*i.e.*, graphical representations of facial features, also known as facial geometry) associated with people’s faces and identify who they are. The Honorable James Donato called the settlement “a groundbreaking settlement in a novel area” and praised the unprecedented 22% claims rate as “pretty phenomenal” and “a pretty good day in class settlement history.”
- ***In re Dynegy Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. H-02-1571 (S.D. Tex.). As sole lead counsel representing The Regents of the University of California and the class of Dynegy investors, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a combined settlement of \$474 million from Dynegy, Citigroup, Inc., and Arthur Andersen LLP for their involvement in a clandestine financing scheme known as Project Alpha. Given Dynegy’s limited ability to pay, Robbins Geller attorneys structured a settlement (reached shortly before the commencement of trial) that maximized plaintiffs’ recovery without bankrupting the company. Most notably, the settlement agreement provides that Dynegy will appoint two board members to be nominated by The Regents, which Robbins Geller and The Regents believe will benefit all of Dynegy’s stockholders.
- ***Jones v. Pfizer Inc.***, No. 1:10-cv-03864 (S.D.N.Y.). Lead plaintiff Stichting Philips Pensioenfonds obtained a \$400 million settlement on behalf of class members who purchased Pfizer common stock during the January 19, 2006 to January 23, 2009 class period. The settlement against Pfizer resolves accusations that it misled investors about an alleged off-label drug marketing scheme. As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys helped achieve this exceptional result after five years of hard-fought litigation against the toughest and the brightest members of the securities defense bar by litigating this case all the way to trial.

In approving the settlement, United States District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein commended the Firm, noting that “[w]ithout the quality and the toughness that you have exhibited, our society would not be as good as it is with all its problems. So from me to you is a vote of thanks for devoting yourself to this work and doing it well. . . . You did a really good job. Congratulations.”

- ***In re Qwest Commc’ns Int’l, Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. 01-cv-1451 (D. Colo.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel for a class of investors that purchased Qwest securities. In July 2001, the Firm filed the initial complaint in this action on behalf of its clients, long before any investigation into Qwest’s financial statements was initiated by the SEC or Department of Justice. After five years of litigation, lead plaintiffs entered into a settlement with Qwest and certain individual defendants that provided a \$400 million recovery for the class and created a mechanism that allowed the vast majority of class members to share in an additional \$250 million recovered by the SEC. In 2008, Robbins Geller attorneys recovered an additional \$45 million for the class in a settlement with defendants Joseph P. Nacchio and Robert S. Woodruff, the CEO and CFO, respectively, of Qwest during large portions of the class period.
- ***Fort Worth Emps.’ Ret. Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.***, No. 1:09-cv-03701 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel for a class of investors and obtained court approval of a \$388 million recovery in nine 2007 residential mortgage-backed securities offerings issued by J.P. Morgan. The settlement represents, on a percentage basis, the largest recovery ever achieved in an MBS purchaser class action. The result was achieved after more than five years of hard-fought litigation and an extensive investigation. In granting approval of the settlement, the court stated the following about Robbins Geller attorneys litigating the case: “[T]here is no question in my mind that this is a very good result for the class and that the plaintiffs’ counsel fought the case very hard with extensive discovery, a lot of depositions, several rounds of briefing of various legal issues going all the way through class certification.”
- ***Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.***, No. 2:12-cv-00555 (D. Ariz.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a \$350 million settlement in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.* The settlement, which was reached after a long legal battle and on the day before jury selection, resolves claims that First Solar violated §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and SEC Rule 10b-5. The settlement is the fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit.
- ***NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.***, No. 1:08-cv-10783 (S.D.N.Y.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a \$272 million settlement on behalf of Goldman Sachs’ shareholders. The settlement concludes one of the last remaining mortgage-backed securities purchaser class actions arising out of the global financial crisis. The remarkable result was achieved following seven years of extensive litigation. After the claims were dismissed in 2010, Robbins Geller secured a landmark victory from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals that clarified the scope of permissible class actions asserting claims under the Securities Act of 1933 on behalf of MBS investors. Specifically, the Second Circuit’s decision rejected the concept of “tranche” standing and concluded that a lead plaintiff in an MBS class action has class standing to pursue claims on behalf of purchasers of other securities that were issued from the same registration statement and backed by pools of mortgages originated by the same lenders who had originated mortgages backing the lead plaintiff’s securities.

In approving the settlement, the Honorable Loretta A. Preska of the Southern District of New York complimented Robbins Geller attorneys, noting:

Counsel, thank you for your papers. They were, by the way, extraordinary

papers in support of the settlement, and I will particularly note Professor Miller's declaration in which he details the procedural aspects of the case and then speaks of plaintiffs' counsel's success in the Second Circuit essentially changing the law.

I will also note what counsel have said, and that is that this case illustrates the proper functioning of the statute.

\* \* \*

Counsel, you can all be proud of what you've done for your clients. You've done an extraordinarily good job.

*NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.*, No. 1:08-cv-10783, Transcript at 10-11 (S.D.N.Y. May 2, 2016).

- ***Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.***, No. 3:11-cv-01033 (M.D. Tenn.). As sole lead counsel, Robbins Geller obtained a groundbreaking \$215 million settlement for former HCA Holdings, Inc. shareholders – the largest securities class action recovery ever in Tennessee. Reached shortly before trial was scheduled to commence, the settlement resolves claims that the Registration Statement and Prospectus HCA filed in connection with the company's massive \$4.3 billion 2011 IPO contained material misstatements and omissions. The recovery achieved represents more than 30% of the aggregate classwide damages, far exceeding the typical recovery in a securities class action. At the hearing on final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Kevin H. Sharp described Robbins Geller attorneys as “gladiators” and commented: “Looking at the benefit obtained, the effort that you had to put into it, [and] the complexity in this case . . . I appreciate the work that you all have done on this.” *Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.*, No. 3:11-CV-01033, Transcript at 12-13 (M.D. Tenn. Apr. 11, 2016).
- ***Silverman v. Motorola, Inc.***, No. 1:07-cv-04507 (N.D. Ill.). The Firm served as lead counsel on behalf of a class of investors in Motorola, ultimately recovering \$200 million for investors just two months before the case was set for trial. This outstanding result was obtained despite the lack of an SEC investigation or any financial restatement. In May 2012, the Honorable Amy J. St. Eve of the Northern District of Illinois commented: “The representation that [Robbins Geller] provided to the class was significant, both in terms of quality and quantity.” *Silverman v. Motorola, Inc.*, No. 07 C 4507, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 63477, at \*11 (N.D. Ill. May 7, 2012), *aff'd*, 739 F.3d 956 (7th Cir. 2013).

In affirming the district court's award of attorneys' fees, the Seventh Circuit noted that “no other law firm was willing to serve as lead counsel. Lack of competition not only implies a higher fee but also suggests that most members of the securities bar saw this litigation as too risky for their practices.” *Silverman v. Motorola Sols., Inc.*, 739 F.3d 956, 958 (7th Cir. 2013).

- ***In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.***, MDL No. 1399 (D.N.J.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel for a class of investors that purchased AT&T common stock. The case charged defendants AT&T and its former Chairman and CEO, C. Michael Armstrong, with violations of the federal securities laws in connection with AT&T's April 2000 initial public offering of its wireless tracking stock, one of the largest IPOs in American history. After two weeks of trial, and on the eve of scheduled testimony by Armstrong and infamous telecom analyst Jack Grubman, defendants agreed to settle the case for \$100 million. In granting approval of the settlement, the court stated the following about the Robbins Geller attorneys handling the case:

Lead Counsel are highly skilled attorneys with great experience in prosecuting complex securities action[s], and their professionalism and diligence displayed during [this] litigation substantiates this characterization. The Court notes that Lead Counsel displayed excellent lawyering skills through their consistent preparedness during court proceedings, arguments and the trial, and their well-written and thoroughly researched submissions to the Court. Undoubtedly, the attentive and persistent effort of Lead Counsel was integral in achieving the excellent result for the Class.

*In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.*, MDL No. 1399, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46144, at \*28-\*29 (D.N.J. Apr. 25, 2005), *aff'd*, 455 F.3d 160 (3d Cir. 2006).

- *In re Dollar Gen. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. 01-CV-00388 (M.D. Tenn.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel in this case in which the Firm recovered \$172.5 million for investors. The *Dollar General* settlement was the largest shareholder class action recovery ever in Tennessee.
- *Carpenters Health & Welfare Fund v. Coca-Cola Co.*, No. 00-CV-2838 (N.D. Ga.). As co-lead counsel representing Coca-Cola shareholders, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a recovery of \$137.5 million after nearly eight years of litigation. Robbins Geller attorneys traveled to three continents to uncover the evidence that ultimately resulted in the settlement of this hard-fought litigation. The case concerned Coca-Cola's shipping of excess concentrate at the end of financial reporting periods for the sole purpose of meeting analyst earnings expectations, as well as the company's failure to properly account for certain impaired foreign bottling assets.
- *Schwartz v. TXU Corp.*, No. 02-CV-2243 (N.D. Tex.). As co-lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a recovery of over \$149 million for a class of purchasers of TXU securities. The recovery compensated class members for damages they incurred as a result of their purchases of TXU securities at inflated prices. Defendants had inflated the price of these securities by concealing the fact that TXU's operating earnings were declining due to a deteriorating gas pipeline and the failure of the company's European operations.

- *In re Doral Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 05 MDL No. 1706 (S.D.N.Y.). In July 2007, the Honorable Richard Owen of the Southern District of New York approved the \$129 million settlement, finding in his order:

The services provided by Lead Counsel [Robbins Geller] were efficient and highly successful, resulting in an outstanding recovery for the Class without the substantial expense, risk and delay of continued litigation. Such efficiency and effectiveness supports the requested fee percentage.

Cases brought under the federal securities laws are notably difficult and notoriously uncertain. . . . Despite the novelty and difficulty of the issues raised, Lead Plaintiffs' counsel secured an excellent result for the Class.

. . . Based upon Lead Plaintiff's counsel's diligent efforts on behalf of the Class, as well as their skill and reputations, Lead Plaintiff's counsel were able to negotiate a very favorable result for the Class. . . . The ability of [Robbins Geller] to obtain such a favorable partial settlement for the Class in the face of such formidable opposition confirms the superior quality of their representation . . . .

*In re Doral Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. 1:05-md-01706, Order at 4-5 (S.D.N.Y. July 17, 2007).

- *In re Exxon Valdez*, No. A89 095 Civ. (D. Alaska), and *In re Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Litig.*, No. 3 AN 89 2533 (Alaska Super. Ct., 3d Jud. Dist.). Robbins Geller attorneys served on the Plaintiffs' Coordinating Committee and Plaintiffs' Law Committee in this massive litigation resulting from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska in March 1989. The jury awarded hundreds of millions in compensatory damages, as well as \$5 billion in punitive damages (the latter were later reduced by the U.S. Supreme Court to \$507 million).
- *Mangini v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, No. 939359 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Francisco Cnty.). In this case, R.J. Reynolds admitted that "the *Mangini* action, and the way that it was vigorously litigated, was an early, significant and unique driver of the overall legal and social controversy regarding underage smoking that led to the decision to phase out the Joe Camel Campaign."
- *Does I v. The Gap, Inc.*, No. 01 0031 (D. N. Mar. I.). In this groundbreaking case, Robbins Geller attorneys represented a class of 30,000 garment workers who alleged that they had worked under sweatshop conditions in garment factories in Saipan that produced clothing for top U.S. retailers such as The Gap, Target, and J.C. Penney. In the first action of its kind, Robbins Geller attorneys pursued claims against the factories and the retailers alleging violations of RICO, the Alien Tort Claims Act, and the Law of Nations based on the alleged systemic labor and human rights abuses occurring in Saipan. This case was a companion to two other actions: *Does I v. Advance Textile Corp.*, No. 99 0002 (D. N. Mar. I.), which alleged overtime violations by the garment factories under the Fair Labor Standards Act and local labor law, and *UNITE v. The Gap, Inc.*, No. 300474 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Francisco Cnty.), which alleged violations of California's Unfair Practices Law by the U.S. retailers. These actions resulted in a settlement of approximately \$20 million that included a comprehensive monitoring program to address past violations by the factories and prevent future ones. The members of the litigation team were honored as Trial Lawyers of the Year by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice in recognition of the team's efforts in bringing about the precedent-setting settlement of the actions.
- *Hall v. NCAA (Restricted Earnings Coach Antitrust Litigation)*, No. 94-2392 (D. Kan.). Robbins

Geller attorneys were lead counsel and lead trial counsel for one of three classes of coaches in these consolidated price-fixing actions against the National Collegiate Athletic Association. On May 4, 1998, the jury returned verdicts in favor of the three classes for more than \$70 million.

- ***In re Prison Realty Sec. Litig.***, No. 3:99-0452 (M.D. Tenn.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel for the class, obtaining a \$105 million recovery.
- ***In re Honeywell Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. 00-cv-03605 (D.N.J.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel for a class of investors that purchased Honeywell common stock. The case charged Honeywell and its top officers with violations of the federal securities laws, alleging the defendants made false public statements concerning Honeywell's merger with Allied Signal, Inc. and that defendants falsified Honeywell's financial statements. After extensive discovery, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$100 million settlement for the class.
- ***Schwartz v. Visa Int'l***, No. 822404-4 (Cal. Super. Ct., Alameda Cnty.). After years of litigation and a six-month trial, Robbins Geller attorneys won one of the largest consumer protection verdicts ever awarded in the United States. Robbins Geller attorneys represented California consumers in an action against Visa and MasterCard for intentionally imposing and concealing a fee from their cardholders. The court ordered Visa and MasterCard to return \$800 million in cardholder losses, which represented 100% of the amount illegally taken, plus 2% interest. In addition, the court ordered full disclosure of the hidden fee.
- ***Thompson v. Metro. Life Ins. Co.***, No. 00-cv-5071 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as lead counsel and obtained \$145 million for the class in a settlement involving racial discrimination claims in the sale of life insurance.
- ***In re Prudential Ins. Co. of Am. Sales Practs. Litig.***, MDL No. 1061 (D.N.J.). In one of the first cases of its kind, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a settlement of \$4 billion for deceptive sales practices in connection with the sale of life insurance involving the "vanishing premium" sales scheme.

## Precedent-Setting Decisions

Robbins Geller attorneys operate at the vanguard of complex class action of litigation. Our work often changes the legal landscape, resulting in an environment that is more-favorable for obtaining recoveries for our clients.

- ***Stoyas v. Toshiba Corp.***, 896 F.3d 933 (9th Cir. 2018), *cert. denied*, 588 U.S. \_\_ (2019). In July 2018, the Ninth Circuit ruled in plaintiffs' favor in the *Toshiba* securities class action. Following appellate briefing and oral argument by Robbins Geller attorneys, a three-judge Ninth Circuit panel reversed the district court's prior dismissal in a unanimous, 36-page opinion, holding that Toshiba ADRs are a "security" and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 could apply to those ADRs that were purchased in a domestic transaction. *Id.* at 939, 949. The court adopted the Second and Third Circuits' "irrevocable liability" test for determining whether the transactions were domestic and held that plaintiffs must be allowed to amend their complaint to allege that the purchase of Toshiba ADRs on the over-the-counter market was a domestic purchase and that the alleged fraud was in connection with the purchase.
- ***Cyan, Inc. v. Beaver Cnty. Emps. Ret. Fund***, No. 15-1439 (U.S.). In March 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of investors represented by Robbins Geller, holding that state courts continue to have jurisdiction over class actions asserting violations of the Securities Act of 1933. The court's ruling secures investors' ability to bring Securities Act actions when companies fail to make full and



fair disclosure of relevant information in offering documents. The court confirmed that the Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1998 was designed to preclude securities class actions asserting violations of state law – not to preclude securities actions asserting federal law violations brought in state courts.

- ***Mineworkers’ Pension Scheme v. First Solar Inc.***, 881 F.3d 750 (9th Cir. 2018), *cert. denied*, 588 U.S. \_\_\_ (2019). In January 2018, the Ninth Circuit upheld the district court’s denial of defendants’ motion for summary judgment, agreeing with plaintiffs that the test for loss causation in the Ninth Circuit is a general “proximate cause test,” and rejecting the more stringent revelation of the fraudulent practices standard advocated by the defendants. The opinion is a significant victory for investors, as it forecloses defendants’ ability to immunize themselves from liability simply by refusing to publicly acknowledge their fraudulent conduct.
- ***In re Quality Sys., Inc. Sec. Litig.***, No. 15-55173 (9th Cir.). In July 2017, Robbins Geller’s Appellate Practice Group scored a significant win in the Ninth Circuit in the *Quality Systems* securities class action. On appeal, a three-judge Ninth Circuit panel unanimously reversed the district court’s prior dismissal of the action against Quality Systems and remanded the case to the district court for further proceedings. The decision addressed an issue of first impression concerning “mixed” future and present-tense misstatements. The appellate panel explained that “non-forward-looking portions of mixed statements are not eligible for the safe harbor provisions of the PSLRA . . . . Defendants made a number of mixed statements that included projections of growth in revenue and earnings based on the state of QSI’s sales pipeline.” The panel then held *both* the non-forward-looking and forward-looking statements false and misleading and made with scienter, deeming them actionable. Later, although defendants sought rehearing by the Ninth Circuit sitting *en banc*, the circuit court denied their petition.
- ***Local 703, I.B. of T. Grocery & Food Emps. Welfare Fund v. Regions Fin. Corp.***, No. CV-10-J-2847-S (N.D. Ala.). In the *Regions Financial* securities class action, Robbins Geller represented Local 703, I.B. of T. Grocery and Food Employees Welfare Fund and obtained a \$90 million settlement in September 2015 on behalf of purchasers of Regions Financial common stock during the class period. In August 2014, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court’s decision to certify a class action based upon alleged misrepresentations about Regions Financial’s financial health before and during the recent economic recession, and in November 2014, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama denied defendants’ third attempt to avoid plaintiffs’ motion for class certification.
- ***Omnicare, Inc. v. Laborers Dist. Council Constr. Indus. Pension Fund***, No. 13-435 (U.S.). In March 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of investors represented by Robbins Geller that investors asserting a claim under §11 of the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to a misleading statement of opinion do not, as defendant Omnicare had contended, have to prove that the statement was subjectively disbelieved when made. Rather, the court held that a statement of opinion may be actionable either because it was not believed, or because it lacked a reasonable basis in fact. This decision is significant in that it resolved a conflict among the federal circuit courts and expressly overruled the Second Circuit’s widely followed, more stringent pleading standard for §11 claims involving statements of opinion. The Supreme Court remanded the case back to the district court for determination under the newly articulated standard. In August of 2016, upon remand, the district court applied the Supreme Court’s new test and denied defendants’ motion to dismiss in full.
- ***NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.***, 693 F.3d 145 (2d Cir. 2012). In a

securities fraud action involving mortgage-backed securities, the Second Circuit rejected the concept of “tranche” standing and found that a lead plaintiff has class standing to pursue claims on behalf of purchasers of securities that were backed by pools of mortgages originated by the same lenders who had originated mortgages backing the lead plaintiff’s securities. The court noted that, given those common lenders, the lead plaintiff’s claims as to its purchases implicated “the same set of concerns” that purchasers in several of the other offerings possessed. The court also rejected the notion that the lead plaintiff lacked standing to represent investors in different tranches.

- ***In re VeriFone Holdings, Inc. Sec. Litig.***, 704 F.3d 694 (9th Cir. 2012). The panel reversed in part and affirmed in part the dismissal of investors’ securities fraud class action alleging violations of §§10(b), 20(a), and 20A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and SEC Rule 10b-5 in connection with a restatement of financial results of the company in which the investors had purchased stock.

The panel held that the third amended complaint adequately pleaded the §10(b), §20A, and Rule 10b-5 claims. Considering the allegations of scienter holistically, as the U.S. Supreme Court directed in *Matrixx Initiatives, Inc. v. Siracusano*, 563 U.S 27, 48-49 (2011), the panel concluded that the inference that the defendant company and its chief executive officer and former chief financial officer were deliberately reckless as to the truth of their financial reports and related public statements following a merger was at least as compelling as any opposing inference.

- ***Fox v. JAMDAT Mobile, Inc.***, 185 Cal. App. 4th 1068 (2010). Concluding that Delaware’s shareholder ratification doctrine did not bar the claims, the California Court of Appeal reversed dismissal of a shareholder class action alleging breach of fiduciary duty in a corporate merger.
- ***In re Constar Int’l Inc. Sec. Litig.***, 585 F.3d 774 (3d Cir. 2009). The Third Circuit flatly rejected defense contentions that where relief is sought under §11 of the Securities Act of 1933, which imposes liability when securities are issued pursuant to an incomplete or misleading registration statement, class certification should depend upon findings concerning market efficiency and loss causation.
- ***Matrixx Initiatives, Inc. v. Siracusano***, 563 U.S 27 (2011), *aff’g* 585 F.3d 1167 (9th Cir. 2009). In a securities fraud action involving the defendants’ failure to disclose a possible link between the company’s popular cold remedy and a life-altering side effect observed in some users, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the Ninth Circuit’s (a) rejection of a bright-line “statistical significance” materiality standard, and (b) holding that plaintiffs had successfully pleaded a strong inference of the defendants’ scienter.
- ***Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Flowserve Corp.***, 572 F.3d 221 (5th Cir. 2009). Aided by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice O’Connor’s presence on the panel, the Fifth Circuit reversed a district court order denying class certification and also reversed an order granting summary judgment to defendants. The court held that the district court applied an incorrect fact-for-fact standard of loss causation, and that genuine issues of fact on loss causation precluded summary judgment.
- ***In re F5 Networks, Inc., Derivative Litig.***, 207 P.3d 433 (Wash. 2009). In a derivative action alleging unlawful stock option backdating, the Supreme Court of Washington ruled that shareholders need not make a pre-suit demand on the board of directors where this step would be futile, agreeing with plaintiffs that favorable Delaware case law should be followed as persuasive authority.
- ***Lormand v. US Unwired, Inc.***, 565 F.3d 228 (5th Cir. 2009). In a rare win for investors in the Fifth

Circuit, the court reversed an order of dismissal, holding that safe harbor warnings were not meaningful when the facts alleged established a strong inference that defendants knew their forecasts were false. The court also held that plaintiffs sufficiently alleged loss causation.

- ***Institutional Inv'rs Grp. v. Avaya, Inc.***, 564 F.3d 242 (3d Cir. 2009). In a victory for investors in the Third Circuit, the court reversed an order of dismissal, holding that shareholders pled with particularity why the company's repeated denials of price discounts on products were false and misleading when the totality of facts alleged established a strong inference that defendants knew their denials were false.
- ***Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Pharmacia Corp.***, 554 F.3d 342 (3d Cir. 2009). The Third Circuit held that claims filed for violation of §10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 were timely, adopting investors' argument that because scienter is a critical element of the claims, the time for filing them cannot begin to run until the defendants' fraudulent state of mind should be apparent.
- ***Rael v. Page***, 222 P.3d 678 (N.M. Ct. App. 2009). In this shareholder class and derivative action, Robbins Geller attorneys obtained an appellate decision reversing the trial court's dismissal of the complaint alleging serious director misconduct in connection with the merger of SunCal Companies and Westland Development Co., Inc., a New Mexico company with large and historic landholdings and other assets in the Albuquerque area. The appellate court held that plaintiff's claims for breach of fiduciary duty were direct, not derivative, because they constituted an attack on the validity or fairness of the merger and the conduct of the directors. Although New Mexico law had not addressed this question directly, at the urging of the Firm's attorneys, the court relied on Delaware law for guidance, rejecting the "special injury" test for determining the direct versus derivative inquiry and instead applying more recent Delaware case law.
- ***Lane v. Page***, No. 06-cv-1071 (D.N.M. 2012). In May 2012, while granting final approval of the settlement in the federal component of the Westland cases, Judge Browning in the District of New Mexico commented:

Class Counsel are highly skilled and specialized attorneys who use their substantial experience and expertise to prosecute complex securities class actions. In possibly one of the best known and most prominent recent securities cases, Robbins Geller served as sole lead counsel – *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. H-01-3624 (S.D. Tex.). See Report at 3. The Court has previously noted that the class would "receive high caliber legal representation" from class counsel, and throughout the course of the litigation the Court has been impressed with the quality of representation on each side. *Lane v. Page*, 250 F.R.D. at 647.

*Lane v. Page*, 862 F. Supp. 2d 1182, 1253-54 (D.N.M. 2012).

In addition, Judge Browning stated: "Few plaintiffs' law firms could have devoted the kind of time, skill, and financial resources over a five-year period necessary to achieve the pre- and post-Merger benefits obtained for the class here.' . . . [Robbins Geller is] both skilled and experienced, and used those skills and experience for the benefit of the class [Robbins Geller is] both skilled and experienced, and used those skills and experience for the benefit of the class." *Id.* at 1254.

- ***Luther v. Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP***, 533 F.3d 1031 (9th Cir. 2008). In a case of first impression, the Ninth Circuit held that the Securities Act of 1933's specific non-removal features had not been trumped by the general removal provisions of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005.

- ***In re Gilead Scis. Sec. Litig.***, 536 F.3d 1049 (9th Cir. 2008). The Ninth Circuit upheld defrauded investors' loss causation theory as plausible, ruling that a limited temporal gap between the time defendants' misrepresentation was publicly revealed and the subsequent decline in stock value was reasonable where the public had not immediately understood the impact of defendants' fraud.
- ***In re WorldCom Sec. Litig.***, 496 F.3d 245 (2d Cir. 2007). The Second Circuit held that the filing of a class action complaint tolls the limitations period for all members of the class, including those who choose to opt out of the class action and file their own individual actions without waiting to see whether the district court certifies a class – reversing the decision below and effectively overruling multiple district court rulings that *American Pipe* tolling did not apply under these circumstances.
- ***In re Merck & Co. Sec., Derivative & ERISA Litig.***, 493 F.3d 393 (3d Cir. 2007). In a shareholder derivative suit appeal, the Third Circuit held that the general rule that discovery may not be used to supplement demand-futility allegations does not apply where the defendants enter a voluntary stipulation to produce materials relevant to demand futility without providing for any limitation as to their use. In April 2007, the Honorable D. Brooks Smith praised Robbins Geller partner Joe Daley's efforts in this litigation:

Thank you very much Mr. Daley and a thank you to all counsel. As Judge Cowen mentioned, this was an exquisitely well-briefed case; it was also an extremely well-argued case, and we thank counsel for their respective jobs here in the matter, which we will take under advisement. Thank you.

*In re Merck & Co., Inc. Sec., Derivative & ERISA Litig.*, No. 06-2911, Transcript at 35:37-36:00 (3d Cir. Apr. 12, 2007).

- ***Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Brown***, 941 A.2d 1011 (Del. 2007). The Supreme Court of Delaware held that the Alaska Electrical Pension Fund, for purposes of the “corporate benefit” attorney-fee doctrine, was presumed to have caused a substantial increase in the tender offer price paid in a “going private” buyout transaction. The Court of Chancery originally ruled that Alaska's counsel, Robbins Geller, was not entitled to an award of attorney fees, but Delaware's high court, in its published opinion, reversed and remanded for further proceedings.
- ***Crandon Cap. Partners v. Shelk***, 157 P.3d 176 (Or. 2007). Oregon's Supreme Court ruled that a shareholder plaintiff in a derivative action may still seek attorney fees even if the defendants took actions to moot the underlying claims. The Firm's attorneys convinced Oregon's highest court to take the case, and reverse, despite the contrary position articulated by both the trial court and the Oregon Court of Appeals.
- ***In re Qwest Commc'ns Int'l***, 450 F.3d 1179 (10th Cir. 2006). In a case of first impression, the Tenth Circuit held that a corporation's deliberate release of purportedly privileged materials to governmental agencies was not a “selective waiver” of the privileges such that the corporation could refuse to produce the same materials to non-governmental plaintiffs in private securities fraud litigation.
- ***In re Guidant S'holders Derivative Litig.***, 841 N.E.2d 571 (Ind. 2006). Answering a certified question from a federal court, the Supreme Court of Indiana unanimously held that a pre-suit demand in a derivative action is excused if the demand would be a futile gesture. The court adopted a “demand futility” standard and rejected defendants' call for a “universal demand” standard that might have immediately ended the case.

- ***Denver Area Meat Cutters v. Clayton***, 209 S.W.3d 584 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2006). The Tennessee Court of Appeals rejected an objector’s challenge to a class action settlement arising out of Warren Buffet’s 2003 acquisition of Tennessee-based Clayton Homes. In their effort to secure relief for Clayton Homes stockholders, the Firm’s attorneys obtained a temporary injunction of the Buffet acquisition for six weeks in 2003 while the matter was litigated in the courts. The temporary halt to Buffet’s acquisition received national press attention.
- ***DeJulius v. New Eng. Health Care Emps. Pension Fund***, 429 F.3d 935 (10th Cir. 2005). The Tenth Circuit held that the multi-faceted notice of a \$50 million settlement in a securities fraud class action had been the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and thus satisfied both constitutional due process and Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- ***In re Daou Sys.***, 411 F.3d 1006 (9th Cir. 2005). The Ninth Circuit sustained investors’ allegations of accounting fraud and ruled that loss causation was adequately alleged by pleading that the value of the stock they purchased declined when the issuer’s true financial condition was revealed.
- ***Barrie v. Intervoice-Brite, Inc.***, 397 F.3d 249 (5th Cir.), *reh’g denied and opinion modified*, 409 F.3d 653 (5th Cir. 2005). The Fifth Circuit upheld investors’ accounting-fraud claims, holding that fraud is pled as to both defendants when one knowingly utters a false statement and the other knowingly fails to correct it, even if the complaint does not specify who spoke and who listened.
- ***City of Monroe Emps. Ret. Sys. v. Bridgestone Corp.***, 399 F.3d 651 (6th Cir. 2005). The Sixth Circuit held that a statement regarding objective data supposedly supporting a corporation’s belief that its tires were safe was actionable where jurors could have found a reasonable basis to believe the corporation was aware of undisclosed facts seriously undermining the statement’s accuracy.
- ***Ill. Mun. Ret. Fund v. Citigroup, Inc.***, 391 F.3d 844 (7th Cir. 2004). The Seventh Circuit upheld a district court’s decision that the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund was entitled to litigate its claims under the Securities Act of 1933 against WorldCom’s underwriters before a state court rather than before the federal forum sought by the defendants.
- ***Nursing Home Pension Fund, Local 144 v. Oracle Corp.***, 380 F.3d 1226 (9th Cir. 2004). The Ninth Circuit ruled that defendants’ fraudulent intent could be inferred from allegations concerning their false representations, insider stock sales and improper accounting methods.
- ***Southland Sec. Corp. v. INSpire Ins. Sols. Inc.***, 365 F.3d 353 (5th Cir. 2004). The Fifth Circuit sustained allegations that an issuer’s CEO made fraudulent statements in connection with a contract announcement.
- ***Smith v. Am. Family Mut. Ins. Co.***, 289 S.W.3d 675 (Mo. Ct. App. 2009). Capping nearly a decade of hotly contested litigation, the Missouri Court of Appeals reversed the trial court’s judgment notwithstanding the verdict for auto insurer American Family and reinstated a unanimous jury verdict for the plaintiff class.
- ***Troyk v. Farmers Grp., Inc.***, 171 Cal. App. 4th 1305 (2009). The California Court of Appeal held that Farmers Insurance’s practice of levying a “service charge” on one-month auto insurance policies, without specifying the charge in the policy, violated California’s Insurance Code.
- ***Lebrilla v. Farmers Grp., Inc.***, 119 Cal. App. 4th 1070 (2004). Reversing the trial court, the California Court of Appeal ordered class certification of a suit against Farmers, one of the largest

automobile insurers in California, and ruled that Farmers' standard automobile policy requires it to provide parts that are as good as those made by vehicle's manufacturer. The case involved Farmers' practice of using inferior imitation parts when repairing insureds' vehicles.

- ***In re Monumental Life Ins. Co.***, 365 F.3d 408, 416 (5th Cir. 2004). The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a district court's denial of class certification in a case filed by African-Americans seeking to remedy racially discriminatory insurance practices. The Fifth Circuit held that a monetary relief claim is viable in a Rule 23(b)(2) class if it flows directly from liability to the class as a whole and is capable of classwide "computation by means of objective standards and not dependent in any significant way on the intangible, subjective differences of each class member's circumstances."
- ***Dent v. National Football League***, No. 15-15143 (9th Cir.). In September 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued an important decision reversing the district court's previous dismissal of the *Dent v. National Football League* litigation, concluding that the complaint brought by NFL Hall of Famer Richard Dent and others should not be dismissed on labor-law preemption grounds. The case was remanded to the district court for further proceedings.
- ***Kwikset Corp. v. Superior Court***, 51 Cal. 4th 310 (2011). In a leading decision interpreting the scope of Proposition 64's new standing requirements under California's Unfair Competition Law (UCL), the California Supreme Court held that consumers alleging that a manufacturer has misrepresented its product have "lost money or property" within the meaning of the initiative, and thus have standing to sue under the UCL, if they "can truthfully allege that they were deceived by a product's label into spending money to purchase the product, and would not have purchased it otherwise." *Id.* at 317. *Kwikset* involved allegations, proven at trial, that defendants violated California's "Made in the U.S.A." statute by representing on their labels that their products were "Made in U.S.A." or "All-American Made" when, in fact, the products were substantially made with foreign parts and labor.
- ***Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Superior Court***, 173 Cal. App. 4th 814 (2009). In a class action against auto insurer Safeco, the California Court of Appeal agreed that the plaintiff should have access to discovery to identify a new class representative after her standing to sue was challenged.
- ***Consumer Privacy Cases***, 175 Cal. App. 4th 545 (2009). The California Court of Appeal rejected objections to a nationwide class action settlement benefiting Bank of America customers.
- ***Koponen v. Pac. Gas & Elec. Co.***, 165 Cal. App. 4th 345 (2008). The Firm's attorneys obtained a published decision reversing the trial court's dismissal of the action, and holding that the plaintiff's claims for damages arising from the utility's unauthorized use of rights-of-way or easements obtained from the plaintiff and other landowners were not barred by a statute limiting the authority of California courts to review or correct decisions of the California Public Utilities Commission.
- ***Sanford v. MemberWorks, Inc.***, 483 F.3d 956 (9th Cir. 2007). In a telemarketing-fraud case, where the plaintiff consumer insisted she had never entered the contractual arrangement that defendants said bound her to arbitrate individual claims to the exclusion of pursuing class claims, the Ninth Circuit reversed an order compelling arbitration – allowing the plaintiff to litigate on behalf of a class.
- ***Ritt v. Billy Blanks Enters.***, 870 N.E.2d 212 (Ohio Ct. App. 2007). In the Ohio analog to the *West*

case, the Ohio Court of Appeals approved certification of a class of Ohio residents seeking relief under Ohio's consumer protection laws for the same telemarketing fraud.

- *Haw. Med. Ass'n v. Haw. Med. Serv. Ass'n*, 148 P.3d 1179 (Haw. 2006). The Supreme Court of Hawaii ruled that claims of unfair competition were not subject to arbitration and that claims of tortious interference with prospective economic advantage were adequately alleged.
- *Branick v. Downey Sav. & Loan Ass'n*, 39 Cal. 4th 235 (2006). Robbins Geller attorneys were part of a team of lawyers that briefed this case before the Supreme Court of California. The court issued a unanimous decision holding that new plaintiffs may be substituted, if necessary, to preserve actions pending when Proposition 64 was passed by California voters in 2004. Proposition 64 amended California's Unfair Competition Law and was aggressively cited by defense lawyers in an effort to dismiss cases after the initiative was adopted.
- *McKell v. Wash. Mut., Inc.*, 142 Cal. App. 4th 1457 (2006). The California Court of Appeal reversed the trial court, holding that plaintiff's theories attacking a variety of allegedly inflated mortgage-related fees were actionable.
- *West Corp. v. Superior Court*, 116 Cal. App. 4th 1167 (2004). The California Court of Appeal upheld the trial court's finding that jurisdiction in California was appropriate over the out-of-state corporate defendant whose telemarketing was aimed at California residents. Exercise of jurisdiction was found to be in keeping with considerations of fair play and substantial justice.
- *Kruse v. Wells Fargo Home Mortg., Inc.*, 383 F.3d 49 (2d Cir. 2004), and *Santiago v. GMAC Mortg. Grp., Inc.*, 417 F.3d 384 (3d Cir. 2005). In two groundbreaking federal appellate decisions, the Second and Third Circuits each ruled that the Real Estate Settlement Practices Act prohibits marking up home loan-related fees and charges.

## Additional Judicial Commendations

Robbins Geller attorneys have been praised by countless judges all over the country for the quality of their representation in class-action lawsuits. In addition to the judicial commendations set forth in the Prominent Cases and Precedent-Setting Decisions sections, judges have acknowledged the successful results of the Firm and its attorneys with the following plaudits:

- On October 5, 2022, at the final approval hearing of the settlement, the Honorable Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr. stated: "The settlement achieved here is, in short, impressive. . . . This litigation was hard fought. The issues were complex. . . . Plaintiffs' lead counsel here are among the most highly respected practitioners in this Court with a reputation for exacting substantial awards for the classes that they represent. . . . Again, the benefit was outstanding. . . . Counsel, this was an interesting case. I know you worked really hard on it. Fantastic result. The fee was well deserved." *City of Warren Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Roche*, No. 2019-0740-PAF, Transcript at 26-29 (Del. Ch. Oct. 5, 2022).

- On February 4, 2021, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Mark H. Cohen of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia stated: “Lead Counsel successfully achieved a greater-than-average settlement ‘in the face of significant risks.’” Robbins Geller’s “hard-fought litigation in the Eleventh Circuit” and “[i]n considering the experience, reputation, and abilities of the attorneys, the Court recognize[d] that Lead Counsel is well-regarded in the legal community, especially in litigating class-action securities cases.” *Monroe County Employees’ Retirement System v. The Southern Company*, No. 1:17-cv-00241, Order at 8-9 (N.D. Ga. Feb. 4, 2021).
- On December 18, 2020, at the final approval hearing of the settlement, the Honorable Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California commended Robbins Geller, stating: “Counsel performed excellent work in not only investigating and analyzing the core of the issues, but in negotiating and demanding the necessary reforms to prevent malfeasance for the benefit of the shareholders and the consumers. The Court complements counsel for its excellence.” *In re RH S’holder Derivative Litig.*, No. 4:18-cv-02452-YGR, Order and Final Judgment at 3 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2020).
- On October 23, 2020, at the final approval hearing of the settlement, the Honorable P. Kevin Castel of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York praised the firm, “[Robbins Geller] has been sophisticated and experienced.” He also noted that: “[T]he quality of the representation . . . was excellent. The experience of counsel is also a factor. Robbins Geller certainly has the extensive experience and they were litigating against national powerhouses . . . .” *City of Birmingham Ret. & Relief Sys. v. BRF S.A.*, No. 18 Civ. 2213 (PKC), Transcript at 12-13, 18 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 23, 2020).
- In May 2020, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Mark L. Wolf praised Robbins Geller: “[T]he class has been represented by excellent honorable counsel . . . . [T]he fund was represented by experienced, energetic, able counsel, the fund was engaged and informed, and the fund followed advice of experienced counsel. Counsel for the class have been excellent, and I would say honorable.” Additionally, Judge Wolf noted, “I find that the work that’s been done primarily by Robbins Geller has been excellent and honorable and efficient. . . . [T]his has been a challenging case, and they’ve done an excellent job.” *McGee v. Constant Contact, Inc.*, No. 1:15-cv-13114-MLW, Transcript at 21, 31, 61 (D. Mass. May 27, 2020).
- In December 2019, the Honorable Margo K. Brodie noted in granting final approval of the settlement that “[Robbins Geller and co-counsel] have also demonstrated the utmost professionalism despite the demands of the extreme perseverance that this case has required, litigating on behalf of a class of over 12 million for over fourteen years, across a changing legal landscape, significant motion practice, and appeal and remand. Class counsel’s pedigree and efforts alone speak to the quality of their representation.” *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee & Merch. Disc. Antitrust Litig.*, No. 1:05-md-01720-MKB-JO, Memorandum & Order (E.D.N.Y. Dec. 16, 2019).
- In October 2019, the Honorable Claire C. Cecchi noted that Robbins Geller is “capable of adequately representing the class, both based on their prior experience in class action lawsuits and based on their capable advocacy on behalf of the class in this action.” The court further commended the Firm and co-counsel for “conduct[ing] the [l]itigation . . . with skill, perseverance, and diligent advocacy.” *Lincoln Adventures, LLC v. Those Certain Underwriters at Lloyd’s, London Members*, No. 2:08-cv-00235-CCC-JAD, Order at 4 (D.N.J. Oct. 3, 2019); *Lincoln Adventures, LLC v. Those Certain Underwriters at Lloyd’s, London Members of Syndicates*, No. 2:08-cv-00235-CCC-JAD, Order Awarding Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses/Charges and Service Awards at 3 (D.N.J. Oct. 3, 2019).



- In June 2019, the Honorable T.S. Ellis, III noted that Robbins Geller “achieved the [\$108 million] [s]ettlement with skill, perseverance, and diligent advocacy.” At the final approval hearing, the court further commended Robbins Geller by stating, “I think the case was fully and appropriately litigated [and] you all did a very good job. . . . [T]hank you for your service in the court. . . . [You’re] first-class lawyers . . . .” *Knurr v. Orbital ATK, Inc.*, No. 1:16-cv-01031, Order Awarding Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses at 3 (E.D. Va. June 7, 2019); *Knurr v. Orbital ATK, Inc.*, No. 1:16-cv-01031, Transcript at 28-29 (E.D. Va. June 7, 2019).
- In June 2019, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable John A. Houston stated: Robbins Geller’s “skill and quality of work was extraordinary . . . . I’ll note from the top that this has been an aggressively litigated action.” *In re Morning Song Bird Food Litig.*, No. 3:12-cv-01592-JAH-AGS, Transcript at 4, 9 (S.D. Cal. June 3, 2019).
- In May 2019, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Richard H. DuBois stated: Robbins Geller is “highly experienced and skilled” for obtaining a “fair, reasonable, and adequate” settlement in the “interest of the [c]lass [m]embers” after “extensive investigation.” *Chicago Laborers Pension Fund v. Alibaba Grp. Holding Ltd.*, No. CIV535692, Judgment and Order Granting Final Approval of Class Action Settlement at 3 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cnty. May 17, 2019).
- In April 2019, the Honorable Kathaleen St. J. McCormick noted: “[S]ince the inception of this litigation, plaintiffs and their counsel have vigorously prosecuted the claims brought on behalf of the class. . . . When Vice Chancellor Laster appointed lead counsel, he effectively said: Go get a good result. And counsel took that to heart and did it. . . . The proposed settlement was the product of intense litigation and complex mediation. . . . [Robbins Geller has] only built a considerable track record, never burned it, which gave them the credibility necessary to extract the benefits achieved.” *In re Calamos Asset Mgmt., Inc. S’holder Litig.*, No. 2017-0058-JTL, Transcript at 87, 93, 95, 98 (Del. Ch. Apr. 25, 2019).
- In April 2019, the Honorable Susan O. Hickey noted that Robbins Geller “achieved an exceptional [s]ettlement with skill, perseverance, and diligent advocacy.” *City of Pontiac Gen. Emps.’ Ret. Sys. v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, No. 5:12-cv-5162, Order Awarding Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses at 3 (W.D. Ark. Apr. 8, 2019).
- In January 2019, the Honorable Margo K. Brodie noted that Robbins Geller “has arduously represented a variety of plaintiffs’ groups in this action[,] . . . [has] extensive antitrust class action litigation experience . . . [and] negotiated what [may be] the largest antitrust settlement in history.” *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee & Merch. Disc. Antitrust Litig.*, 330 F.R.D. 11, 34 (E.D.N.Y. 2019).
- On December 20, 2018, at the final approval hearing for the settlement, the court lauded Robbins Geller’s attorneys and their work: “[T]his is a pretty extraordinary settlement, recovery on behalf of the members of the class. . . . I’ve been very impressed with the level of lawyering in the case . . . and with the level of briefing . . . and I wanted to express my appreciation for that and for the work that everyone has done here.” The court concluded, “your clients were all blessed to have you, [and] not just because of the outcome.” *Duncan v. Joy Global, Inc.*, No. 16-CV-1229, Transcript at 12, 20-21 (E.D. Wis. Dec. 20, 2018).

- In October 2017, the Honorable William Alsup noted that Robbins Geller and lead plaintiff “vigorously prosecuted this action.” *In re LendingClub Sec. Litig.*, No. 3:16-cv-02627-WHA, Order at 13 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 20, 2017).
- On November 9, 2018, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Jesse M. Furman commented: “[Robbins Geller] did an extraordinary job here. . . . [I]t is fair to say [this was] probably the most complicated case I have had since I have been on the bench. . . . I cannot really imagine how complicated it would have been if I didn't have counsel who had done as admirable [a] job in briefing it and arguing as you have done. You have in my view done an extraordinary service to the class. . . . I think you have done an extraordinary job and deserve thanks and commendation for that.” *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Bank of Am. Corp.*, No. 1:14-cv-07126-JMF-OTW, Transcript at 27-28 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 9, 2018).
- On September 12, 2018, at the final approval hearing of the settlement, the Honorable William H. Orrick of the Northern District of California praised Robbins Geller’s “high-quality lawyering” in a case that “involved complicated discovery and complicated and novel legal issues,” resulting in an “excellent” settlement for the class. The “lawyering . . . was excellent” and the case was “very well litigated.” *In re Lidoderm Antitrust Litig.*, No. 14-MDL-02521-WHO, Transcript at 11, 14, 22 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 12, 2018).
- On March 31, 2017, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Gonzalo P. Curiel hailed the settlement as “extraordinary” and “all the more exceptional when viewed in light of the risk” of continued litigation. The court further commended Robbins Geller for prosecuting the case on a *pro bono* basis: “Class Counsel’s exceptional decision to provide nearly seven years of legal services to Class Members on a *pro bono* basis evidences not only a lack of collusion, but also that Class Counsel are in fact representing the best interests of Plaintiffs and the Class Members in this Settlement. Instead of seeking compensation for fees and costs that they would otherwise be entitled to, Class Counsel have acted to allow maximum recovery to Plaintiffs and Class Members. Indeed, that Eligible Class Members may receive recovery of 90% or greater is a testament to Class Counsel’s representation and dedication to act in their clients’ best interest.” In addition, at the final approval hearing, the court commented that “this is a case that has been litigated – if not fiercely, zealously throughout.” *Low v. Trump Univ., LLC*, 246 F. Supp. 3d 1295, 1302, 1312 (S.D. Cal. 2017), *aff’d*, 881 F.3d 1111 (9th Cir. 2018); *Low v. Trump University LLC and Donald J. Trump*, No. 10-cv-0940 GPC-WVG, and *Cohen v. Donald J. Trump*, No. 13-cv-2519-GPC-WVG, Transcript at 7 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2017).
- In January 2017, at the final approval hearing, the Honorable Kevin H. Sharp of the Middle District of Tennessee commended Robbins Geller attorneys, stating: “It was complicated, it was drawn out, and a lot of work clearly went into this [case] . . . . I think there is some benefit to the shareholders that are above and beyond money, a benefit to the company above and beyond money that changed hands.” *In re Community Health Sys., Inc. S’holder Derivative Litig.*, No. 3:11-cv-00489, Transcript at 10 (M.D. Tenn. Jan. 17, 2017).
- In November 2016, at the final approval hearing, the Honorable James G. Carr stated: “I kept throwing the case out, and you kept coming back. . . . And it’s both remarkable and noteworthy and a credit to you and your firm that you did so. . . . [Y]ou persuaded the Sixth Circuit. As we know, that’s no mean feat at all.” Judge Carr further complimented the Firm, noting that it “goes without question or even saying” that Robbins Geller is very well-known nationally and that the settlement is an excellent result for the class. He succinctly concluded that “given the tenacity and the time and the effort that [Robbins Geller] lawyers put into [the case]” makes the class “a lot better off.” *Plumbers & Pipefitters Nat’l Pension Fund v. Burns*, No. 3:05-cv-07393-JGC, Transcript at 4, 10, 14, 17 (N.D. Ohio Nov. 18, 2016).

- In September 2016, in granting final approval of the settlement, Judge Arleo commended the “vigorous and skilled efforts” of Robbins Geller attorneys for obtaining “an excellent recovery.” Judge Arleo added that the settlement was reached after “contentious, hard-fought litigation” that ended with “a very, very good result for the class” in a “risky case.” *City of Sterling Heights Gen. Emps.’ Ret. Sys. v. Prudential Fin., Inc.*, No. 2:12-cv-05275-MCA-LDW, Transcript of Hearing at 18-20 (D.N.J. Sept. 28, 2016).
- In August 2015, at the final approval hearing for the settlement, the Honorable Karen M. Humphreys praised Robbins Geller’s “extraordinary efforts” and “excellent lawyering,” noting that the settlement “really does signal that the best is yet to come for your clients and for your prodigious labor as professionals. . . . I wish more citizens in our country could have an appreciation of what this [settlement] truly represents.” *Bennett v. Sprint Nextel Corp.*, No. 2:09-cv-02122-EFM-KMH, Transcript at 8, 25 (D. Kan. Aug. 12, 2015).
- In August 2015, the Honorable Judge Max O. Cogburn, Jr. noted that “plaintiffs’ attorneys were able [to] achieve the big success early” in the case and obtained an “excellent result.” The “extraordinary” settlement was because of “good lawyers . . . doing their good work.” *Nieman v. Duke Energy Corp.*, No. 3:12-cv-456, Transcript at 21, 23, 30 (W.D.N.C. Aug. 12, 2015).
- In July 2015, in approving the settlement, the Honorable Douglas L. Rayes of the District of Arizona stated: “Settlement of the case during pendency of appeal for more than an insignificant amount is rare. The settlement here is substantial and provides favorable recovery for the settlement class under these circumstances.” He continued, noting, “[a]s against the objective measures of . . . settlements [in] other similar cases, [the recovery] is on the high end.” *Teamsters Local 617 Pension & Welfare Funds v. Apollo Grp., Inc.*, No. 2:06-cv-02674-DLR, Transcript at 8, 11 (D. Ariz. July 28, 2015).
- In June 2015, at the conclusion of the hearing for final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Susan Richard Nelson of the District of Minnesota noted that it was “a pleasure to be able to preside over a case like this,” praising Robbins Geller in achieving “an outstanding [result] for [its] clients,” as she was “very impressed with the work done on th[e] case.” *In re St. Jude Med., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 0:10-cv-00851-SRN-TNL, Transcript at 7 (D. Minn. June 12, 2015).
- In May 2015, at the fairness hearing on the settlement, the Honorable William G. Young noted that the case was “very well litigated” by Robbins Geller attorneys, adding that “I don’t just say that as a matter of form. . . . I thank you for the vigorous litigation that I’ve been permitted to be a part of.” *Courtney v. Avid Tech., Inc.*, No. 1:13-cv-10686-WGY, Transcript at 8-9 (D. Mass. May 12, 2015).
- In January 2015, the Honorable William J. Haynes, Jr. of the Middle District of Tennessee described the settlement as a “highly favorable result achieved for the Class” through Robbins Geller’s “diligent prosecution . . . [and] quality of legal services.” The settlement represents the fourth-largest securities recovery ever in the Middle District of Tennessee and one of the largest in more than a decade. *Garden City Emps.’ Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Sols., Inc.*, No. 3:09-cv-00882, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 181943, at \*6-\*7 (M.D. Tenn. Jan. 16, 2015).

- In September 2014, in approving the settlement for shareholders, Vice Chancellor John W. Noble noted “[t]he litigation caused a substantial benefit for the class. It is unusual to see a \$29 million recovery.” Vice Chancellor Noble characterized the litigation as “novel” and “not easy,” but “[t]he lawyers took a case and made something of it.” The court commended Robbins Geller’s efforts in obtaining this result: “The standing and ability of counsel cannot be questioned” and “the benefits achieved by plaintiffs’ counsel in this case cannot be ignored.” *In re Gardner Denver, Inc. S’holder Litig.*, No. 8505-VCN, Transcript at 26-28 (Del. Ch. Sept. 3, 2014).
- In May 2014, at the conclusion of the hearing for final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Elihu M. Berle stated: “I would finally like to congratulate counsel on their efforts to resolve this case, on excellent work – it was the best interest of the class – and to the exhibition of professionalism. So I do thank you for all your efforts.” *Liberty Mutual Overtime Cases*, No. JCCP 4234, Transcript at 20:1-5 (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles Cnty. May 29, 2014).
- In March 2014, Ninth Circuit Judge J. Clifford Wallace (presiding) expressed the gratitude of the court: “Thank you. I want to especially thank counsel for this argument. This is a very complicated case and I think we were assisted no matter how we come out by competent counsel coming well prepared. . . . It was a model of the type of an exercise that we appreciate. Thank you very much for your work . . . you were of service to the court.” *Eclectic Properties East, LLC v. The Marcus & Millichap Co.*, No. 12-16526, Transcript (9th Cir. Mar. 14, 2014).
- In February 2014, in approving a settlement, Judge Edward M. Chen noted the “very substantial risks” in the case and recognized Robbins Geller had performed “extensive work on the case.” *In re VeriFone Holdings, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. C-07-6140, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20044, at \*5, \*11-\*12 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 18, 2014).
- In August 2013, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Richard J. Sullivan stated: “Lead Counsel is to be commended for this result: it expended considerable effort and resources over the course of the action researching, investigating, and prosecuting the claims, at significant risk to itself, and in a skillful and efficient manner, to achieve an outstanding recovery for class members. Indeed, the result – and the class’s embrace of it – is a testament to the experience and tenacity Lead Counsel brought to bear.” *City of Livonia Emps. Ret. Sys. v. Wyeth*, No. 07 Civ. 10329, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 113658, at \*13 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 7, 2013).
- In July 2013, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable William H. Alsup stated that Robbins Geller did “excellent work in this case,” and continued, “I look forward to seeing you on the next case.” *Fraser v. Asus Comput. Int’l*, No. C 12-0652, Transcript at 12:2-3 (N.D. Cal. July 11, 2013).
- In June 2013, in certifying the class, U.S. District Judge James G. Carr recognized Robbins Geller’s steadfast commitment to the class, noting that “plaintiffs, with the help of Robbins Geller, have twice successfully appealed this court’s orders granting defendants’ motion to dismiss.” *Plumbers & Pipefitters Nat’l Pension Fund v. Burns*, 292 F.R.D. 515, 524 (N.D. Ohio 2013).

- In November 2012, in granting appointment of lead plaintiff, Chief Judge James F. Holderman commended Robbins Geller for its “substantial experience in securities class action litigation” and commented that the Firm “is recognized as ‘one of the most successful law firms in securities class actions, if not the preeminent one, in the country.’ *In re Enron Corp. Sec.*, 586 F. Supp. 2d 732, 797 (S.D. Tex. 2008) (Harmon, J.)” He continued further that, “Robbins Geller attorneys are responsible for obtaining the largest securities fraud class action recovery ever [\$7.2 billion in *Enron*], as well as the largest recoveries in the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits.” *Bristol Cnty. Ret. Sys. v. Allscripts Healthcare Sols., Inc.*, No. 12 C 3297, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 161441, at \*21 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 9, 2012).
- In June 2012, in granting plaintiffs’ motion for class certification, the Honorable Inge Prytz Johnson noted that other courts have referred to Robbins Geller as “one of the most successful law firms in securities class actions . . . in the country.” *Local 703, I.B. v. Regions Fin. Corp.*, 282 F.R.D. 607, 616 (N.D. Ala. 2012) (quoting *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 586 F. Supp. 2d 732, 797 (S.D. Tex. 2008)), *aff’d in part and vacated in part on other grounds*, 762 F.3d 1248 (11th Cir. 2014).
- In June 2012, in granting final approval of the settlement, the Honorable Barbara S. Jones commented that “class counsel’s representation, from the work that I saw, appeared to me to be of the highest quality.” *In re CIT Grp. Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 08 Civ. 6613, Transcript at 9:16-18 (S.D.N.Y. June 13, 2012).
- In March 2012, in granting certification for the class, Judge Robert W. Sweet referenced the *Enron* case, agreeing that Robbins Geller’s “clearly superlative litigating and negotiating skills” give the Firm an “outstanding reputation, experience, and success in securities litigation nationwide,” thus, “[t]he experience, ability, and reputation of the attorneys of [Robbins Geller] is not disputed; it is one of the most successful law firms in securities class actions, if not the preeminent one, in the country.” *Billhofer v. Flamel Techs., S.A.*, 281 F.R.D. 150, 158 (S.D.N.Y. 2012).
- In March 2011, in denying defendants’ motion to dismiss, Judge Richard Sullivan commented: “Let me thank you all. . . . [The motion] was well argued . . . and . . . well briefed . . . . I certainly appreciate having good lawyers who put the time in to be prepared . . . .” *Anegada Master Fund Ltd. v. PxRE Grp. Ltd.*, No. 08-cv-10584, Transcript at 83 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 16, 2011).
- In January 2011, the court praised Robbins Geller attorneys: “They have gotten very good results for stockholders. . . . [Robbins Geller has] such a good track record.” *In re Compellent Techs., Inc. S’holder Litig.*, No. 6084-VCL, Transcript at 20-21 (Del. Ch. Jan. 13, 2011).
- In August 2010, in reviewing the settlement papers submitted by the Firm, Judge Carlos Murguia stated that Robbins Geller performed “a commendable job of addressing the relevant issues with great detail and in a comprehensive manner . . . . The court respects the [Firm’s] experience in the field of derivative [litigation].” *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Olofson*, No. 08-cv-02344-CM-JPO (D. Kan.) (Aug. 20, 2010 e-mail from court re: settlement papers).
- In June 2009, Judge Ira Warshawsky praised the Firm’s efforts in *In re Aeroflex, Inc. S’holder Litig.*: “There is no doubt that the law firms involved in this matter represented in my opinion the cream of the crop of class action business law and mergers and acquisition litigators, and from a judicial point of view it was a pleasure working with them.” *In re Aeroflex, Inc. S’holder Litig.*, No. 003943/07, Transcript at 25:14-18 (N.Y. Sup. Ct., Nassau Cnty. June 30, 2009).
- In March 2009, in granting class certification, the Honorable Robert Sweet of the Southern District

of New York commented in *In re NYSE Specialists Sec. Litig.*, 260 F.R.D. 55, 74 (S.D.N.Y. 2009): “As to the second prong, the Specialist Firms have not challenged, in this motion, the qualifications, experience, or ability of counsel for Lead Plaintiff, [Robbins Geller], to conduct this litigation. Given [Robbins Geller’s] substantial experience in securities class action litigation and the extensive discovery already conducted in this case, this element of adequacy has also been satisfied.”

- In June 2008, the court commented, “Plaintiffs’ lead counsel in this litigation, [Robbins Geller], has demonstrated its considerable expertise in shareholder litigation, diligently advocating the rights of Home Depot shareholders in this Litigation. [Robbins Geller] has acted with substantial skill and professionalism in representing the plaintiffs and the interests of Home Depot and its shareholders in prosecuting this case.” *City of Pontiac Gen. Emps.’ Ret. Sys. v. Langone*, No. 2006-122302, Findings of Fact in Support of Order and Final Judgment at 2 (Ga. Super. Ct., Fulton Cnty. June 10, 2008).
- In a December 2006 hearing on the \$50 million consumer privacy class action settlement in *Kehoe v. Fidelity Fed. Bank & Tr.*, No. 03-80593-CIV (S.D. Fla.), United States District Court Judge Daniel T.K. Hurley said the following:

First, I thank counsel. As I said repeatedly on both sides, we have been very, very fortunate. We have had fine lawyers on both sides. The issues in the case are significant issues. We are talking about issues dealing with consumer protection and privacy. Something that is increasingly important today in our society. . . . I want you to know I thought long and hard about this. I am absolutely satisfied that the settlement is a fair and reasonable settlement. . . . I thank the lawyers on both sides for the extraordinary effort that has been brought to bear here . . . .

*Kehoe v. Fidelity Fed. Bank & Tr.*, No. 03-80593-CIV, Transcript at 26, 28-29 (S.D. Fla. Dec. 7, 2006).

- In *Stanley v. Safeskin Corp.*, No. 99 CV 454 (S.D. Cal.), where Robbins Geller attorneys obtained \$55 million for the class of investors, Judge Moskowitz stated:

I said this once before, and I’ll say it again. I thought the way that your firm handled this case was outstanding. This was not an easy case. It was a complicated case, and every step of the way, I thought they did a very professional job.

*Stanley v. Safeskin Corp.*, No. 99 CV 454, Transcript at 13 (S.D. Cal. May 25, 2004).

## ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHIES

### Mario Alba Jr. | Partner

Mario Alba is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. He is a member of the Firm's Institutional Outreach Team, which provides advice to the Firm's institutional clients, including numerous public pension systems and Taft-Hartley funds throughout the United States, and consults with them on issues relating to corporate fraud in the U.S. securities markets, as well as corporate governance issues and shareholder litigation. Some of Alba's institutional clients are currently involved in securities cases involving: Acadia Healthcare Company, Inc.; Reckitt Benckiser Group plc; Livent Corporation; Ryanair Holdings plc; Southwest Airlines Co.; Green Dot Corporation; and XPO Logistics, Inc. Alba's institutional clients are/were also involved in other types of class actions, namely: *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, *In re Epipen (Epinephrine Injection, USP) Marketing, Sales Practices and Antitrust Litigation* (\$345 million partial settlement achieved a few months prior to trial; additional \$264 million settlement pending approval), *Forth v. Walgreen Co.*, and *In re Humira (Adalimumab) Antitrust Litigation*.

Alba has served as lead counsel in numerous cases and is responsible for initiating, investigating, researching, and filing securities and consumer fraud class actions. He has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in numerous actions, including cases against BHP Billiton Limited (\$50 million recovery), BRF S.A. (\$40 million recovery), L3 Technologies, Inc. (\$34.5 million recovery), Impax Laboratories Inc. (\$33 million recovery); Super Micro Computer, Inc. (\$18.25 million recovery); NBTY, Inc. (\$16 million recovery), OSI Pharmaceuticals (\$9 million recovery), Advisory Board Company (\$7.5 million recovery), Iconix Brand Group, Inc. (\$6 million recovery), and PXRe Group, Ltd. (\$5.9 million).

Alba has lectured at numerous institutional investor conferences throughout the United States on various shareholder issues, including at the Opal Public Funds Summit, Koried Plan Sponsor Educational Institute, Georgia Association of Public Pension Trustees (GAPPT) Annual Conference, Illinois Public Pension Fund Association, the New York State Teamsters Conference, the American Alliance Conference, and the TEXPERS/IPPPFA Joint Conference at the New York Stock Exchange, among others.

### Education

B.S., St. John's University, 1999; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 2002

### Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2022; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2012-2013, 2016-2017; B.S., Dean's List, St. John's University, 1999; Selected as participant in Hofstra Moot Court Seminar, Hofstra University School of Law

## Michael Albert | Partner

Michael Albert is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Albert is a member of the Firm's Lead Plaintiff Advisory Team, which advises institutional investors in connection with lead plaintiff motions, and assists them in securing appointment as lead plaintiff. He is also part of the Firm's SPAC Task Force, which is dedicated to rooting out and prosecuting fraud on behalf of injured investors in special purpose acquisition companies.

Albert has been a member of litigation teams that have successfully recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for investors in securities class actions, including: *NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.* (\$272 million recovery), *City of Pontiac General Employees' Retirement Systems v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* (\$160 million recovery), and *In re LendingClub Securities Litigation* (\$125 million recovery). Albert was also a member of the litigation team that recently obtained a \$85 million cash settlement in a consumer class action against Scotts Miracle-Gro.

## Education

B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2010; J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 2014

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2020-2021; Managing Board Member, *Virginia Tax Review*, University of Virginia School of Law



## Matthew I. Alpert | Partner

Matthew Alpert is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and focuses on the prosecution of securities fraud litigation. He has helped recover over \$800 million for individual and institutional investors financially harmed by corporate fraud. Alpert's current cases include securities fraud cases against Under Armour (D. Md.), FirstCash (N.D. Tex.), Mylan N.V. (S.D.N.Y.), and Southwest Airlines (N.D. Tex.). Most recently, Alpert and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$1.21 billion settlement in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (D.N.J.), a case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." This is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest ever. Alpert was also a member of the litigation team that successfully obtained class certification in a securities fraud class action against Regions Financial, a class certification decision which was substantively affirmed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in *Local 703, I.B. of T. Grocery & Food Emps. Welfare Fund v. Regions Fin. Corp.*, 762 F.3d 1248 (11th Cir. 2014). Upon remand, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama granted class certification again, rejecting defendants' post-*Halliburton II* arguments concerning stock price impact.

Some of Alpert's previous cases include: the individual opt-out actions of the AOL Time Warner class action – *Regents of the Univ. of Cal. v. Parsons* (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles Cnty.) and *Ohio Pub. Emps. Ret. Sys. v. Parsons* (Ohio. Ct. of Common Pleas, Franklin Cnty.) (total settlement over \$600 million); *Local 703, I.B. of T. Grocery & Food Emps. Welfare Fund v. Regions Fin. Corp.* (N.D. Ala.) (\$90 million settlement); *In re MGM Mirage Sec. Litig.* (D. Nev.) (\$75 million); *In re CIT Grp. Inc. Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$75 million settlement); *Luna v. Marvell Tech. Grp., Ltd.* (N.D. Cal.) (\$72.5 million settlement); *Deka Investment GmbH v. Santander Consumer USA Holdings Inc.* (N.D. Tex.) (\$47 million settlement); *In re Bridgestone Sec. Litig.* (M.D. Tenn.) (\$30 million settlement); *In re Walter Energy, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (N.D. Ala.) (\$25 million); *City of Hialeah Emps.' Ret. Sys. & Laborers Pension Trust Fund for N. Cal. v. Toll Brothers, Inc.* (E.D. Pa.) (\$25 million settlement); *In re Molycorp, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (D. Colo.) (\$20.5 million settlement); *In re Banc of California Sec. Litig.* (C.D. Cal.) (\$19.75 million); *Zimmerman v. Diplomat Pharmacy, Inc.* (E.D. Mich.) (\$14.1 million); *Batwin v. Occam Networks, Inc.* (C.D. Cal.) (\$13.9 million settlement); *Int'l Brotherhood of Elec. Workers Local 697 Pension Fund v. Int'l Game Tech.* (D. Nev.) (\$12.5 million settlement); *Kmiec v. Powerwave Techs. Inc.* (C.D. Cal.) (\$8.2 million); *In re Sunterra Corp. Sec. Litig.* (D. Nev.) (\$8 million settlement); and *Luman v. Anderson* (W.D. Mo.) (\$4.25 million settlement).

## Education

B.A., University of Wisconsin at Madison, 2001; J.D., Washington University, St. Louis, 2005

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2019

## Darryl J. Alvarado | Partner

Darryl Alvarado is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He focuses his practice on securities fraud and other complex civil litigation. Alvarado was a member of the trial team in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, which recovered \$350 million for aggrieved investors. The *First Solar* settlement, reached on the eve of trial after more than seven years of litigation and an interlocutory appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, is the fifth-largest PSLRA recovery ever obtained in the Ninth Circuit. Alvarado recently litigated *Monroe County Employees' Retirement System v. The Southern Company*, which recovered \$87.5 million for investors after more than three years of litigation. The settlement resolved securities fraud claims stemming from defendants' issuance of misleading statements and omissions regarding the construction of a first-of-its-kind "clean coal" power plant in Kemper County, Mississippi. Alvarado helped secure \$388 million for investors in J.P. Morgan residential mortgage-backed securities in *Fort Worth Employees' Retirement Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.* That settlement is, on a percentage basis, the largest recovery ever achieved in an RMBS class action. He was also a member of a team of attorneys that secured \$95 million for investors in Morgan Stanley-issued RMBS in *In re Morgan Stanley Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Litigation*.

Alvarado was a member of a team of lawyers that obtained landmark settlements, on the eve of trial, from the major credit rating agencies and Morgan Stanley arising out of the fraudulent ratings of bonds issued by the Cheyne and Rhinebridge structured investment vehicles in *Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated* and *King County, Washington v. IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG*. He was integral in obtaining several precedent-setting decisions in those cases, including defeating the rating agencies' historic First Amendment defense and defeating the ratings agencies' motions for summary judgment concerning the actionability of credit ratings. Alvarado was also a member of a team of attorneys responsible for obtaining for aggrieved investors \$27 million in *In re Cooper Companies Securities Litigation*, \$19.5 million in *City of Pontiac General Employees' Retirement System v. Lockheed Martin Corporation*, and comprehensive corporate governance reforms to address widespread off-label marketing and product safety violations in *In re Johnson & Johnson Derivative Litigation*.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2004; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2007

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2023; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2021; Top 40 Under 40, *Daily Journal*, 2021; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2021; "Outstanding Young Attorneys," *San Diego Daily Transcript*, 2011

## X. Jay Alvarez | Partner

Jay Alvarez is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He focuses his practice on securities fraud litigation and other complex litigation. Alvarez's notable cases include *In re Qwest Commc'ns Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$400 million recovery), *In re Coca-Cola Sec. Litig.* (\$137.5 million settlement), *In re St. Jude Medical, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$50 million settlement), and *In re Cooper Cos. Sec. Litig.* (\$27 million recovery). Most recently, Alvarez was a member of the litigation team that secured a historic recovery on behalf of Trump University students in two class actions against President Donald J. Trump. The settlement provides \$25 million to approximately 7,000 consumers. This result means individual class members are eligible for upwards of \$35,000 in restitution. He represented the class on a *pro bono* basis.

Prior to joining the Firm, Alvarez served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of California from 1991-2003. As an Assistant United States Attorney, he obtained extensive trial experience, including the prosecution of bank fraud, money laundering, and complex narcotics conspiracy cases. During his tenure as an Assistant United States Attorney, Alvarez also briefed and argued numerous appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1984; J.D., University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, 1987

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2020

## Dory P. Antullis | Partner

Dory Antullis is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office and has been practicing law for 17 years, first at a major defense firm and the last 9-1/2 at Robbins Geller. Her practice focuses on complex class actions, including consumer fraud, RICO, public nuisance, data breach, pharmaceuticals, and antitrust litigation.

Antullis, along with other Robbins Geller attorneys, is currently leading the effort on behalf of cities and counties around the country in *In re Nat'l Prescription Opiate Litig.*, No. 1:17-MD-2804 (N.D. Ohio). She also serves as a primary counsel for named plaintiffs in the consolidated Third Party Payer class action in *In re Zantac (Ranitidine) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 9:20-md-02924-RLR (S.D. Fla.), and is as a core member of the MDL Class Committee responsible for drafting, defending, and proving products liability, RICO, and consumer protection allegations on behalf of both TPPs and consumers nationwide.

Antullis has been an integral part of Robbins Geller's history of successful privacy and data breach class action cases. She is currently serving as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel in *In re Luxottica of America, Inc. Data Breach Litig.*, No. 1:20-cv-00908-MRB (S.D. Ohio). Her heavy lifting at every stage of the litigation in *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, No. 5:16-md-02752-LHK (N.D. Cal.), helped to secure a \$117.5 million recovery in the largest data breach in history. Antullis successfully defeated two rounds of dispositive briefing, worked with leadership and computer privacy and damages experts to plan a winning strategy for the case, and drafted an innovative motion for class certification that immediately preceded a successful mediation with defendants in that litigation. Antullis also provided meaningful "nuts-and-bolts" support in other data breach class actions, including *In re Am. Med. Collection Agency, Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, No. 2:19-md-02904-MCA-MAH (D.N.J.) (representing class of LabCorp customers), and *In re Solara Med. Supplies Customer Data Breach Litig.*, No. 3:19-cv-02284-H-KSC (S.D. Cal.) (representing victims of a protected health information data breach).

## Education

B.A., Rice University, 1999; J.D., Columbia Law School, 2003

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; National Merit Scholar, Rice University; Golden Key National Honor Society, Rice University; Nominated for *The Rice Undergraduate* academic journal, Rice University; Michael I. Sovern Scholar, Columbia Law School; Hague Appeal for Peace, Committee for a Just and Effective Response to 9/11, Columbia Law School; Columbia Mediation and Political Asylum Clinics, Columbia Law School; Harlem Tutorial Program, Columbia Law School; Journal of Eastern European Law, Columbia Law School; Columbia Law Women's Association, Columbia Law School

## Stephen R. Astley | Partner

Stephen Astley is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. Astley devotes his practice to representing institutional and individual shareholders in their pursuit to recover investment losses caused by fraud. He has been lead counsel in numerous securities fraud class actions across the country, helping secure significant recoveries for his clients and investors. He was on the trial team that recovered \$60 million on behalf of investors in *City of Sterling Heights Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Hospira, Inc.* Other notable representations include: *In re ADT Inc. S'holder Litig.* (Fla. Cir. Ct., 15th Jud. Cir.) (\$30 million settlement); *In re Red Hat, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (E.D.N.C.) (\$20 million settlement); *Eshe Fund v. Fifth Third Bancorp* (S.D. Ohio) (\$16 million); *City of St. Clair Shores Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Lender Processing Servs., Inc.* (M.D. Fla.) (\$14 million); and *In re Synovus Fin. Corp.* (N.D. Ga.) (\$11.75 million).

Prior to joining the Firm, Astley was with the Miami office of Hunton & Williams, where he concentrated his practice on class action defense, including securities class actions and white collar criminal defense. Additionally, he represented numerous corporate clients accused of engaging in unfair and deceptive practices. Astley was also an active duty member of the United States Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps where he was the Senior Defense Counsel for the Naval Legal Service Office Pearl Harbor Detachment. In that capacity, Astley oversaw trial operations for the Detachment and gained substantial first-chair trial experience as the lead defense counsel in over 75 courts-martial and administrative proceedings. Additionally, from 2002-2003, Astley clerked for the Honorable Peter T. Fay, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

## Education

B.S., Florida State University, 1992; M. Acc., University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2001; J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 1997

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of Miami School of Law, 1997; United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps., Lieutenant

## A. Rick Atwood, Jr. | Partner

Rick Atwood is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. As a recipient of the *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year ("CLAY") Award for his work on behalf of shareholders, he has successfully represented shareholders in securities class actions, merger-related class actions, and shareholder derivative suits in federal and state courts in more than 30 jurisdictions. Through his litigation efforts at both the trial and appellate levels, Atwood has helped recover billions of dollars for public shareholders, including the largest post-merger common fund recoveries on record. He is also part of the Firm's SPAC Task Force, which is dedicated to rooting out and prosecuting fraud on behalf of injured investors in special purpose acquisition companies. Most recently, in *In re Dole Food Co., Inc. S'holder Litig.*, which went to trial in the Delaware Court of Chancery on claims of breach of fiduciary duty on behalf of Dole Food Co., Inc. shareholders, Atwood helped obtain \$148 million, the largest trial verdict ever in a class action challenging a merger transaction. He was also a key member of the litigation team in *In re Kinder Morgan, Inc. S'holders Litig.*, where he helped obtain an unprecedented \$200 million common fund for former Kinder Morgan shareholders, the largest merger & acquisition class action recovery in history.

Atwood also led the litigation team that obtained an \$89.4 million recovery for shareholders in *In re Del Monte Foods Co. S'holders Litig.*, after which the Delaware Court of Chancery stated that "it was only through the effective use of discovery that the plaintiffs were able to 'disturb[ ] the patina of normalcy surrounding the transaction.'" The court further commented that "Lead Counsel engaged in hard-nosed discovery to penetrate and expose problems with practices that Wall Street considered 'typical.'" One Wall Street banker even wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* that "Everybody does it, but Barclays is the one that got caught with their hand in the cookie jar . . . . Now everybody has to rethink how we conduct ourselves in financing situations." Atwood's other significant opinions include *Brown v. Brewer* (\$45 million recovery) and *In re Prime Hosp., Inc. S'holders Litig.* (\$25 million recovery).

## Education

B.A., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1987; B.A., Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 1988; J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law, 1991

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2019; M&A Litigation Attorney of the Year in California, *Corporate International*, 2015; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2017; Attorney of the Year, *California Lawyer*, 2012; B.A., Great Distinction, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 1988; B.A., Honors, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1987; Authorities Editor, *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*, 1991

## Aelish M. Baig | Partner

Aelish Marie Baig is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office. She specializes in federal securities and consumer class actions. She focuses primarily on securities fraud litigation on behalf of individual and institutional investors, including state and municipal pension funds, Taft-Hartley funds, and private retirement and investment funds. Baig has litigated a number of cases through jury trial, resulting in multi-million dollar awards and settlements for her clients, and has prosecuted securities fraud, consumer, and derivative actions obtaining millions of dollars in recoveries against corporations such as Wells Fargo, Verizon, Celera, Pall, and Prudential.

Baig, along with co-counsel and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys, is currently leading the effort on behalf of cities and counties around the country in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*. Earlier this year, Baig served as co-trial counsel in a federal bench trial in San Francisco in a case that had been selected as a bellwether in the multi-district litigation. The team achieved combined settlements of nearly \$70 million for San Francisco and more than \$5 billion nationally from multiple pharmaceutical companies who were defendants in the case. The Honorable Charles R. Breyer of the Northern District of California ruled that Walgreens, the only defendant remaining in the case, was liable for its role in the opioid crisis in San Francisco. An abatement trial for Walgreens will be held at a later date.

Baig has also been appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Juul Labs, Inc., Marketing Sales Practices and Product Liability Litigation*, currently pending before the Honorable William H. Orrick in the Northern District of California. She serves on the expert and trial committees and represents, among others, one of the trial bellwethers. Baig and her team have recently completed discovery and are currently preparing for expert reports and trial. She has also been appointed by the Honorable Charles R. Breyer in the Northern District of California to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re McKinsey & Co., Inc. National Prescription Opiate Consultant Litigation*.

Additionally, Baig prosecuted an action against Wells Fargo's directors and officers accusing the giant of engaging in the robo-signing of foreclosure papers so as to mass-process home foreclosures, a practice which contributed significantly to the 2008-2009 financial crisis. The resulting settlement was worth more than \$67 million in cash, corporate preventative measures, and new lending initiatives for residents of cities devastated by Wells Fargo's alleged unlawful foreclosure practices. Baig and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys recently obtained a \$62.5 million settlement in *Villella v. Chemical and Mining Company of Chile Inc.*, a securities class action against a Chilean mining company. The case alleged that Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. ("SQM") violated the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by issuing materially false and misleading statements regarding the Company's failure to disclose that money from SQM was channeled illegally to electoral campaigns for Chilean politicians and political parties as far back as 2009. SQM had also filed millions of dollars' worth of fictitious tax receipts with Chilean authorities in order to conceal bribery payments from at least 2009 through fiscal 2014. Due to the company being based out of Chile and subject to Chilean law and rules, Baig and the Robbins Geller litigation team put together a multilingual litigation team with Chilean expertise. Baig was also part of the litigation and trial team in *White v. Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless*, which resulted in a \$25 million settlement and Verizon's agreement to an injunction restricting its ability to impose early termination fees in future subscriber agreements. She was also part of the team that prosecuted dozens of stock option backdating actions, securing tens of millions of dollars in cash recoveries as well as the implementation of comprehensive corporate governance enhancements for numerous companies victimized by their directors' and officers' fraudulent stock option backdating practices. Additionally, Baig prosecuted an action against Prudential Insurance for its alleged failure to pay life insurance benefits to beneficiaries of policyholders it knew or had reason to know had died, resulting in a settlement in excess of \$30 million.

## Education

B.A., Brown University, 1992; J.D., Washington College of Law at American University, 1998

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2023; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2020-2023; Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021-2023; 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022; Plaintiffs' Lawyers Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2021; Best Lawyer in Northern California: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021; Featured in "Lawyer Limelight" series, *Lawdragon*, 2020; Litigation Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2019; California Trailblazer, *The Recorder*, 2019; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2012-2013; J.D., *Cum Laude*, Washington College of Law at American University, 1998; Senior Editor, *Administrative Law Review*, Washington College of Law at American University



## Randall J. Baron | Partner

Randy Baron is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He specializes in securities litigation, corporate takeover litigation, and breach of fiduciary duty actions. For almost two decades, Baron has headed up a team of lawyers whose accomplishments include obtaining instrumental rulings both at injunction and trial phases, and establishing liability of financial advisors and investment banks. With an in-depth understanding of merger and acquisition and breach of fiduciary duty law, an ability to work under extreme time pressures, and the experience and willingness to take a case through trial, he has been responsible for recovering more than a billion dollars for shareholders.

Notable achievements over the years include: *In re Kinder Morgan, Inc. S'holders Litig.* (Kan. Dist. Ct., Shawnee Cnty.), where Baron obtained an unprecedented \$200 million common fund for former Kinder Morgan shareholders, the largest merger & acquisition class action recovery in history; *In re Dole Food Co., Inc. S'holder Litig.* (Del. Ch.), where he went to trial in the Delaware Court of Chancery on claims of breach of fiduciary duty on behalf of Dole Food Co., Inc. shareholders and obtained \$148 million, the largest trial verdict ever in a class action challenging a merger transaction; and *In re Rural/Metro Corp. S'holders Litig.* (Del. Ch.), where Baron and co-counsel obtained nearly \$110 million total recovery for shareholders against Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets LLC. In *In re Del Monte Foods Co. S'holders Litig.* (Del. Ch.), he exposed the unseemly practice by investment bankers of participating on both sides of large merger and acquisition transactions and ultimately secured an \$89 million settlement for shareholders of Del Monte. Baron was one of the lead attorneys representing about 75 public and private institutional investors that filed and settled individual actions in *In re WorldCom Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.), where more than \$657 million was recovered, the largest opt-out (non-class) securities action in history. Most recently, Baron successfully obtained a partial settlement of \$60 million in *In re Tesla Motors, Inc. S'holder Litig.*, a case that alleged that the members of the Tesla Board of Directors breached their fiduciary duties, unjustly enriched themselves, and wasted corporate assets in connection with their approval of Tesla's acquisition of SolarCity Corp. in 2016.

## Education

B.A., University of Colorado at Boulder, 1987; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 1990

## Honors / Awards

Fellow, Advisory Board, Litigation Counsel of America (LCA); Rated Distinguished by Martindale-Hubbell; Lawyer of the Year: Derivatives and Futures Law, *Best Lawyers*®, 2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2019-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Hall of Fame, *The Legal 500*, 2020-2022; Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2016-2022; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2022; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2011, 2017-2019, 2021-2022; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers*®, 2019-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2016, 2018-2020; National Practice Area Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019-2020; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018, 2020; Leading Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2014-2019; Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016-2019; California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Winning Litigator, *The National Law Journal*, 2018; Titan of the Industry, *The American Lawyer*, 2018; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017; Mergers & Acquisitions Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2015-2016; Litigator of the Week, *The American Lawyer*, October 16, 2014; Attorney of the Year, *California Lawyer*, 2012; Litigator of the Week, *The American Lawyer*, October 7, 2011; J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of San Diego School of Law, 1990

## James E. Barz | Partner

James Barz is a partner with the Firm and manages the Firm's Chicago office. He has tried 18 cases to verdict, conducted numerous evidentiary hearings, drafted many appeals, and argued 9 cases in the Seventh Circuit. Barz is a registered CPA, former federal prosecutor, and an adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law from 2008 to 2021, teaching courses on trial advocacy and class action litigation.

Barz has focused on representing investors in securities fraud class actions that have resulted in recoveries of over \$2 billion. Most recently, Barz was lead counsel in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, and secured a \$1.21 billion recovery for investors, a case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." This is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest securities class action settlement ever. Barz was recognized as a Litigator of the Week by *The American Lawyer* for his work in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*

Barz has also secured substantial recoveries for investors in *HCA* (\$215 million, M.D. Tenn.); *Motorola* (\$200 million, N.D. Ill.); *Sprint* (\$131 million, D. Kan.); *Orbital ATK* (\$108 million, E.D. Va.); *Walgreens* (\$105 million, N.D. Ill.) *Psychiatric Solutions* (\$65 million, M.D. Tenn.); *Dana Corp.* (\$64 million, N.D. Ohio); *Hospira* (\$60 million, N.D. Ill.); *Grubhub* (\$42 million, N.D. Ill.); *Career Education* (\$27.5 million, N.D. Ill.); *Accretive Health* (\$14 million, N.D. Ill.); *LJM Funds Management, Ltd.* (\$12.85 million, N.D. Ill.); and *Camping World* (\$12.5 million). He has been lead trial counsel in several of these cases obtaining favorable settlements just days or weeks before trial and after obtaining denials of summary judgment. Barz also handles whistleblower cases, including successful settlements in *United States v. Signature Healthcare LLC* (M.D. Tenn.) (\$30 million) and *Goodman v. Arriva Medical LLC* (M.D. Tenn.) (\$160 million settlement with government and \$28.5 million award to whistleblower). Barz also handles antitrust cases, including currently serving on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Dealer Management Systems Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill.).

## Education

B.B.A., Loyola University Chicago, School of Business Administration, 1995; J.D., Northwestern University School of Law, 1998

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2018-2023; Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Midwest Trailblazer, *The American Lawyer*, 2022; Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 2021; Litigator of the Week, *The American Lawyer*, 2021; Leading Lawyer, Law Bulletin Media, 2018; B.B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Loyola University Chicago, School of Business Administration, 1995; J.D., *Cum Laude*, Northwestern University School of Law, 1998

## Lea Malani Bays | Partner

Lea Malani Bays is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. She focuses on e-discovery issues, from preservation through production, and provides counsel to the Firm's multi-disciplinary e-discovery team consisting of attorneys, forensic analysts, and database professionals. Through her role as counsel to the e-discovery team, Bays is very familiar with the various stages of e-discovery, including identification of relevant electronically stored information, data culling, predictive coding protocols, privilege, and responsiveness reviews, as well as having experience in post-production discovery through trial preparation. Through speaking at various events, she is also a leader in shaping the broader dialogue on e-discovery issues.

Bays was recently part of the litigation team that earned the approval of a \$131 million settlement in favor of plaintiffs in *Bennett v. Sprint Nextel Corp.* The settlement, which resolved claims arising from Sprint Corporation's ill-fated merger with Nextel Communications in 2005, represents a significant recovery for the plaintiff class, achieved after five years of tireless effort by the Firm. Prior to joining Robbins Geller, Bays was a Litigation Associate at Kaye Scholer LLP's New York office. She has experience in a wide range of litigation, including complex securities litigation, commercial contract disputes, business torts, antitrust, civil fraud, and trust and estate litigation.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz, 1997; J.D., New York Law School, 2007

## Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2019-2022; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, New York Law School, 2007; Executive Editor, *New York Law School Law Review*; Legal Aid Society's Pro Bono Publico Award; NYSBA Empire State Counsel; Professor Stephen J. Ellmann Clinical Legal Education Prize; John Marshall Harlan Scholars Program, Justice Action Center

## Nathan W. Bear | Partner

Nate Bear is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Bear advises institutional investors on a global basis. His clients include Taft-Hartley funds, public and multi-employer pension funds, fund managers, insurance companies, and banks around the world. He counsels clients on securities fraud and corporate governance, and frequently speaks at conferences worldwide. Bear has been part of Robbins Geller litigation teams which have recovered over \$1 billion for investors, including *In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$600 million) and *Jones v. Pfizer Inc.* (\$400 million). In addition to initiating securities fraud class actions in the United States, he possesses direct experience in Australian class actions, potential group actions in the United Kingdom, settlements in the European Union under the Wet Collectieve Afwikkeling Massaschade (WCAM), the Dutch Collective Mass Claims Settlement Act, as well as representative actions in Germany utilizing the Kapitalanlegermusterverfahrensgesetz (KapMuG), the Capital Market Investors' Model Proceeding Act. In *Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.*, Bear was a member of the litigation team which achieved the first major ruling upholding fraud allegations against the chief credit rating agencies. That ruling led to the filing of a similar case, *King County, Washington v. IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG*. These cases, arising from the fraudulent ratings of bonds issued by the Cheyne and Rhinebridge structured investment vehicles, ultimately obtained landmark settlements – on the eve of trial – from the major credit rating agencies and Morgan Stanley. Bear maintained an active role in litigation at the heart of the worldwide financial crisis, and pursued banks over their manipulation of LIBOR, FOREX, and other benchmark rates. Additionally, Bear represents investors damaged by the defeat device scandal enveloping German automotive manufacturers, including Volkswagen, Porsche, and Daimler.

## Education

B.A., University of California at Berkeley, 1998; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2006

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2016; "Outstanding Young Attorneys," *San Diego Daily Transcript*, 2011

## Alexandra S. Bernay | Partner

Xan Bernay is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where she specializes in antitrust and unfair competition class-action litigation. She has also worked on some of the Firm's largest securities fraud class actions, including the *Enron* litigation, which recovered an unprecedented \$7.2 billion for investors. Bernay currently serves as co-lead counsel in *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litig.*, in which a settlement of \$5.5 billion was approved in the Eastern District of New York. This case was brought on behalf of millions of U.S. merchants against Visa and MasterCard and various card-issuing banks, challenging the way these companies set and collect tens of billions of dollars annually in merchant fees. The settlement is believed to be the largest antitrust class action settlement of all time.

Additionally, Bernay is involved in *In re Remicade Antitrust Litig.* pending in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania – a large case involving anticompetitive conduct in the biosimilars market, where the Firm is sole lead counsel for the end-payor plaintiffs. She is also part of the litigation team in *In re Dealer Mgmt. Sys. Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Ill.), which involves anticompetitive conduct related to dealer management systems on behalf of auto dealerships across the country. Another representative case is *Persian Gulf Inc. v. BP West Coast Prods. LLC* (S.D. Cal.), a massive case against the largest gas refiners in the world brought by gasoline station owners who allege they were overcharged for gasoline in California as a result of anticompetitive conduct.

## Education

B.A., Humboldt State University, 1997; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2000

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Litigator of the Week, *Global Competition Review*, October 1, 2014

## Kenneth J. Black | Partner

Kenneth Black is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation and shareholder derivative litigation. Before joining the Firm, Black was a Sanctions Investigator at the Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Treasury Department, where he investigated and assembled the evidentiary cases against targets of U.S. financial sanctions, and tracked the finances and assets of those targets.

## Education

B.A., University of Michigan, 2004; M.A., American University, 2007; J.D., University of Michigan School of Law, 2013

## Honors / Awards

Comments Editor, *Michigan Journal of Private Equity & Venture Capital Law*, University of Michigan School of Law

## Erin W. Boardman | Partner

Erin Boardman is a partner in the Firm's Melville office, where her practice focuses on representing individual and institutional investors in class actions brought pursuant to the federal securities laws. She has been involved in the prosecution of numerous securities class actions that have resulted in millions of dollars in recoveries for defrauded investors, including: *Medoff v. CVS Caremark Corp.* (D.R.I.) (\$48 million recovery); *Construction Laborers Pension Tr. of Greater St. Louis v. Autoliv Inc.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$22.5 million recovery); *In re Gildan Activewear Inc. Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (resolved as part of a \$22.5 million global settlement); *In re L.G. Phillips LCD Co., Ltd., Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$18 million recovery); *In re Giant Interactive Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$13 million recovery); *In re Coventry HealthCare, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (D. Md.) (\$10 million recovery); *Lenartz v. American Superconductor Corp.* (D. Mass.) (\$10 million recovery); *Dudley v. Haub* (D.N.J.) (\$9 million recovery); *Hildenbrand v. W Holding Co.* (D.P.R.) (\$8.75 million recovery); *In re Doral Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig.* (D.P.R.) (\$7 million recovery); and *Van Dongen v. CNinsure Inc.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$6.625 million recovery). During law school, Boardman served as Associate Managing Editor of the *Journal of Corporate, Financial and Commercial Law*, interned in the chambers of the Honorable Kiyoo A. Matsumoto in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and represented individuals on a *pro bono* basis through the Workers' Rights Clinic.

## Education

B.A., State University of New York at Binghamton, 2003; J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2007

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2018; B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2003

## Douglas R. Britton | Partner

Doug Britton is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. His practice focuses on securities fraud and corporate governance. Britton has been involved in settlements exceeding \$1 billion and has secured significant corporate governance enhancements to improve corporate functioning. Notable achievements include *In re WorldCom, Inc. Sec. & "ERISA" Litig.*, where he was one of the lead partners that represented a number of opt-out institutional investors and secured an unprecedented recovery of \$651 million; *In re SureBeam Corp. Sec. Litig.*, where he was the lead trial counsel and secured an impressive recovery of \$32.75 million; and *In re Amazon.com, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, where he was one of the lead attorneys securing a \$27.5 million recovery for investors.

## Education

B.B.A., Washburn University, 1991; J.D., Pepperdine University School of Law, 1996

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Cum Laude*, Pepperdine University School of Law, 1996

## Luke O. Brooks | Partner

Luke Brooks is a partner in the Firm's securities litigation practice group in the San Diego office. He focuses primarily on securities fraud litigation on behalf of individual and institutional investors, including state and municipal pension funds, Taft-Hartley funds, and private retirement and investment funds. Brooks served as trial counsel in *Jaffe v. Household International* in the Northern District of Illinois, a securities class action that obtained a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a verdict for plaintiffs. Other prominent cases recently prosecuted by Brooks include *Fort Worth Emps.' Ret. Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.*, in which plaintiffs recovered \$388 million for investors in J.P. Morgan residential mortgage-backed securities, and a pair of cases – *Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.* (“Cheyne”) and *King County, Washington, et al. v. IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG* (“Rhinebridge”) – in which plaintiffs obtained a settlement, on the eve of trial in Cheyne, from the major credit rating agencies and Morgan Stanley arising out of the fraudulent ratings of bonds issued by the Cheyne and Rhinebridge structured investment vehicles. *Reuters* described the settlement as a “landmark” deal and emphasized that it was the “first time S&P and Moody’s have settled accusations that investors were misled by their ratings.” An article published in *Rolling Stone* magazine entitled “The Last Mystery of the Financial Crisis” similarly credited Robbins Geller with uncovering “a mountain of evidence” detailing the credit rating agencies’ fraud. Most recently, Brooks served as lead counsel in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, and obtained a \$350 million settlement on the eve of trial. The settlement is fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit.

## Education

B.A., University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1997; J.D., University of San Francisco, 2000

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2017-2018, 2020; California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2018; Member, *University of San Francisco Law Review*, University of San Francisco

## Spencer A. Burkholz | Partner

Spence Burkholz is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. He has 25 years of experience in prosecuting securities class actions and private actions on behalf of large institutional investors. Burkholz was one of the lead trial attorneys in *Jaffe v. Household International* in the Northern District of Illinois, a securities class action that obtained a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a verdict for plaintiffs. Burkholz has also recovered billions of dollars for injured shareholders in cases such as *Enron* (\$7.2 billion), *WorldCom* (\$657 million), *Countrywide* (\$500 million), and *Qwest* (\$445 million).

## Education

B.A., Clark University, 1985; J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1989

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2018-2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2018-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2020, 2022; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2021; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers*®, 2018-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2016, 2020; Top 100 Trial Lawyer, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2020; National Practice Area Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2020; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2015-2018, 2020; Lawyer of the Year, *Best Lawyers*®, 2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2019; Top 20 Trial Lawyer in California, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Plaintiff Attorney of the Year, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018; B.A., *Cum Laude*, Clark University, 1985; *Phi Beta Kappa*, Clark University, 1985

## Michael G. Capeci | Partner

Michael Capeci is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. His practice focuses on prosecuting complex securities class action lawsuits in federal and state courts. Throughout his tenure with the Firm, Capeci has played an integral role in the teams prosecuting cases such as: *In re BHP Billiton Ltd. Sec. Litig.* (\$50 million recovery); *Galestan v. OneMain Holdings, Inc.* (\$9 million recovery); *Carpenters Pension Tr. Fund of St. Louis v. Barclays PLC* (\$14 million recovery); *City of Pontiac General Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.* (\$19.5 million recovery); and *Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 630 Pension-Annuity Tr. Fund v. Arbitron Inc.* (\$7 million recovery). Capeci is currently prosecuting numerous cases in federal and state courts alleging violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933. Recently, Michael led the litigation team that achieved the first settlement of a 1933 Act claim in New York state court, *In re EverQuote, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$4.75 million recovery), following the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Cyan, Inc. v. Beaver Cnty. Emps. Ret. Fund* in 2018.

## Education

B.S., Villanova University, 2007; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 2010

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2022; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2021; J.D., *Cum Laude*, Hofstra University School of Law, 2010



## Jennifer N. Caringal | Partner

Jennifer Caringal is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. She is also part of the Firm's SPAC Task Force, which is dedicated to rooting out and prosecuting fraud on behalf of injured investors in special purpose acquisition companies.

Caringal served as lead counsel in *In re Am. Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.*, a case arising out of ARCP's manipulative accounting practices, and obtained a \$1.025 billion recovery. For five years, she and the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages of any major PSLRA case prior to trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history.

## Education

B.A., University of Illinois, 2006; J.D., Washington University in St. Louis, School of Law, 2012

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021-2023; They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40, *Bloomberg Law*, 2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2021; Best Lawyer in Southern California: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021

## Brian E. Cochran | Partner

Brian Cochran is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He focuses his practice on complex securities, shareholder, consumer protection, and ERISA litigation. Cochran is also a member of Robbins Geller's SPAC Task Force. Cochran specializes in case investigation and initiation and lead plaintiff issues arising under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. He has developed dozens of cases under the federal securities laws and recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for injured investors and consumers. Several of Cochran's cases have pioneered new ground, such as cases on behalf of cryptocurrency investors, and sparked follow-on governmental investigations into corporate malfeasance. Cochran has spearheaded litigation on behalf of injured investors in blank check companies, developing one of the first securities class actions arising from the latest wave of blank check financing, *Alta Mesa Resources*. On March 31, 2021, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas denied defendants' motions to dismiss in their entirety.

Brian was a member of the litigation team that achieved a \$1.21 billion settlement in the *Valeant Pharmaceuticals* securities litigation. Brian also developed the *Dynamic Ledger* securities litigation, one of the first cases to challenge a cryptocurrency issuer's failure to register under the federal securities laws, which settled for \$25 million. In addition, Brian was part of the team that secured a historic \$25 million settlement on behalf of Trump University students, which Brian prosecuted on a *pro bono* basis. Other notable recoveries include: *Walgreens* (\$105 million, subject to court approval); *Scotts Miracle-Gro* (up to \$85 million); *Psychiatric Solutions* (\$65 million); *SQM Chemical & Mining Co. of Chile* (\$62.5 million); *Grubhub* (\$42 million); *Big Lots* (\$38 million); *Credit Suisse* (\$32.5 million, subject to court approval); *DouYu* (\$15 million, subject to court approval); *REV Group* (\$14.25 million); *Fifth Street Finance* (\$14 million); *Third Avenue Management* (\$14 million); *LJM* (\$12.85 million); *Sealed Air* (\$12.5 million, subject to court approval); *Camping World* (\$12.5 million); *FTS International* (\$9.875 million); and *JPMorgan ERISA* (\$9 million).

## Education

A.B., Princeton University, 2006; J.D., University of California at Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall, 2012

## Honors / Awards

Next Generation Partner, *The Legal 500*, 2020-2022; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2020-2021; Rising Star, *The Legal 500*, 2019; A.B., With Honors, Princeton University, 2006; J.D., Order of the Coif, University of California at Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall, 2012

## Sheri M. Coverman | Partner

Sheri Coverman is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. Her practice focuses on complex class actions, including securities, corporate governance, and consumer fraud litigation.

Coverman is a member of the Firm's Institutional Outreach Team, which provides advice to the Firm's institutional clients, including numerous public pension systems and Taft-Hartley funds throughout the United States, on issues related to corporate fraud, shareholder litigation, and corporate governance issues. Coverman frequently addresses trustees regarding their options for seeking redress for losses due to violations of securities laws and assists in ongoing litigation involving many Firm clients. Coverman's institutional clients are also involved in other types of class actions, namely: *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*.

## Education

B.A., University of Florida, 2008; J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, 2011

## Desiree Cummings | Partner

Desiree Cummings is a partner with the Firm and is based in the Manhattan office. Cummings focuses her practice on complex securities litigation, consumer and privacy litigation, and breach of fiduciary duty actions.

Before joining Robbins Geller, Cummings spent several years prosecuting securities fraud as an Assistant Attorney General with the New York State Office of the Attorney General's Investor Protection Bureau. As an Assistant Attorney General, Cummings was instrumental in the office's investigation and prosecution of J.P. Morgan and Goldman Sachs in connection with the marketing, sale and issuance of residential mortgage-backed securities, resulting in recoveries worth over \$1.6 billion for the State of New York. In connection with investigating and prosecuting securities fraud as part of a federal and state RMBS Working Group, Cummings was awarded the Louis J. Lefkowitz Award for Exceptional Service. Cummings began her career as a litigator at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP where she spent several years representing major financial institutions, a pharmaceutical manufacturer, and public and private companies in connection with commercial litigations and state and federal regulatory investigations.

At Robbins Geller, Cummings represents institutional and individual investors in securities and breach of fiduciary duty cases. Cummings also represents consumers and serves on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Blackbaud Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, a data breach multi-district litigation pending in the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina.

## Education

B.A., Binghamton University, 2001, *cum laude*; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 2004

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2023; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022; Louis J. Lefkowitz Award for Exceptional Service, New York State Office of the Attorney General, 2012

## Joseph D. Daley | Partner

Joseph Daley is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, serves on the Firm's Securities Hiring Committee, and is a member of the Firm's Appellate Practice Group. Precedents include: *City of Birmingham Ret. & Relief Sys. v. Davis*, 806 F. App'x 17 (2d Cir. 2020); *City of Providence v. Bats Glob. Mkts., Inc.*, 878 F.3d 36 (2d Cir. 2017); *DeJulius v. New Eng. Health Care Emps. Pension Fund*, 429 F.3d 935 (10th Cir. 2005); *Frank v. Dana Corp. ("Dana I")*, 547 F.3d 564 (6th Cir. 2008); *Frank v. Dana Corp. ("Dana II")*, 646 F.3d 954 (6th Cir. 2011); *Freidus v. Barclays Bank PLC*, 734 F.3d 132 (2d Cir. 2013); *In re HealthSouth Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 334 F. App'x 248 (11th Cir. 2009); *In re Merck & Co. Sec., Derivative & ERISA Litig.*, 493 F.3d 393 (3d Cir. 2007); *In re Quality Sys., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 865 F.3d 1130 (9th Cir. 2017); *In re Qwest Commc'ns Int'l*, 450 F.3d 1179 (10th Cir. 2006); *Luther v. Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP*, 533 F.3d 1031 (9th Cir. 2008); *NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.*, 693 F.3d 145 (2d Cir. 2012); *Rosenbloom v. Pyott ("Allergan")*, 765 F.3d 1137 (9th Cir. 2014); *Silverman v. Motorola Solutions, Inc.*, 739 F.3d 956 (7th Cir. 2013); *Siracusano v. Matrixx Initiatives, Inc.*, 585 F.3d 1167 (9th Cir. 2009), *aff'd*, 563 U.S. 27 (2011); and *Southland Sec. Corp. v. INSpire Ins. Solutions Inc.*, 365 F.3d 353 (5th Cir. 2004). Daley is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as before 12 U.S. Courts of Appeals around the nation.

## Education

B.S., Jacksonville University, 1981; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 1996

## Honors / Awards

Seven-time Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*; Appellate Moot Court Board, Order of the Barristers, University of San Diego School of Law; Best Advocate Award (Traynore Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition), First Place and Best Briefs (Alumni Torts Moot Court Competition and USD Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition)

## Patrick W. Daniels | Partner

Patrick Daniels is a founding and managing partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He is widely recognized as a leading corporate governance and investor advocate. *Daily Journal*, the leading legal publisher in California, named him one of the 20 most influential lawyers in California under 40 years of age. Additionally, the Yale School of Management's Millstein Center for Corporate Governance and Performance awarded Daniels its "Rising Star of Corporate Governance" honor for his outstanding leadership in shareholder advocacy and activism.

Daniels is an advisor to political and financial leaders throughout the world. He counsels private and state government pension funds and fund managers in the United States, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and other countries within the European Union on issues related to corporate fraud in the United States securities markets and "best practices" in the corporate governance of publicly traded companies. Daniels has represented dozens of institutional investors in some of the largest and most significant shareholder actions, including *Enron*, *WorldCom*, *AOL Time Warner*, *BP*, *Pfizer*, *Countrywide*, *Petrobras*, and *Volkswagen*, to name just a few. In the wake of the financial crisis, he represented dozens of investors in structured investment products in ground-breaking actions against the ratings agencies and Wall Street banks that packaged and sold supposedly highly rated shoddy securities to institutional investors all around the world.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1993; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 1997

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Rising Star of Corporate Governance, Yale School of Management's Milstein Center for Corporate Governance & Performance, 2008; One of the 20 Most Influential Lawyers in the State of California Under 40 Years of Age, *Daily Journal*; B.A., *Cum Laude*, University of California, Berkeley, 1993

## Stuart A. Davidson | Partner

Stuart Davidson is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. His practice focuses on complex consumer class actions, including cases involving deceptive and unfair trade practices, privacy and data breach issues, and antitrust violations. He has served as class counsel in some of the nation's most significant privacy and consumer cases, including: *In re Facebook Biometric Information Privacy Litigation*, No. 3:15-cv-03747-JD (N.D. Cal.) (\$650 million recovery in a cutting-edge class action concerning Facebook's alleged privacy violations through its collection of user's biometric identifiers without informed consent); *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 5:16-md-02752-LHK (N.D. Cal.) (\$117.5 million recovery in the largest data breach in history); *Kehoe v. Fidelity Federal Bank & Trust*, No. 9:03-cv-80593-DTKH (S.D. Fla.) (\$50 million recovery in Driver's Privacy Protection Act case on behalf of half-a-million Florida drivers against a national bank); *In re Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 3:11-md-02258-AJB-MDD (S.D. Cal.) (settlement valued at \$15 million concerning the massive data breach of Sony's PlayStation Network); and *In re Solara Medical Supplies Data Breach Litigation*, No. 3:19-cv-02284-H-KSC (S.D. Cal.) (\$5 million all-cash settlement for victims of healthcare data breach).

Davidson currently serves as Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel in *In re American Medical Collection Agency, Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, No. 2:19-md-02904-MCA-MAH (D.N.J.) (representing class of

LabCorp customers), *Garner v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, No. 2:21-cv-00750-RSL (W.D. Wash.) (alleging Amazon's illegal wiretapping through Alexa-enabled devices), and *In re American Financial Resources, Inc. Data Breach Litigation*, No. 2:22-cv-01757-MCA-JSA (D.N.J.), and on Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in *In re Lakeview Loan Servicing Data Breach Litigation*, No. 1:22-cv-20955-DPG (S.D. Fla.).

Davidson also spearheaded several aspects of *In re EpiPen (Epinephrine Injection, USP) Marketing, Sales Practices & Antitrust Litigation*, No. 2:17-md-02785-DDC-TJJ (D. Kan.) (\$609 million total recovery achieved weeks prior to trial in certified class action alleging antitrust claims involving the illegal reverse payment settlement to delay the generic EpiPen, which allowed the prices of the life-saving EpiPen to rise over 600% in 9 years), and served as Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel in *In re NHL Players' Concussion Injury Litigation*, No. 0:14-md-02551-SRN-BRT (D. Minn.) (representing retired National Hockey League players in multidistrict litigation suit against the NHL regarding injuries suffered due to repetitive head trauma and concussions), and in *In re Pet Food Products Liability Litigation*, No. 1:07-cv-02867-NLH-AMD (D.N.J.) (\$24 million recovery in multidistrict consumer class action on behalf of thousands of aggrieved pet owners nationwide against some of the nation's largest pet food manufacturers, distributors, and retailers). He also served as Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel in *In re UnitedGlobalCom, Inc. Shareholder Litigation*, C.A. No. 1012-VCS (Del. Ch.) (\$25 million recovery weeks before trial); *In re Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. Shareholder Litigation*, No. 16-2011-CA-010616 (Fla. Cir. Ct.) (\$11.5 million recovery for former Winn-Dixie shareholders following the corporate buyout by BI-LO); and *In re AuthenTec, Inc. Shareholder Litigation*, No. 5-2012-CA-57589 (Fla. Cir. Ct.) (\$10 million recovery for former AuthenTec shareholders following a merger with Apple). The latter two cases are the two largest merger and acquisition recoveries in Florida history.

Davidson is a former lead assistant public defender in the Felony Division of the Broward County, Florida Public Defender's Office. During his tenure at the Public Defender's Office, he tried over 30 jury trials and defended individuals charged with major crimes ranging from third-degree felonies to life and capital felonies.

## Education

B.A., State University of New York at Geneseo, 1993; J.D., Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, 1996

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2023; Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice, American Antitrust Institute, 2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2021-2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2020-2022; One of "Florida's Most Effective Lawyers" in the Privacy category, American Law Media, 2020; J.D., *Summa Cum Laude*, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, 1996; Associate Editor, *Nova Law Review*, Book Awards in Trial Advocacy, International Law, and Criminal Pretrial Practice

## Jason C. Davis | Partner

Jason Davis is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office where he practices securities class actions and complex litigation involving equities, fixed-income, synthetic, and structured securities issued in public and private transactions. Davis was on the trial team in *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, a securities class action that obtained a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a verdict for plaintiffs. Most recently, he was part of the litigation team in *Luna v. Marvell Tech. Grp., Ltd.*, resulting in a \$72.5 million settlement that represents approximately 24% to 50% of the best estimate of classwide damages suffered by investors.

Before joining the Firm, Davis focused on cross-border transactions, mergers and acquisitions at Cravath, Swaine and Moore LLP in New York.

## Education

B.A., Syracuse University, 1998; J.D., University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, 2002

## Honors / Awards

B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Syracuse University, 1998; International Relations Scholar of the year, Syracuse University; Teaching fellow, examination awards, Moot court award, University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law

## Mark J. Dearman | Partner

Mark Dearman is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office, where his practice focuses on consumer fraud, securities fraud, mass torts, antitrust, and whistleblower litigation. Dearman, along with other Robbins Geller attorneys, is currently leading the effort on behalf of cities and counties around the country in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litig.* He was recently appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Zantac (Ranitidine) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, and as Chair of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in *In re Apple Inc. Device Performance Litig.*, Dearman obtained a \$310 million settlement. His other recent representative cases include *In re FieldTurf Artificial Turf Mktg. Pracs. Litig.*, No. 3:17-md-02779 (D.N.J.); *In re NHL Players' Concussion Injury Litig.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 38755 (D. Minn. 2015); *In re Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, 903 F. Supp. 2d 942 (S.D. Cal. 2012); *In re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Mktg. Sales Pracs. & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1357 (N.D. Cal. 2016); *In re Ford Fusion & C-Max Fuel Econ. Litig.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 155383 (S.D.N.Y. 2015); *Looper v. FCA US LLC*, No. 5:14-cv-00700 (C.D. Cal.); *In re Aluminum Warehousing Antitrust Litig.*, 95 F. Supp. 3d 419 (S.D.N.Y. 2015), *aff'd*, 833 F.3d 151 (2d Cir. 2016); *In re Liquid Aluminum Sulfate Antitrust Litig.*, No. 16-md-2687 (D.N.J.); *In re Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. S'holder Litig.*, No. 16-2011-CA-010616 (Fla. 4th Jud. Cir. Ct., Duval Cnty.); *Gemelas v. Dannon Co. Inc.*, No. 1:08-cv-00236 (N.D. Ohio); and *In re AuthenTec, Inc. S'holder Litig.*, No. 05-2012-CA-57589 (Fla. 18th Jud. Cir. Ct., Brevard Cnty.). Prior to joining the Firm, he founded Dearman & Gerson, where he defended Fortune 500 companies, with an emphasis on complex commercial litigation, consumer claims, and mass torts (products liability and personal injury), and has obtained extensive jury trial experience throughout the United States. Having represented defendants for so many years before joining the Firm, Dearman has a unique perspective that enables him to represent clients effectively.

## Education

B.A., University of Florida, 1990; J.D., Nova Southeastern University, 1993

## Honors / Awards

AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell; Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2020-2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2020; In top 1.5% of Florida Civil Trial Lawyers in *Florida Trend's* Florida Legal Elite, 2004, 2006



## Kathleen B. Douglas | Partner

Kathleen Douglas is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. She focuses her practice on securities fraud class actions and consumer fraud. Most recently, Douglas and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$1.21 billion settlement in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, a case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." This is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest ever.

Douglas was also a key member of the litigation team in *In re UnitedHealth Grp. Inc. PSLRA Litig.*, in which she and team of Robbins Geller attorneys achieved a substantial \$925 million recovery. In addition to the monetary recovery, UnitedHealth also made critical changes to a number of its corporate governance policies, including electing a shareholder-nominated member to the company's Board of Directors. Likewise, in *Nieman v. Duke Energy Corp.*, she and a team of attorneys obtained a \$146.25 million recovery, which is the largest recovery in North Carolina for a case involving securities fraud and is one of the five largest recoveries in the Fourth Circuit. In addition, Douglas was a member of the team of attorneys that represented investors in *Knurr v. Orbital ATK, Inc.*, which recovered \$108 million for shareholders and is believed to be the fourth-largest securities class action settlement in the history of the Eastern District of Virginia. Douglas has served as class counsel in several class actions brought on behalf of Florida emergency room physicians. These cases were against some of the nation's largest Health Maintenance Organizations and settled for substantial increases in reimbursement rates and millions of dollars in past damages for the class.

## Education

B.S., Georgetown University, 2004; J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 2007

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2023; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2012-2017; B.S., *Cum Laude*, Georgetown University, 2004

## Travis E. Downs III | Partner

Travis Downs is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. His areas of expertise include prosecution of shareholder and securities litigation, including complex shareholder derivative actions. Downs led a team of lawyers who successfully prosecuted over 65 stock option backdating derivative actions in federal and state courts across the country, resulting in hundreds of millions in financial givebacks for the plaintiffs and extensive corporate governance enhancements, including annual directors elections, majority voting for directors, and shareholder nomination of directors. Notable cases include: *In re Community Health Sys., Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.* (\$60 million in financial relief and unprecedented corporate governance reforms); *In re Marvell Tech. Grp. Ltd. Derivative Litig.* (\$54 million in financial relief and extensive corporate governance enhancements); *In re McAfee, Inc. Derivative Litig.* (\$30 million in financial relief and extensive corporate governance enhancements); *In re Affiliated Computer Servs. Derivative Litig.* (\$30 million in financial relief and extensive corporate governance enhancements); *In re KB Home S'holder Derivative Litig.* (\$30 million in financial relief and extensive corporate governance enhancements); *In re Juniper Networks Derivative Litig.* (\$22.7 million in financial relief and extensive corporate governance enhancements); *In re Nvidia Corp. Derivative Litig.* (\$15 million in financial relief and extensive corporate governance enhancements); and *City of Pontiac Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Langone* (achieving landmark corporate governance reforms for investors).

Downs was also part of the litigation team that obtained a \$67 million settlement in *City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. Stumpf*, a shareholder derivative action alleging that Wells Fargo participated in the mass-processing of home foreclosure documents by engaging in widespread robo-signing, and a \$250 million settlement in *In re Google, Inc. Derivative Litig.*, an action alleging that Google facilitated in the improper advertising of prescription drugs. Downs is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars and has lectured on a variety of topics related to shareholder derivative and class action litigation.

## Education

B.A., Whitworth University, 1985; J.D., University of Washington School of Law, 1990

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2018-2023; Top 100 Leaders in Law Honoree, *San Diego Business Journal*, 2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2021; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers*®, 2018-2021; Board of Trustees, Whitworth University; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2008; B.A., Honors, Whitworth University, 1985

## Daniel S. Drosman | Partner

Dan Drosman is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. He focuses his practice on securities fraud and other complex civil litigation and has obtained significant recoveries for investors in cases such as *Morgan Stanley*, *Cisco Systems*, *The Coca-Cola Company*, *Petco*, *PMI*, and *America West*. Drosman served as lead trial counsel in *Jaffe v. Household International* in the Northern District of Illinois, a securities class action that obtained a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a verdict for plaintiffs. Drosman also helped secure a \$388 million recovery for investors in *J.P. Morgan residential mortgage-backed securities in Fort Worth Employees' Retirement Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.* On a percentage basis, that settlement is the largest recovery ever achieved in an RMBS class action. Drosman also served as lead counsel in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, and obtained a \$350 million settlement

on the eve of trial. The settlement is fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit.

Most recently, Drosman led a team of Robbins Geller attorneys to a record-breaking \$809.5 million settlement in *In re Twitter, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, which settled the day before trial was set to commence. The settlement is the largest securities fraud class action recovery in the Ninth Circuit in the last decade and one of the top 20 shareholder class action settlements of all time. Drosman was part of the Robbins Geller litigation team in *Monroe County Employees' Retirement System v. The Southern Company* in which an \$87.5 million settlement was reached after three years of litigation. The settlement resolved claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 stemming from defendants' issuance of materially misleading statements and omissions regarding the status of construction of a first-of-its-kind "clean coal" power plant that was designed to transform coal into synthetic gas that could then be used to fuel the power plant. In another recent case, Drosman and the Robbins Geller litigation team obtained a \$62.5 million settlement in *Villella v. Chemical and Mining Company of Chile Inc.*, which alleged that Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. ("SQM") violated the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by issuing materially false and misleading statements regarding the Company's failure to disclose that money from SQM was channeled illegally to electoral campaigns for Chilean politicians and political parties as far back as 2009. SQM had also filed millions of dollars' worth of fictitious tax receipts with Chilean authorities in order to conceal bribery payments from at least 2009 through fiscal year 2014.

In a pair of cases – *Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, et al. v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.* ("Cheyne" litigation) and *King County, Washington, et al. v. IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG* ("Rhinebridge" litigation) – Drosman led a group of attorneys prosecuting fraud claims against the credit rating agencies, where he is distinguished as one of the few plaintiffs' counsel to defeat the rating agencies' traditional First Amendment defense and their motions for summary judgment based on the mischaracterization of credit ratings as mere opinions not actionable in fraud.

Before joining the Firm, Drosman served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, and an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of California, where he investigated and prosecuted violations of the federal narcotics, immigration, and official corruption law.

## Education

B.A., Reed College, 1990; J.D., Harvard Law School, 1993

## Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2018-2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2019-2023; West Trailblazer, *The American Lawyer*, 2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Top Plaintiff Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2022; Plaintiff Litigator of the Year, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2022; Lawyer of the Year, *Best Lawyers*®, 2022; Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar, *Law360*, 2022; Southern California Best Lawyers, *The Wall Street Journal*, 2021; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers*®, 2019-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2018; Top 100 Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2017; Department of Justice Special Achievement Award, Sustained Superior Performance of Duty; B.A., Honors, Reed College, 1990; *Phi Beta Kappa*, Reed College, 1990

## Eric S. Dwoskin | Partner

Eric Dwoskin is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office, where he practices consumer fraud, mass torts, whistleblower, and data breach litigation.

Before joining the Firm, Dwoskin focused on consumer financial services, employment, and other complex commercial litigation. In this capacity, he developed significant trial and appellate advocacy skills in state and federal courts around the United States. During law school, Dwoskin was a legal extern at the South African Human Rights Commission in Cape Town, South Africa and a summer law clerk for the Honorable Robert M. Gross of the Fourth District Court of Appeals in West Palm Beach, Florida. He was also an intern in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, after having received a Humanity in Action Fellowship.

## Education

B.A., Columbia University, 2008; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 2012

## Thomas E. Egler | Partner

Tom Egler is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and focuses his practice on representing clients in major complex, multidistrict litigations, such as *Lehman Brothers*, *Countrywide Mortgage Backed Securities*, *WorldCom*, *AOL Time Warner*, and *Qwest*. He has represented institutional investors both as plaintiffs in individual actions and as lead plaintiffs in class actions.

Egler also serves as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference from the Southern District of California, and in the past has served on the Executive Board of the San Diego chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. Prior to joining the Firm, Egler was a law clerk to the Honorable Donald E. Ziegler, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania.

## Education

B.A., Northwestern University, 1989; J.D., The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2018; Associate Editor, *Catholic University Law Review*

## Alan I. Ellman | Partner

Alan Ellman is a partner in the Firm's Melville office, where he concentrates his practice on prosecuting complex securities fraud cases on behalf of institutional investors. Most recently, Ellman was on the team of Robbins Geller attorneys who obtained a \$34.5 million recovery in *Patel v. L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.*, which represents a high percentage of damages that plaintiffs could reasonably expect to be recovered at trial and is more than eight times higher than the average settlement of cases with comparable investor losses. He was also on the team of attorneys who recovered in excess of \$34 million for investors in *In re OSG Sec. Litig.*, which represented an outsized recovery of 93% of bond purchasers' damages and 28% of stock purchasers' damages. The creatively structured settlement included more than \$15 million paid by a bankrupt entity.

Ellman was also on the team of Robbins Geller attorneys who achieved final approval in *Curran v. Freshpet, Inc.*, which provides for the payment of \$10.1 million for the benefit of eligible settlement class members. Additionally, he was on the team of attorneys who obtained final approval of a \$7.5 million recovery in *Plymouth County Retirement Association v. Advisory Board Company*. In 2006, Ellman received a Volunteer and Leadership Award from Housing Conservation Coordinators (HCC) for his *pro bono* service defending a client in Housing Court against a non-payment action, arguing an appeal before the Appellate Term, and staffing HCC's legal clinic. He also successfully appealed a *pro bono* client's criminal sentence before the Appellate Division.

## Education

B.S., B.A., State University of New York at Binghamton, 1999; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2003

## Honors / Awards

Pro Bono Publico Award, *Casa Cornelia Law Center*, 2021-2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2022; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2015; B.S., B.A., *Cum Laude*, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1999

## Jason A. Forge | Partner

Jason Forge is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He specializes in complex investigations, litigation, and trials. As a federal prosecutor and private practitioner, Forge has conducted and supervised scores of jury and bench trials in federal and state courts, including the month-long trial of a defense contractor who conspired with Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham in the largest bribery scheme in congressional history. He recently obtained approval of a \$160 million recovery in the first successful securities fraud case against Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in *City of Pontiac General Employees' Retirement System v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* In addition, Forge was a member of the Firm's trial team in *Hsu v. Puma Biotechnology, Inc.*, a securities fraud class action that resulted in a verdict in favor of investors after a two-week jury trial.

After the trial victory over Puma Biotechnology and Alan Auerbach, Forge joined a Robbins Geller litigation team that had defeated 12 motions for summary judgment against 40 defendants and was about to depose 17 experts in the home stretch to trial. Forge and the team used these depositions to disprove a truth-on-the-market argument that nine defense experts had embraced. Soon after the last of these expert depositions, the Robbins Geller team secured a \$1.025 billion settlement from American Realty Capital Properties and other defendants that included a record \$237 million contribution from individual

defendants and represented more than twice the recovery rate obtained by several funds that had opted out of the class.

Forge was a key member of the litigation team that secured a historic recovery on behalf of Trump University students in two class actions against President Donald J. Trump. The settlement refunds over 90% of the money thousands of students paid to “enroll” in Trump University. He represented the class on a *pro bono* basis. Forge has also successfully defeated motions to dismiss and obtained class certification against several prominent defendants, including the first federal RICO case against Scotts Miracle-Gro, which recently settled for up to \$85 million. He was a member of the litigation team that obtained a \$125 million settlement in *In re LendingClub Securities Litigation*, a settlement that ranked among the top ten largest securities recoveries ever in the Northern District of California.

In a case against another prominent defendant, Pfizer Inc., Forge led an investigation that uncovered key documents that Pfizer had not produced in discovery. Although fact discovery in the case had already closed, the district judge ruled that the documents had been improperly withheld and ordered that discovery be reopened, including reopening the depositions of Pfizer’s former CEO, CFO, and General Counsel. Less than six months after completing these depositions, Pfizer settled the case for \$400 million.

## Education

B.B.A., The University of Michigan Ross School of Business, 1990; J.D., The University of Michigan Law School, 1993

## Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2019-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers*®, 2019-2021; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2020; Plaintiffs’ Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2018; Top 100 Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2017; Litigator of the Year, *Our City San Diego*, 2017; Two-time recipient of one of Department of Justice’s highest awards: Director’s Award for Superior Performance by Litigation Team; numerous commendations from Federal Bureau of Investigation (including commendation from FBI Director Robert Mueller III), Internal Revenue Service, and Defense Criminal Investigative Service; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, Order of the Coif, The University of Michigan Law School, 1993; B.B.A., High Distinction, The University of Michigan Ross School of Business, 1990

## William J. Geddish | Partner

William Geddish is a partner with the Firm and is based in the Melville office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Before joining the Firm, he was an associate in the New York office of a large international law firm, where his practice focused on complex commercial litigation.

Since joining the Firm, Geddish has played a significant role in the following litigations: *In re Barrick Gold Sec. Litig.* (\$140 million recovery); *Scheufele v. Tableau Software, Inc.* (\$95 million recovery); *Landmen Partners, Inc. v. The Blackstone Grp., L.P.* (\$85 million recovery); *In re Jeld-Wen Holding, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$40 million recovery); *City of Austin Police Ret. Sys. v. Kinross Gold Corp.* (\$33 million recovery); *City of Roseville Emps' Ret. Sys. v. EnergySolutions, Inc.* (\$26 million recovery); *Beaver Cnty. Emps' Ret. Fund v. Tile Shop Holdings, Inc.* (\$9.5 million recovery); and *Barbara Marciano v. Schell & Kampeter, Inc.* (\$2 million recovery).

## Education

B.A., Sacred Heart University, 2006, J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 2009

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2013-2022; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, Hofstra University School of Law, 2009; Gina Maria Escarce Memorial Award, Hofstra University School of Law

## Paul J. Geller | Partner

Paul Geller, managing partner of the Firm's Boca Raton, Florida office, is a founding partner of the Firm, a member of its Management Committee, and head of the Firm's Consumer Practice Group. Geller's 29 years of litigation experience is broad, and he has handled cases in each of the Firm's practice areas. Notably, before devoting his practice to the representation of consumers and investors, he defended companies in high-stakes class action and multi-district litigation, providing him with an invaluable perspective. Geller has tried bench and jury trials on both the plaintiffs' and defendants' sides and has argued before numerous state, federal, and appellate courts throughout the country.

Geller was recently selected to serve in a leadership position on behalf of governmental entities and other plaintiffs in the sprawling litigation concerning the nationwide prescription opioid epidemic. In reporting on the selection of the lawyers to lead the case, *The National Law Journal* reported that "[t]he team reads like a 'Who's Who' in mass torts." Geller was also a critical member of the team that negotiated over \$26 billion in settlements against certain opioid distributors and manufacturers. Prior to the opioid litigation, Geller was a member of the leadership team representing consumers in the massive *Volkswagen "Clean Diesel"* emissions case. The San Francisco legal newspaper *The Recorder* labeled the group that was appointed in that case, which settled for more than \$17 billion, a "class action dream team."

Geller is currently serving as a Lead Counsel in *In re EpiPen (Epinephrine Injection, USP) Mktg., Sales Practs. & Antitrust Litig.*, a nationwide class action that alleges that pharmaceutical company Mylan N.V. and others engaged in anti-competitive and unfair business conduct in its sale and marketing of the EpiPen auto-injector device. The case was recently settled for \$609 million.

Some of Geller's other recent noteworthy successes include the largest privacy class action settlement in history – a \$650 million recovery in a cutting-edge class action in *In re Facebook Biometric Info. Privacy Litig.*, concerning Facebook's use of biometric identifiers through its "tag" feature. In addition to the monetary

recovery, Facebook recently disabled the tag feature altogether, deleting user facial profiles and discontinuing the use of facial recognition software.

## Education

B.S., University of Florida, 1990; J.D., Emory University School of Law, 1993

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell; Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (LCA) Proven Trial Lawyers; Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2006-2007, 2009-2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2017-2023; Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice, American Antitrust Institute, 2022; South Trailblazer, *The American Lawyer*, 2022; Class Action MVP, *Law360*, 2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2007-2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2021-2022; Florida Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2017-2021; One of “Florida’s Most Effective Lawyers” in the Privacy category, American Law Media, 2020; Legend, *Lawdragon*, 2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2016, 2019; Plaintiffs’ Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2018; Lawyer of the Year, *Best Lawyers®*, 2018; Attorney of the Month, *Attorney At Law*, 2017; Featured in “Lawyer Limelight” series, *Lawdragon*, 2017; Top Rated Lawyer, South Florida’s Legal Leaders, *Miami Herald*, 2015; Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2013; “Legal Elite,” *Florida Trend Magazine*; One of “Florida’s Most Effective Lawyers,” American Law Media; One of Florida’s top lawyers in *South Florida Business Journal*; One of the Nation’s Top “40 Under 40,” *The National Law Journal*; One of Florida’s Top Lawyers, *Law & Politics*; Editor, *Emory Law Journal*; Order of the Coif, Emory University School of Law

## Robert D. Gerson | Partner

Robert Gerson is a partner in the Firm’s Melville office, where he practices securities fraud litigation and other complex matters. Before joining Robbins Geller, Gerson was associated with a prominent plaintiffs’ class action firm, where he represented institutional investors in numerous securities fraud class actions, as well as “opt out” litigations. Gerson is a member of the Committee on Securities Litigation of the Bar Association of the City of New York. He is admitted to practice before the courts of the State of New York, as well as the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second and Eighth Circuits, and the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

## Education

B.A., University of Maryland, 2006; J.D., New York Law School, 2009

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2021-2022; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2020



## Jonah H. Goldstein | Partner

Jonah Goldstein is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and is responsible for prosecuting complex securities cases and obtaining recoveries for investors. He also represents corporate whistleblowers who report violations of the securities laws. Goldstein has achieved significant settlements on behalf of investors including in *In re HealthSouth Sec. Litig.* (over \$670 million recovered against HealthSouth, UBS and Ernst & Young), *In re Cisco Sec. Litig.* (approximately \$100 million), and *Marcus v. J.C. Penney Company, Inc.* (\$97.5 million recovery). Goldstein also served on the Firm's trial team in *In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.*, MDL No. 1399 (D.N.J.), which settled after two weeks of trial for \$100 million, and aided in the \$65 million recovery in *Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.*, the fourth-largest securities recovery ever in the Middle District of Tennessee and one of the largest in more than a decade. Most recently, he was part of the litigation team in *Luna v. Marvell Tech. Grp., Ltd.*, resulting in a \$72.5 million settlement that represents approximately 24% to 50% of the best estimate of classwide damages suffered by investors. Before joining the Firm, Goldstein served as a law clerk for the Honorable William H. Erickson on the Colorado Supreme Court and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, where he tried numerous cases and briefed and argued appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Education

B.A., Duke University, 1991; J.D., University of Denver College of Law, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018-2019; Comments Editor, *University of Denver Law Review*, University of Denver College of Law

## Benny C. Goodman III | Partner

Benny Goodman is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He primarily represents plaintiffs in shareholder actions on behalf of aggrieved corporations. Goodman has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in shareholder derivative actions pending in state and federal courts across the nation. Most recently, he led a team of lawyers in litigation brought on behalf of Community Health Systems, Inc., resulting in a \$60 million payment to the company, the largest recovery in a shareholder derivative action in Tennessee and the Sixth Circuit, as well as best-in-class value-enhancing corporate governance reforms that included two shareholder-nominated directors to the Community Health Board of Directors.

Similarly, Goodman recovered a \$25 million payment to Lumber Liquidators and numerous corporate governance reforms, including a shareholder-nominated director, in *In re Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.* In *In re Google Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.*, Goodman achieved groundbreaking corporate governance reforms designed to mitigate regulatory and legal compliance risk associated with online pharmaceutical advertising, including among other things, the creation of a \$250 million fund to help combat rogue pharmacies from improperly selling drugs online.

## Education

B.S., Arizona State University, 1994; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2000

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2018-2021; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017

## Elise J. Grace | Partner

Elise Grace is a partner in the San Diego office and counsels the Firm's institutional clients on options to secure premium recoveries in securities litigation both within the United States and internationally. Grace is a frequent lecturer and author on securities and accounting fraud, and develops annual MCLE and CPE accredited educational programs designed to train public fund representatives on practices to protect and maximize portfolio assets, create long-term portfolio value, and best fulfill fiduciary duties. Grace has routinely been named a Recommended Lawyer by *The Legal 500* and named a Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer by *Lawdragon*. Grace has prosecuted various significant securities fraud class actions, as well as the AOL Time Warner state and federal securities opt-out litigations, which resulted in a combined settlement of over \$629 million for defrauded investors. Before joining the Firm, Grace practiced at Clifford Chance, where she defended numerous Fortune 500 companies in securities class actions and complex business litigation.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles, 1993; J.D., Pepperdine School of Law, 1999

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2016-2017; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, Pepperdine School of Law, 1999; American Jurisprudence Bancroft-Whitney Award – Civil Procedure, Evidence, and Dalsimer Moot Court Oral Argument; Dean's Academic Scholarship Recipient, Pepperdine School of Law; B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, University of California, Los Angeles, 1993; B.A., *Phi Beta Kappa*, University of California, Los Angeles, 1993

## Tor Gronborg | Partner

Tor Gronborg is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. He often lectures on topics such as the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and electronic discovery. Gronborg has served as lead or co-lead counsel in numerous securities fraud cases that have collectively recovered more than \$4.4 billion for investors. Most recently, Gronborg and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys obtained an \$809 million settlement in *In re Twitter, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, a case that did not settle until the day before trial was set to commence.

In addition to *Twitter*, Gronborg's work has included significant recoveries against corporations such as Valeant Pharmaceuticals (\$1.21 billion), Cardinal Health (\$600 million), Motorola (\$200 million), Duke Energy (\$146.25 million), Sprint Nextel Corp. (\$131 million), and Prison Realty (\$104 million), to name a few. Gronborg was also a member of the Firm's trial team in *Hsu v. Puma Biotechnology, Inc.*, No. SACV15-0865 (C.D. Cal.), a securities fraud class action that resulted in a verdict in favor of investors after a two-week jury trial and ultimately settled for 100% of the claimed damages plus prejudgment interest.

On three separate occasions, Gronborg's pleadings have been upheld by the federal Courts of Appeals (*Broudo v. Dura Pharms., Inc.*, 339 F.3d 933 (9th Cir. 2003), *rev'd on other grounds*, 544 U.S. 336 (2005); *In re Daou Sys.*, 411 F.3d 1006 (9th Cir. 2005); *Staehr v. Hartford Fin. Servs. Grp.*, 547 F.3d 406 (2d Cir. 2008)).

## Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1991; Rotary International Scholar, University of Lancaster, U.K., 1992; J.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2022-2023; West Trailblazer, *The American Lawyer*, 2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2013-2021; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2019; Moot Court Board Member, University of California, Berkeley; AFL-CIO history scholarship, University of California, Santa Barbara

## Ellen Gusikoff Stewart | Partner

Ellen Stewart is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, and is a member of the Firm's Summer Associate Hiring Committee. She currently practices in the Firm's settlement department, negotiating and documenting complex securities, merger, ERISA, and derivative action settlements. Notable settlements include: *In re Facebook Biometric Info. Privacy Litig.* (N.D. Cal. 2021) (\$650 million); *KBC Asset Management v. 3D Systems Corp.* (D.S.C. 2018) (\$50 million); *Luna v. Marvell Tech. Grp.* (N.D. Cal. 2018) (\$72.5 million); *Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.* (M.D. Tenn. 2015) (\$65 million); and *City of Sterling Heights Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys v. Hospira, Inc.* (N.D. Ill. 2014) (\$60 million).

Stewart has served on the Federal Bar Association Ad Hoc Committee for the revisions to the Settlement Guidelines for the Northern District of California and was a contributor to the Guidelines and Best Practices – Implementing 2018 Amendments to Rule 23 Class Action Settlement Provisions manual of the Bolch Judicial Institute at the Duke University School of Law.

## Education

B.A., Muhlenberg College, 1986; J.D., Case Western Reserve University, 1989

## Honors / Awards

Rated Distinguished by Martindale-Hubbell

## Robert Henssler | Partner

Bobby Henssler is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where he focuses his practice on securities fraud and other complex civil litigation. He has obtained significant recoveries for investors in cases such as *Enron*, *Blackstone*, and *CIT Group*. Henssler is currently a key member of the team of attorneys prosecuting fraud claims against Goldman Sachs stemming from Goldman's conduct in subprime mortgage transactions (including "Abacus").

Most recently, Henssler and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys a \$1.21 billion settlement in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, a case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." This is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest ever.

Henssler was also lead counsel in *Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.*, which resulted in a \$215 million recovery for shareholders, the largest securities class action recovery ever in Tennessee. The recovery achieved represents more than 30% of the aggregate classwide damages, far exceeding the typical recovery in a securities class action. Henssler also led the litigation teams in *Marcus v. J.C. Penney Company, Inc.* (\$97.5 million recovery), *Landmen Partners Inc. v. The Blackstone Group L.P.* (\$85 million recovery), *In re Novatel Wireless Sec. Litig.* (\$16 million recovery), *Carpenters Pension Trust Fund of St. Louis v. Barclays PLC* (\$14 million settlement), and *Kmiec v. Powerwave Technologies, Inc.* (\$8.2 million settlement), to name a few.

## Education

B.A., University of New Hampshire, 1997; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2001

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2020-2022; California Lawyer of the Year, *Daily Journal*, 2022; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018-2019

## Steven F. Hubachek | Partner

Steve Hubachek is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He is a member of the Firm's appellate group, where his practice concentrates on federal appeals. He has more than 25 years of appellate experience, has argued over 100 federal appeals, including 3 cases before the United States Supreme Court and 7 cases before en banc panels of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to his work with the Firm, Hubachek joined Perkins Coie in Seattle, Washington, as an associate. He was admitted to the Washington State Bar in 1987 and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1990, practicing for many years with Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. He also had an active trial practice, including over 30 jury trials, and was Chief Appellate Attorney for Federal Defenders.

### Education

B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1983; J.D., Hastings College of the Law, 1987

### Honors / Awards

AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2014-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2007-2009, 2019-2021; Assistant Federal Public Defender of the Year, National Federal Public Defenders Association, 2011; Appellate Attorney of the Year, San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association, 2011 (co-recipient); President's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, Mid City Little League, San Diego, 2011; E. Stanley Conant Award for exceptional and unselfish devotion to protecting the rights of the indigent accused, 2009 (joint recipient); *The Daily Transcript* Top Attorneys, 2007; J.D., *Cum Laude*, Order of the Coif, Thurston Honor Society, Hastings College of Law, 1987

## James I. Jaconette | Partner

James Jaconette is one of the founding partners of the Firm and is located in its San Diego office. He manages cases in the Firm's securities class action and shareholder derivative litigation practices. He has served as one of the lead counsel in securities cases with recoveries to individual and institutional investors totaling over \$8 billion. He also advises institutional investors, including hedge funds, pension funds, and financial institutions. Landmark securities actions in which he contributed in a primary litigating role include *In re Informix Corp. Sec. Litig.*, and *In re Dynegy Inc. Sec. Litig.* and *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.*, where he represented lead plaintiff The Regents of the University of California. Most recently, Jaconette was part of the trial team in *Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.*, which resulted in a \$215 million recovery for shareholders, the largest securities class action recovery ever in Tennessee. The recovery achieved represents more than 30% of the aggregate classwide damages, far exceeding the typical recovery in a securities class action.

### Education

B.A., San Diego State University, 1989; M.B.A., San Diego State University, 1992; J.D., University of California Hastings College of the Law, 1995

### Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of California Hastings College of the Law, 1995; Associate Articles Editor, *Hastings Law Journal*, University of California Hastings College of the Law; B.A., with Honors and Distinction, San Diego State University, 1989

## J. Marco Janoski Gray | Partner

Marco Janoski is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. He was part of the litigation team for *Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.*, which resulted in a \$215 million recovery for shareholders, the largest securities class action recovery ever in Tennessee. The recovery achieved represents more than 30% of the aggregate classwide damages, far exceeding the typical recovery in a securities class action. He was also a member of the Firm's trial team in *Hsu v. Puma Biotechnology, Inc.*, a securities fraud class action that resulted in a verdict in favor of investors after a two-week jury trial. Janoski also obtained a \$350 million settlement on the eve of trial in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, the fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit. Most recently, Janoski and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys obtained an \$809.5 million settlement in *In re Twitter, Inc. Securities Litigation*, a case that did not settle until the day before trial was set to commence. The settlement is the largest securities fraud class action recovery in the Ninth Circuit in the last decade.

## Education

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2010-2011; B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2011; J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2015

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2015

## Rachel L. Jensen | Partner

Rachel Jensen is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office who specializes in securities fraud, consumer fraud, RICO, and antitrust actions. Jensen has developed a 20-year track record of success in crafting impactful business reforms and helping to recover billions of dollars on behalf of working families, businesses, and government entities.

Jensen was one of the lead attorneys representing Trump University students nationwide in high-profile litigation that yielded nearly 100% of the "tuition" students paid, and did so on a *pro bono* basis. As court-appointed Plaintiffs' Steering Committee member in the Fiat Chrysler EcoDiesel litigation, Jensen helped obtain an \$840 million global settlement for concealed defeat devices in over 100,000 vehicles. Jensen also represented drivers against Volkswagen in one of the most brazen corporate frauds in recent history, helping recover \$17 billion for emissions cheating in "clean" diesel vehicles.

As reported in *The Washington Post*, Jensen recently served as co-lead trial counsel in a *qui tam* case against a bus manufacturer to enforce a "good jobs" U.S. employment plan in a \$500 million procurement contract with LA Metro. The settlement included a historic multi-state community benefits agreement with workforce development programs, fair hiring, and equity measures in Ontario, California and Anniston, Alabama. A video about the case can be viewed here: <https://yearinreview.rgrdlaw.com/protecting-workers/>. In another landmark case, Jensen's efforts on behalf of California passengers to stop Greyhound from subjecting them to discriminatory immigration raids paid off as Greyhound no longer allows border patrol aboard without a warrant.

Among other recoveries, Jensen has played significant roles in *In re LendingClub Sec. Litig.* (N.D. Cal.) (\$125 million securities fraud settlement ranked among top 10 in N.D. Cal.); *Negrete v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.* (C.D. Cal.) (\$250 million to senior citizens targeted for deferred annuities that would not mature in their lifetimes); *In re Morning Song Bird Food Litig.* (S.D. Cal.) (\$85 million in refunds to bird lovers for



wild bird food treated with pesticides hazardous to birds); *City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. Stumpf* (N.D. Cal.) (\$67 million in homeowner down-payment assistance and credit counseling for cities hit by foreclosure crisis and computer integration for mortgage servicing in “robo-signing” case); *In re Mattel, Inc., Toy Lead Paint Prods. Liab. Litig.* (C.D. Cal.) (\$50 million in refunds and quality assurance reforms for toys made in China with lead and magnets); and *In re Checking Account Overdraft Litig.* (S.D. Fla.) (\$500 million in settlements with major banks for manipulating debit transactions to maximize overdraft fees).

Before joining the practice, Jensen clerked for the late Honorable Warren J. Ferguson on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; associated with Morrison & Foerster LLP in San Francisco; and worked abroad in Arusha, Tanzania as a law clerk in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (“ICTR”) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (“ICTY”), located in The Hague, Netherlands.

## Education

B.A., Florida State University, 1997; University of Oxford, International Human Rights Law Program at New College, Summer 1998; J.D., Georgetown University Law School, 2000

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2017-2023; Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2021; Best Lawyer in Southern California: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021; Top Woman Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2017, 2020; California Trailblazer, *The Recorder*, 2019; Plaintiffs’ Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2018; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015; Nominated for 2011 Woman of the Year, *San Diego Magazine*; Editor-in-Chief, *First Annual Review of Gender and Sexuality Law*, Georgetown University Law School; Dean’s List 1998-1999; B.A., *Cum Laude*, Florida State University’s Honors Program, 1997; *Phi Beta Kappa*

## Steven M. Jodlowski | Partner

Steven Jodlowski is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. His practice focuses on high-stakes complex litigation, often involving antitrust, securities, and consumer claims. In recent years, he has specialized in representing investors in a series of antitrust actions involving the manipulation of benchmark rates, including the *ISDAfix Benchmark* litigation, which to date resulted in the recovery of \$504.5 million on behalf of investors, and *In re SSA Bonds Antitrust Litig.*, which resulted in the recovery of \$95.5 million on behalf of investors. He is currently serving as interim co-lead class counsel in *Thompson v. 1-800 Contacts, Inc.*, where the court has granted preliminary approval of \$24.9 million in settlements. Jodlowski was also part of the trial team in an antitrust monopolization case against a multinational computer and software company.

Jodlowski has successfully prosecuted numerous antitrust and RICO cases. These cases resulted in the recovery of more than \$1 billion for investors and policyholders. Jodlowski has also represented institutional and individual shareholders in corporate takeover actions in state and federal court. He has handled pre- and post-merger litigation stemming from the acquisition of publicly listed companies in the biotechnology, oil and gas, information technology, specialty retail, electrical, banking, finance, and real estate industries, among others.

## Education

B.B.A., University of Central Oklahoma, 2002; J.D., California Western School of Law, 2005

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2019; Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice, American Antitrust Institute, 2018; CAOC Consumer Attorney of the Year Award Finalist, 2015; J.D., *Cum Laude*, California Western School of Law, 2005

## Chad Johnson | Partner

Chad Johnson is the Managing Partner of the Firm's Manhattan office. Johnson has been litigating complex securities cases and breach of fiduciary duty actions for more than 30 years. Johnson's background includes decades as a plaintiffs' lawyer, a securities-fraud prosecutor, and as a defense lawyer. Johnson's cases in the private sector have recovered more than \$9 billion for investors.

Johnson previously served as Deputy Attorney General for the State of New York and was the head of New York's securities fraud unit. In that role, Johnson helped recover billions of dollars and make new law beneficial to investors. In that law enforcement position, Johnson successfully pursued cases against Wall Street dark pool operators, among others, for false statements made to the investing public.

Johnson represents institutional and individual investors in securities and breach of fiduciary duty cases, including representing investors in direct or opt-out actions and in individual and class actions. Johnson represents some of the world's largest and most sophisticated asset managers, public pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds. Johnson also represents and works with whistleblowers.

Johnson's cases have resulted in some of the largest recoveries for shareholders on record. This includes \$1 billion recovered for shareholders in the Dell Class V litigation, which is nearly four times the next-largest comparable recovery in the Delaware Court of Chancery. This recovery of \$1 billion was announced in late 2022 on eve of trial and is subject to court approval. Johnson also helped lead cases that resulted in recoveries in: *WorldCom* (more than \$6 billion recovered for shareholders); *Wachovia* (\$627 million recovered for shareholders); *Williams* (\$311 million recovered for shareholders); and *Washington Mutual* (\$208 million recovered for shareholders).

While a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New York and Chief of the New York Investor Protection Bureau, Johnson helped recover \$16.65 billion from Bank of America and \$13 billion from JP Morgan Chase on behalf of state and federal working groups focused on toxic residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) devised and sold by those banks.

Johnson has successfully tried cases in federal and state courts, in the Delaware Court of Chancery, and before arbitration tribunals in the United States and overseas. Johnson also advises institutional and other investors about how best to enforce their rights as shareholders.

## Education

B.A., University of Michigan, 1989; J.D., Harvard Law School, 1993

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Cum Laude*, Harvard Law School, 1993; B.A., High Distinction, University of Michigan, 1989

## Evan J. Kaufman | Partner

Evan Kaufman is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. He focuses his practice in the area of complex litigation, including securities, ERISA, corporate fiduciary duty, derivative, and consumer fraud class actions. Kaufman has served as lead counsel or played a significant role in numerous actions, including: *In re TD Banknorth S'holders Litig.* (\$50 million recovery); *In re Gen. Elec. Co. ERISA Litig.* (\$40 million cost to GE, including significant improvements to GE's employee retirement plan, and benefits to GE plan participants valued in excess of \$100 million); *EnergySolutions, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$26 million recovery); *Lockheed Martin Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$19.5 million recovery); *In re Warner Chilcott Ltd. Sec. Litig.* (\$16.5 million recovery); *In re Third Avenue Mgmt. Sec. Litig.* (\$14.25 million recovery); *In re Giant Interactive Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$13 million recovery); *In re Royal Grp. Tech. Sec. Litig.* (\$9 million recovery); *Fidelity Ultra Short Bond Fund Litig.* (\$7.5 million recovery); *In re Audiovox Derivative Litig.* (\$6.75 million recovery and corporate governance reforms); *State Street Yield Plus Fund Litig.* (\$6.25 million recovery); *In re Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., Internet Strategies Sec. Litig.* (resolved as part of a \$39 million global settlement); and *In re MONY Grp., Inc. S'holder Litig.* (obtained preliminary injunction requiring disclosures in proxy statement).

## Education

B.A., University of Michigan, 1992; J.D., Fordham University School of Law, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2013-2015, 2017-20120; Member, *Fordham International Law Journal*, Fordham University School of Law

## Ashley M. Kelly | Partner

Ashley Kelly is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where she represents large institutional and individual investors as a member of the Firm's antitrust and securities fraud practices. Her work is primarily federal and state class actions involving the federal antitrust and securities laws, common law fraud, breach of contract, and accounting violations. Kelly's case work has been in the financial services, oil & gas, e-commerce, and technology industries. In addition to being an attorney, she is a Certified Public Accountant. Kelly was an important member of the litigation team that obtained a \$500 million settlement on behalf of investors in *Luther v. Countrywide Fin. Corp.*, which was the largest residential mortgage-backed securities purchaser class action recovery in history.

## Education

B.S., Pennsylvania State University, 2005; J.D., Rutgers University-Camden, 2011

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016, 2018-2021

## David A. Knotts | Partner

David Knotts is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and, in addition to ongoing litigation work, teaches a full-semester course on M&A litigation at the University of California Berkeley School of Law. He focuses his practice on securities class action litigation in the context of mergers and acquisitions, representing both individual shareholders and institutional investors. Knotts has been counsel of record for shareholders on a number of significant recoveries in courts and throughout the country, including *In re Rural/Metro Corp. S'holders Litig.* (nearly \$110 million total recovery, affirmed by the Delaware Supreme Court in *RBC v. Jervis*), *In re Del Monte Foods Co. S'holders Litig.* (\$89.4 million), *Websense* (\$40 million), *In re Onyx S'holders Litig.* (\$30 million), and *Joy Global* (\$20 million). *Websense* and *Onyx* are both believed to be the largest post-merger class settlements in California state court history. When Knotts recently presented the settlement as lead counsel for the stockholders in *Joy Global*, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin noted that "this is a pretty extraordinary settlement, recovery on behalf of the members of the class. . . . [I]t's always a pleasure to work with people who are experienced and who know what they are doing."

Before joining Robbins Geller, Knotts was an associate at one of the largest law firms in the world and represented corporate clients in various aspects of state and federal litigation, including major antitrust matters, trade secret disputes, and unfair competition claims.

## Education

B.S., University of Pittsburgh, 2001; J.D., Cornell Law School, 2004

## Honors / Awards

40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018, 2020-2021; Next Generation Partner, *The Legal 500*, 2019-2021; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2019; Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, State Bar of California; Casa Cornelia Inns of Court; J.D., *Cum Laude*, Cornell Law School, 2004

## Laurie L. Largent | Partner

Laurie Largent is a partner in the Firm's San Diego, California office. Her practice focuses on securities class action and shareholder derivative litigation and she has helped recover millions of dollars for injured shareholders. Largent was part of the litigation team that obtained a \$265 million recovery in *In re Massey Energy Co. Sec. Litig.*, in which Massey was found accountable for a tragic explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine in Raleigh County, West Virginia. She also helped obtain \$67.5 million for Wyeth shareholders in *City of Livonia Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Wyeth*, settling claims that the defendants misled investors about the safety and commercial viability of one of the company's leading drug candidates. Most recently, Largent was on the team that secured a \$64 million recovery for Dana Corp. shareholders in *Plumbers & Pipefitters Nat'l Pension Fund v. Burns*, in which the Firm's Appellate Practice Group successfully appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals twice, reversing the district court's dismissal of the action. Some of Largent's other cases include: *In re Sanofi-Aventis Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$40 million); *In re Bridgepoint Educ., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (S.D. Cal.) (\$15.5 million); *Ross v. Abercrombie & Fitch Co.* (S.D. Ohio) (\$12 million); *Maiman v. Talbott* (C.D. Cal.) (\$8.25 million); *In re Cafepress Inc. S'holder Litig.* (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cnty.) (\$8 million); and *Krystek v. Ruby Tuesday, Inc.* (M.D. Tenn.) (\$5 million). Largent's current cases include securities fraud cases against Dell, Inc. (W.D. Tex.) and Banc of California (C.D. Cal.).

Largent is a past board member on the San Diego County Bar Foundation and the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. She has also served as an Adjunct Business Law Professor at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, California.

## Education

B.B.A., University of Oklahoma, 1985; J.D., University of Tulsa, 1988

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Board Member, San Diego County Bar Foundation, 2013-2017; Board Member, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, 2014-2017

## Kevin A. Lavelle | Partner

Kevin Lavelle is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation.

Lavelle has served on numerous litigation teams and helped obtain over \$500 million for investors. His work includes several significant recoveries against corporations, including HCA Holdings, Inc. (\$215 million); Altria Group and JUUL Labs (\$90 million); Endo Pharmaceuticals (\$63 million); and Intercept Pharmaceuticals (\$55 million), among others.

## Education

B.A., College of the Holy Cross, 2008; J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2013

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Cum Laude*, Brooklyn Law School, 2013; B.A., *Cum Laude*, College of the Holy Cross, 2008

## Nathan R. Lindell | Partner

Nate Lindell is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on representing aggrieved investors in complex civil litigation. He has helped achieve numerous significant recoveries for investors, including: *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$7.2 billion recovery); *In re HealthSouth Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$671 million recovery); *Luther v. Countrywide Fin. Corp.* (\$500 million recovery); *Fort Worth Emps.' Ret. Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.* (\$388 million recovery); *NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.* (\$272 million recovery); *In re Morgan Stanley Mortg. Pass-Through Certificates Litig.* (\$95 million recovery); *Massachusetts Bricklayers & Masons Tr. Funds v. Deutsche Alt-A Sec., Inc.* (\$32.5 million recovery); *City of Ann Arbor Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Citigroup Mortg. Loan Trust Inc.* (\$24.9 million recovery); *Plumbers' Union Local No. 12 Pension Fund v. Nomura Asset Acceptance Corp.* (\$21.2 million recovery); and *Genesee Cnty. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Thornburg Mortg., Inc.* (\$11.25 million recovery). In October 2016, Lindell successfully argued in front of the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, for the reversal of an earlier order granting defendants' motion to dismiss in *Phoenix Light SF Limited v. Morgan Stanley*.

Lindell was also a member of the litigation team responsible for securing a landmark victory from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in its precedent-setting *NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.* decision, which dramatically expanded the scope of permissible class actions asserting claims under the Securities Act of 1933 on behalf of mortgage-backed securities investors, and ultimately resulted in a \$272 million recovery for investors.

## Education

B.S., Princeton University, 2003; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2006

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2017; Charles W. Caldwell Alumni Scholarship, University of San Diego School of Law; CALI/AmJur Award in Sports and the Law

## Ryan Llorens | Partner

Ryan Llorens is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Llorens' practice focuses on litigating complex securities fraud cases. He has worked on a number of securities cases that have resulted in significant recoveries for investors, including: *In re HealthSouth Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$670 million); *AOL Time Warner* (\$629 million); *In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$100 million); *In re Fleming Cos. Sec. Litig.* (\$95 million); and *In re Cooper Cos., Inc. Sec Litig.* (\$27 million).

## Education

B.A., Pitzer College, 1997; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2002

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015

## Andrew S. Love | Partner

Andrew Love is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office. His practice focuses primarily on appeals of securities fraud class action cases. Love has briefed and argued cases on behalf of defrauded investors and consumers in several U.S. Courts of Appeal, as well as in the California appellate courts. Prior to joining the Firm, Love represented inmates on California's death row in appellate and habeas corpus proceedings, successfully arguing capital cases in both the California Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit. During his many years as a death penalty lawyer, he co-chaired the Capital Case Defense Seminar (2004-2013), recognized as the largest conference for death penalty practitioners in the country. He regularly presented at the seminar and at other conferences on a wide variety of topics geared towards effective appellate practice. Additionally, he was on the faculty of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's Post-Conviction Skills Seminar. Love has also written several articles on appellate advocacy and capital punishment that have appeared in *The Daily Journal*, *CACJ Forum*, *American Constitution Society*, and other publications.

## Education

University of Vermont, 1981; J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law, 1985

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of San Francisco School of Law, 1985; McAuliffe Honor Society, University of San Francisco School of Law, 1982-1985



## Erik W. Luedeke | Partner

Erik Luedeke is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where he represents individual and institutional investors in shareholder derivative and securities litigation. As corporate fiduciaries, directors and officers are duty-bound to act in the best interest of the corporation and its shareholders. When they fail to do so they breach their fiduciary duty and may be held liable for harm caused to the corporation. Luedeke's shareholder derivative practice focuses on litigating breach of fiduciary duty and related claims on behalf of corporations and shareholders injured by wayward corporate fiduciaries. Notable shareholder derivative actions in which he recently participated and the recoveries he helped to achieve include *In re Community Health Sys., Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.* (\$60 million in financial relief and unprecedented corporate governance reforms), *In re Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.* (\$26 million in financial relief plus substantial governance), and *In re Google Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.* (\$250 million in financial relief to fund substantial governance).

Luedeke's practice also includes the prosecution of complex securities class action cases on behalf of aggrieved investors. Luedeke was a member of the litigation team in *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, No. 02-C-5893 (N.D. Ill.), that resulted in a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial ending in a plaintiffs' verdict. He was also a member of the litigation teams in *In re UnitedHealth Grp. Inc. PSLRA Litig.*, No. 06-CV-1691 (D. Minn.) (\$925 million recovery), and *In re Questcor Pharms., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 8:12-cv-01623 (C.D. Cal.) (\$38 million recovery).

## Education

B.S./B.A., University of California Santa Barbara, 2001; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2006

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2017; Student Comment Editor, *San Diego International Law Journal*, University of San Diego School of Law

## Christopher H. Lyons | Partner

Christopher Lyons is a partner in the Firm's Nashville office. He focuses his practice on representing institutional and individual investors in merger-related class action litigation and in complex securities litigation. Lyons has been a significant part of litigation teams that have achieved substantial recoveries for investors. Notable cases include *CoreCivic (Grae v. Corrections Corporation of America)* (\$56 million recovered), *Good Technology* (\$52 million recovered for investors in a privately held technology company), *Nissan* (\$36 million recovered), *Blackhawk Network Holdings* (\$29.5 million recovered), and *The Fresh Market (Morrison v. Berry)* (\$27.5 million recovered). His *pro bono* work includes representing individuals who are appealing denial of necessary medical benefits by TennCare (Tennessee's Medicaid program), through the Tennessee Justice Center.

Before joining Robbins Geller, Lyons practiced at a prominent Delaware law firm, where he mostly represented corporate officers and directors defending against breach of fiduciary duty claims in the Delaware Court of Chancery and in the Delaware Supreme Court. Before that, he clerked for Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster of the Delaware Court of Chancery. Lyons now applies the expertise he gained from those experiences to help investors uncover wrongful conduct and recover the money and other remedies to which they are rightfully entitled.

## Education

B.A., Colorado College, 2006; J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School, 2010

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2022-2023; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2018-2020; B.A., Distinction in International Political Economy, Colorado College, 2006; J.D., Law & Business Certificate, Vanderbilt University Law School, 2010

## Noam Mandel | Partner

Noam Mandel is a partner in the Firm's Manhattan office. Mandel has extensive experience in all aspects of litigation on behalf of investors, including securities law claims, corporate derivative actions, fiduciary breach class actions, and appraisal litigation. Mandel has represented investors in federal and state courts throughout the United States and has significant experience advising investors concerning their interests in litigation and investigating and prosecuting claims on their behalf.

Mandel has served as counsel in numerous outstanding securities litigation recoveries, including in *In re Nortel Networks Corporation Securities Litigation* (\$1.07 billion shareholder recovery), *Ohio Public Employees Retirement System v. Freddie Mac* (\$410 million shareholder recovery), and *In re Satyam Computer Services, Ltd. Securities Litigation* (\$150 million shareholder recovery). Mandel has also served as counsel in notable fiduciary breach class and derivative actions, particularly before the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware. These actions include the groundbreaking fiduciary duty litigation challenging the CVS/Caremark merger (*Louisiana Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System v. Crawford*), which resulted in more than \$3.3 billion in additional consideration for Caremark shareholders. Mandel currently serves as counsel in *In re Dell Technologies Inc. Class V Stockholders Litigation*, which is presently before the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware.

## Education

B.S., Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, 1998; J.D., Boston University School of Law, 2002

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Cum Laude*, Boston University School of Law, 2002; Member, *Boston University Law Review*, Boston University School of Law

## Mark T. Millkey | Partner

Mark Millkey is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. He has significant experience in the areas of securities and consumer litigation, as well as in federal and state court appeals.

During his career, Millkey has worked on a major consumer litigation against MetLife that resulted in a benefit to the class of approximately \$1.7 billion, as well as a securities class action against Royal Dutch/Shell that settled for a minimum cash benefit to the class of \$130 million and a contingent value of more than \$180 million. Since joining Robbins Geller, he has worked on securities class actions that have resulted in more than \$1.5 billion in settlements.

## Education

B.A., Yale University, 1981; M.A., University of Virginia, 1983; J.D., University of Virginia, 1987

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2013-2022

## David W. Mitchell | Partner

David Mitchell is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and focuses his practice on antitrust and securities fraud litigation. He is a former federal prosecutor who has tried nearly 20 jury trials. As head of the Firm's Antitrust and Competition Law Practice Group, he has served as lead or co-lead counsel in numerous cases and has helped achieve substantial settlements for shareholders. His most notable antitrust cases include *Dahl v. Bain Cap. Partners, LLC*, obtaining more than \$590 million for shareholders, and *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litig.*, in which a settlement of \$5.5 billion was approved in the Eastern District of New York. This case was brought on behalf of millions of U.S. merchants against Visa and MasterCard and various card-issuing banks, challenging the way these companies set and collect tens of billions of dollars annually in merchant fees. The settlement is believed to be the largest antitrust class action settlement of all time.

Additionally, Mitchell served as co-lead counsel in the ISDAfix Benchmark action against 14 major banks and broker ICAP plc, obtaining \$504.5 million for plaintiffs. Currently, Mitchell serves as court-appointed lead counsel in *In re Aluminum Warehousing Antitrust Litig., City of Providence, Rhode Island v. BATS Global Markets Inc., In re SSA Bonds Antitrust Litig., In re Remicade Antitrust Litig., and In re 1-800 Contacts Antitrust Litig.*

## Education

B.A., University of Richmond, 1995; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 1998

## Honors / Awards

Member, Enright Inn of Court; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2020-2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2018-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Top 50 Lawyers in San Diego, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2021; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers®*, 2018-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2021; Honoree, Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice, American Antitrust Institute, 2018; Antitrust Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2015; "Best of the Bar," *San Diego Business Journal*, 2014

## Danielle S. Myers | Partner

Danielle Myers is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and focuses her practice on complex securities litigation. Myers is one of the partners who oversees the Portfolio Monitoring Program® and provides legal recommendations to the Firm's institutional investor clients on their options to maximize recoveries in securities litigation, both within the United States and internationally, from inception to settlement. She is also part of Robbins Geller's SPAC Task Force, which is dedicated to rooting out and prosecuting fraud on behalf of injured investors in special purpose acquisition companies.

Myers advises the Firm's clients in connection with lead plaintiff applications and has helped secure appointment of the Firm's clients as lead plaintiff and the Firm's appointment as lead counsel in hundreds of securities class actions, which cases have yielded more than \$4 billion for investors, including 2018-2021 recoveries in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 3:15-cv-07658 (D.N.J.) (\$1.2 billion); *In re Am. Realty Cap. Proprs., Inc. Litig.*, No. 1:15-mc-00040 (S.D.N.Y.) (\$1.025 billion); *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, No. 2:12-cv-00555 (D. Ariz.) (\$350 million); *City of Pontiac Gen. Ret. Sys. v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, No. 5:12-cv-5162 (W.D. Ark.) (\$160 million); *Evellard v. LendingClub Corp.*, No. 3:16-cv-02627 (N.D. Cal.) (\$125 million); *Knurr v. Orbital ATK, Inc.*, No. 1:16-cv-01031 (E.D. Va.) (\$108 million); and *Marcus v. J.C. Penney Co., Inc.*, No. 6:13-cv-00736 (E.D. Tex.) (\$97.5 million). Myers is also a frequent presenter on securities fraud and corporate governance reform at conferences and events around the world.

## Education

B.A., University of California at San Diego, 1997; J.D., University of San Diego, 2008

## Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2022-2023; Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021-2023; Top 100 Leaders in Law Honoree, *San Diego Business Journal*, 2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022; Leading Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2020-2022; Best Lawyer in Southern California: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021; Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019-2020; Next Generation Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2019; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2019; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2018; One of the "Five Associates to Watch in 2012," *Daily Journal*; Member, *San Diego Law Review*; CALI Excellence Award in Statutory Interpretation

## Eric I. Niehaus | Partner

Eric Niehaus is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on complex securities and derivative litigation. His efforts have resulted in numerous multi-million dollar recoveries to shareholders and extensive corporate governance changes. Notable examples include: *In re NYSE Specialists Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.); *In re Novatel Wireless Sec. Litig.* (S.D. Cal.); *Batwin v. Occam Networks, Inc.* (C.D. Cal.); *Comm'ns Workers of Am. Plan for Employees' Pensions and Death Benefits v. CSK Auto Corp.* (D. Ariz.); *Marie Raymond Revocable Trust v. Mat Five* (Del. Ch.); and *Kelleher v. ADVO, Inc.* (D. Conn.). He most recently prosecuted a case against Stamps.com in the Central District of California that resulted in a \$100 million settlement for shareholders of the company's stock. Before joining the Firm, Niehaus worked as a Market Maker on the American Stock Exchange in New York and the Pacific Stock Exchange in San Francisco.

## Education

B.S., University of Southern California, 1999; J.D., California Western School of Law, 2005

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2016; J.D., *Cum Laude*, California Western School of Law, 2005; Member, *California Western Law Review*

## Erika Oliver | Partner

Erika Oliver is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Before joining the Firm, Erika served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Anthony J. Battaglia of the Southern District of California. At the Firm, her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Most recently, Erika and Luke Brooks defeated defendants' motion to dismiss securities fraud claims arising from purchases on Israel's Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in *In re Teva Sec. Litig.* (D. Conn.). Erika was also a member of the litigation teams of Robbins Geller attorneys that successfully recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for investors in securities class actions, including *In re Novo Nordisk Sec. Litig.* (D.N.J.) (\$100 million recovery), *Fleming v. Impax Labs, Inc.* (N.D. Cal.) (\$33 million recovery), and *In re Banc of California Sec. Litig.* (C.D. Cal.) (\$19.75 million recovery).

## Education

B.S., San Diego State University, 2009; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2015

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021-2023; Best Lawyer in Southern California: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, University of San Diego School of Law, 2015; B.S., *Cum Laude*, San Diego State University, 2009

## Lucas F. Olts | Partner

Luke Olts is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on securities litigation on behalf of individual and institutional investors. Olts recently served as lead counsel in *In re Facebook Biometric Info. Privacy Litig.*, a cutting-edge class action concerning Facebook's alleged privacy violations through its collection of users' biometric identifiers without informed consent that resulted in a \$650 million settlement. Olts has focused on litigation related to residential mortgage-backed securities, and has served as lead counsel or co-lead counsel in some of the largest recoveries arising from the collapse of the mortgage market. For example, he was a member of the team that recovered \$388 million for investors in J.P. Morgan residential mortgage-backed securities in *Fort Worth Emps.' Ret. Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.*, and a member of the litigation team responsible for securing a \$272 million settlement on behalf of mortgage-backed securities investors in *NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.* Olts also served as co-lead counsel in *In re Wachovia Preferred Sec. & Bond/Notes Litig.*, which recovered \$627 million under the Securities Act of 1933. He also served as lead counsel in *Siracusano v. Matrixx Initiatives, Inc.*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the decision of the Ninth Circuit that plaintiffs stated a claim for securities fraud under §10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and SEC Rule 10b-5. Olts also served on the litigation team in *In re Deutsche Bank AG Sec. Litig.*, in which the Firm obtained a \$18.5 million settlement in a case against Deutsche Bank and certain of its officers alleging violations of the Securities Act of 1933. Before joining the Firm, Olts served as a Deputy District Attorney for the County of Sacramento, where he tried numerous cases to verdict, including crimes of domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2001; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2004

## Honors / Awards

Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2020; Next Generation Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017; Top Litigator Under 40, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2017; Under 40 Hotlist, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016

## Steven W. Pepich | Partner

Steve Pepich is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. His practice has focused primarily on securities class action litigation, but has also included a wide variety of complex civil cases, including representing plaintiffs in mass tort, royalty, civil rights, human rights, ERISA, and employment law actions. Pepich has participated in the successful prosecution of numerous securities class actions, including: *Carpenters Health & Welfare Fund v. Coca-Cola Co.* (\$137.5 million recovery); *In re Fleming Cos. Inc. Sec. & Derivative Litig.* (\$95 million recovered); *In re Boeing Sec. Litig.* (\$92 million recovery); *In re Louisiana-Pacific Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$65 million recovery); *Haw. Structural Ironworkers Pension Trust Fund v. Calpine Corp.* (\$43 million recovery); *In re Advanced Micro Devices Sec. Litig.* (\$34 million recovery); and *Gohler v. Wood*, (\$17.2 million recovery). Pepich was a member of the plaintiffs' trial team in *Mynaf v. Taco Bell Corp.*, which settled after two months of trial on terms favorable to two plaintiff classes of restaurant workers for recovery of unpaid wages. He was also a member of the plaintiffs' trial team in *Newman v. Stringfellow* where, after a nine-month trial in Riverside, California, all claims for exposure to toxic chemicals were ultimately resolved for \$109 million.

## Education

B.S., Utah State University, 1980; J.D., DePaul University, 1983

## Daniel J. Pfefferbaum | Partner

Daniel Pfefferbaum is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. He has been a member of litigation teams that have recovered more than \$250 million for investors, including: *City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. Metlife Inc.* (\$84 million recovery); *Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Sols., Inc.* (\$65 million recovery); *In re PMI Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$31.25 million recovery); *Xiang v. Inovalon Holdings, Inc.* (\$17 million recovery); *Cunha v. Hansen Natural Corp.* (\$16.25 million recovery); *In re Accuray Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$13.5 million recovery); *Twinde v. Threshold Pharms., Inc.* (\$10 million recovery); *In re Impax Labs. Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$9 million recovery); and *In re Ubiquiti Networks, Inc.* (\$6.8 million recovery). Pfefferbaum was a member of the litigation team that secured a historic recovery on behalf of Trump University students in two class actions against President Donald J. Trump. The settlement provides \$25 million to approximately 7,000 consumers. This result means individual class members are eligible for upwards of \$35,000 in restitution. He represented the class on a *pro bono* basis.

## Education

B.A., Pomona College, 2002; J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law, 2006; LL.M. in Taxation, New York University School of Law, 2007

## Honors / Awards

40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016-2020; Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2020; Top 40 Under 40, *Daily Journal*, 2017; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2013-2017



## Theodore J. Pintar | Partner

Ted Pintar is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Pintar has over 20 years of experience prosecuting securities fraud actions and derivative actions and over 15 years of experience prosecuting insurance-related consumer class actions, with recoveries in excess of \$1 billion. He was part of the litigation team in the AOL Time Warner state and federal court securities opt-out actions, which arose from the 2001 merger of America Online and Time Warner. These cases resulted in a global settlement of \$618 million. Pintar was also on the trial team in *Knapp v. Gomez*, which resulted in a plaintiff's verdict. Pintar has successfully prosecuted several RICO cases involving the deceptive sale of deferred annuities, including cases against Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America (\$250 million), American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company (\$129 million), Midland National Life Insurance Company (\$80 million), and Fidelity & Guarantee Life Insurance Company (\$53 million). He has participated in the successful prosecution of numerous other insurance and consumer class actions, including: (i) actions against major life insurance companies such as Manufacturer's Life (\$555 million initial estimated settlement value) and Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company (\$380+ million), involving the deceptive sale of life insurance; (ii) actions against major homeowners insurance companies such as Allstate (\$50 million) and Prudential Property and Casualty Co. (\$7 million); (iii) actions against automobile insurance companies such as the Auto Club and GEICO; and (iv) actions against Columbia House (\$55 million) and BMG Direct, direct marketers of CDs and cassettes. Pintar and co-counsel recently settled a securities class action for \$32.8 million against Snap, Inc. in *Snap Inc. Securities Cases*, a case alleging violations of the Securities Act of 1933. Additionally, Pintar has served as a panelist for numerous Continuing Legal Education seminars on federal and state court practice and procedure.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1984; J.D., University of Utah College of Law, 1987

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2017; CAOC Consumer Attorney of the Year Award Finalist, 2015; Note and Comment Editor, *Journal of Contemporary Law*, University of Utah College of Law; Note and Comment Editor, *Journal of Energy Law and Policy*, University of Utah College of Law

## Ashley M. Price | Partner

Ashley Price is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Price served as lead counsel in *In re Am. Realty Cap. Proprs., Inc. Litig.*, a case arising out of ARCP's manipulative accounting practices, and obtained a \$1.025 billion recovery. For five years, she and the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages of any major PSLRA case prior to trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history.

Most recently, Price was a key member of the Robbins Geller litigation team in *Monroe County Employees' Retirement System v. The Southern Company* in which an \$87.5 settlement was reached after three years of litigation. The settlement resolved claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 stemming from defendants' issuance of materially misleading statements and omissions regarding the status of construction of a first-of-its-kind "clean coal" power plant that was designed to transform coal into synthetic gas that could then be used to fuel the power plant.

## Education

B.A., Duke University, 2006; J.D., Washington University in St. Louis, School of Law, 2011

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2023; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2021

## Willow E. Radcliffe | Partner

Willow Radcliffe is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office, where she concentrates her practice in securities class action litigation in federal court. She has been significantly involved in the prosecution of numerous securities fraud claims, including actions filed against Pfizer, Inc. (\$400 million recovery), CoreCivic (*Grae v. Corrections Corporation of America*) (\$56 million recovery), Flowserve Corp. (\$55 million recovery), Santander Consumer USA Holdings Inc. (\$47 million), NorthWestern Corp. (\$40 million recovery), Ashworth, Inc. (\$15.25 million recovery), and Allscripts Healthcare Solutions, Inc. (\$9.75 million recovery). Additionally, Radcliffe has represented plaintiffs in other complex actions, including a class action against a major bank regarding the adequacy of disclosures made to consumers in California related to access checks. Before joining the Firm, she clerked for the Honorable Maria-Elena James, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles 1994; J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law, 1998

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Best Lawyer in Northern California: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2021; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2020; J.D., *Cum Laude*, Seton Hall University School of Law, 1998; Most Outstanding Clinician Award; Constitutional Law Scholar Award

## Frank A. Richter | Partner

Frank Richter is a partner in the Firm's Chicago office, where he focuses on shareholder, antitrust, and class action litigation.

Richter was an integral member of the Robbins Geller team that secured a \$1.21 billion settlement in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (D.N.J.), which is the ninth-largest securities class action settlement in history and the largest ever against a pharmaceutical manufacturer. In addition to *Valeant*, Richter has been a member of litigation teams that have secured hundreds of millions of dollars in securities class action settlements throughout the country, including in *HCA* (\$215 million, E.D. Tenn.), *Sprint* (\$131 million, D. Kan.), *Orbital ATK* (\$108 million, E.D. Va.), *Dana Corp.* (\$64 million, N.D. Ohio), *Diplomat* (\$15.5 million, N.D. Ill.), *LJM Funds* (\$12.85 million, N.D. Ill.), and *Camping World* (\$12.5 million, N.D. Ill.).

Richter also works on antitrust matters, including serving on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Dealer Mgmt. Sys. Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Ill.), and he represents plaintiffs as local counsel in class action and derivative shareholder litigation in Illinois state and federal courts.

## Education

B.A., Truman State University, 2007; M.M., DePaul University School of Music, 2009; J.D., DePaul University College of Law, 2012

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2022; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; J.D., *Summa Cum Laude*, Order of the Coif, CALI Award for highest grade in seven courses, DePaul University College of Law, 2012

## Darren J. Robbins | Partner

Darren Robbins is a founding partner of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP. Over the last two decades, Robbins has served as lead counsel in more than 100 securities class actions and has recovered billions of dollars for investors. Robbins recently served as lead counsel in *In re Am. Realty Cap. Proprs., Inc. Litig.*, a securities class action arising out of improper accounting practices, recovering more than \$1 billion for class members. The *American Realty* settlement represents the largest recovery as a percentage of damages of any major class action brought pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and resolved prior to trial. The \$1+ billion settlement included the largest personal contributions (\$237.5 million) ever made by individual defendants to a securities class action settlement.

Robbins also led Robbins Geller's prosecution of wrongdoing related to the sale of residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) prior to the global financial crisis, including an RMBS securities class action against Goldman Sachs that yielded a \$272 million recovery for investors. Robbins served as co-lead counsel in connection with a \$627 million recovery for investors in *In re Wachovia Preferred Securities & Bond/Notes Litig.*, one of the largest securities class action settlements ever involving claims brought solely under the Securities Act of 1933.

One of the hallmarks of Robbins' practice has been his focus on corporate governance reform. In *UnitedHealth*, a securities fraud class action arising out of an options backdating scandal, Robbins represented lead plaintiff CalPERS and obtained the cancellation of more than 3.6 million stock options held by the company's former CEO and secured a record \$925 million cash recovery for shareholders. He also negotiated sweeping corporate governance reforms, including the election of a shareholder-nominated director to the company's board of directors, a mandatory holding period for shares acquired via option exercise, and compensation reforms that tied executive pay to performance. Recently, Robbins led a shareholder derivative action brought by several pension funds on behalf of Community Health Systems, Inc. that yielded a \$60 million payment to Community Health as well as corporate governance reforms that included two shareholder-nominated directors, the creation and appointment of a Healthcare Law Compliance Coordinator, the implementation of an executive compensation clawback in the event of a restatement, the establishment of an insider trading controls committee, and the adoption of a political expenditure disclosure policy.

## Education

B.S., University of Southern California, 1990; M.A., University of Southern California, 1990; J.D., Vanderbilt Law School, 1993

## Honors / Awards

Lawyer of the Year: Litigation – Securities, *Best Lawyers®*, 2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2010-2023; Leading Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2020-2022; Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2014-2022; California Lawyer of the Year, *Daily Journal*, 2022; Top 50 Lawyers in San Diego, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015, 2021; Litigator of the Week, *The American Lawyer*, 2021; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers®*, 2012-2021; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2013-2018, 2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2011, 2017, 2019; Benchmark California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Lawyer of the Year, *Best Lawyers®*, 2017; Influential Business Leader, *San Diego Business Journal*, 2017; Litigator of the Year, *Our City San Diego*, 2017; One of the Top 100 Lawyers Shaping the Future, *Daily Journal*; One of the "Young Litigators 45 and Under," *The American Lawyer*; Attorney of the Year, *California Lawyer*; Managing Editor, *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*, Vanderbilt Law School

## Robert J. Robbins | Partner

Robert Robbins is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. He focuses his practice on investigating securities fraud, initiating securities class actions, and helping institutional and individual shareholders litigate their claims to recover investment losses caused by fraud. Representing shareholders in all aspects of class actions brought pursuant to the federal securities laws, Robbins provides counsel in numerous securities fraud class actions across the country, helping secure significant recoveries for investors.

Recently, Robbins was a key member of the Robbins Geller litigation team that secured a \$1.21 billion settlement in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, a case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." This is the ninth largest securities class action settlement ever and the largest against a pharmaceutical manufacturer. Robbins has also been a member of Robbins Geller litigation teams responsible for securing hundreds of millions of dollars in securities class action settlements, including: *Hospira* (\$60 million recovery); *3D Systems* (\$50 million); *CVS Caremark* (\$48 million recovery); *Baxter International* (\$42.5 million recovery); *Grubhub* (\$42 million); *R.H. Donnelley* (\$25 million recovery); *Spiegel* (\$17.5 million recovery); *TECO Energy* (\$17.35 million recovery); *AFC Enterprises* (\$17.2 million recovery); *Accretive Health* (\$14 million recovery); *Lender Processing Services* (\$14 million recovery); *Lexmark Int'l* (\$12 million); *Imperial Holdings* (\$12 million recovery); *Mannatech* (\$11.5 million recovery); *Newpark Resources* (\$9.24 million recovery); *CURO Group* (\$8.98 million); *Gilead Sciences* (\$8.25 million recovery); *TCP International* (\$7.175 million recovery); *Cryo Cell International* (\$7 million recovery); *Gainsco* (\$4 million recovery); and *Body Central* (\$3.425 million recovery).

## Education

B.S., University of Florida, 1999; J.D., University of Florida College of Law, 2002

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2017; J.D., High Honors, University of Florida College of Law, 2002; Member, *Journal of Law and Public Policy*, University of Florida College of Law; Member, *Phi Delta Phi*, University of Florida College of Law; *Pro bono* certificate, Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida; Order of the Coif

## Caroline M. Robert | Partner

Caroline Robert is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Robert has maintained an active role in litigation at the heart of the worldwide financial crisis. She was part of the litigation teams that secured settlements for institutional investors against Wall Street banks for their role in structuring residential mortgage-backed securities and their subsequent collapse. Currently, she is litigating *China Development Industrial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.*

Robert also serves as liaison to some the Firm's institutional investor clients abroad. She is currently representing investors damaged by Volkswagen's defeat device scandal in representative actions in Germany against Volkswagen and Porsche SE under the Kapitalanlegermusterverfahrensgesetz (KapMuG), the Capital Market Investors' Model Proceeding Act.

## Education

B.A., University of San Diego, 2004; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2007

## Honors / Awards

B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, University of San Diego, 2004

## David A. Rosenfeld | Partner

David Rosenfeld, a partner in the Firm's Melville office, has focused his legal practice for more than 20 years in the area of securities litigation. He has argued in courts throughout the country, has been appointed lead counsel in dozens of securities fraud lawsuits, and has successfully recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for defrauded shareholders.

Rosenfeld works on all stages of litigation, including drafting pleadings, arguing motions, and negotiating settlements. Most recently, he led the teams of Robbins Geller attorneys in recovering \$95 million for shareholders of Tableau Software, Inc., \$90 million for shareholders of Altria Group, Inc., \$40 million for shareholders of BRF S.A, \$20 million for shareholders of Grana y Montero (where shareholders recovered more than 90% of their losses), and \$34.5 million for shareholders of L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.

Rosenfeld also led the Robbins Geller team in recovering in excess of \$34 million for investors in Overseas Shipholding Group, which represented an outsized recovery of 93% of bond purchasers' damages and 28% of stock purchasers' damages. The creatively structured settlement included more than \$15 million paid by a bankrupt entity. Rosenfeld also led the effort that resulted in the recovery of nearly 90% of losses for investors in Austin Capital, a sub-feeder fund of Bernard Madoff. In connection with this lawsuit, Rosenfeld met with and interviewed Madoff in federal prison in Butner, North Carolina.

Rosenfeld has also achieved remarkable recoveries against companies in the financial industry. In addition to being appointed lead counsel in the securities fraud lawsuit against First BanCorp (\$74.25 million recovery), he recovered \$70 million for investors in Credit Suisse Group and \$14 million for Barclays investors.

## Education

B.S., Yeshiva University, 1996; J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, 1999

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2022; Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016-2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2011-2013

## Robert M. Rothman | Partner

Robert Rothman is a partner in the Firm's Melville office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. He has recovered well in excess of \$1 billion on behalf of victims of investment fraud, consumer fraud, and antitrust violations.

Recently, Rothman served as lead counsel in *In re Am. Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.* where he obtained a \$1.025 billion cash recovery on behalf of investors. Rothman and the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages ever obtained in a major PSLRA case before trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history. Additionally, Rothman has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for investors in cases against First Bancorp, Doral Financial, Popular, iStar, Autoliv, CVS Caremark, Fresh Pet, The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P), NBTY, Spiegel, American Superconductor, Iconix Brand Group, Black Box, OSI Pharmaceuticals, Gravity, Caminus, Central European Distribution Corp., OneMain Holdings, The Children's Place, CNinsure, Covisint, FleetBoston Financial, Interstate Bakeries, Hibernia Foods, Jakks Pacific, Jarden, Portal Software, Ply Gem Holdings, Orion Energy, Tommy Hilfiger, TD Banknorth, Teletech, Unitek, Vicuron, Xerium, W Holding, and dozens of others.

Rothman also represents shareholders in connection with going-private transactions and tender offers. For example, in connection with a tender offer made by Citigroup, Rothman secured an increase of more than \$38 million over what was originally offered to shareholders. He also actively litigates consumer fraud cases, including a case alleging false advertising where the defendant agreed to a settlement valued in excess of \$67 million.

## Education

B.A., State University of New York at Binghamton, 1990; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 1993

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2022; Northeast Trailblazer, *The American Lawyer*, 2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2011, 2013-2022; New York Trailblazer, *New York Law Journal*, 2020; Dean's Academic Scholarship Award, Hofstra University School of Law; J.D., with Distinction, Hofstra University School of Law, 1993; Member, *Hofstra Law Review*, Hofstra University School of Law



## Samuel H. Rudman | Partner

Sam Rudman is a founding member of the Firm, a member of the Firm's Management Committee, and manages the Firm's New York offices. His 26-year securities practice focuses on recognizing and investigating securities fraud, and initiating securities and shareholder class actions to vindicate shareholder rights and recover shareholder losses. Rudman is also part of the Firm's SPAC Task Force, which is dedicated to rooting out and prosecuting fraud on behalf of injured investors in special purpose acquisition companies. A former attorney with the SEC, Rudman has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for shareholders, including a \$200 million recovery in *Motorola*, a \$129 million recovery in *Doral Financial*, an \$85 million recovery in *Blackstone*, a \$74 million recovery in *First BanCorp*, a \$65 million recovery in *Forest Labs*, a \$62.5 million recovery in *SQM*, a \$50 million recovery in *TD Banknorth*, a \$48 million recovery in *CVS Caremark*, a \$34.5 million recovery in *L-3 Communications Holdings*, a \$32.8 million recovery in *Snap, Inc.*, and a \$18.5 million recovery in *Deutsche Bank*.

## Education

B.A., Binghamton University, 1989; J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 1992

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2007-2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2014-2022; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2016-2022; New York Trailblazer, *New York Law Journal*, 2020; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2020; National Practice Area Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019-2020; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2013-2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018-2019; Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2013, 2017-2019; Dean's Merit Scholar, Brooklyn Law School; Moot Court Honor Society, Brooklyn Law School; Member, *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, Brooklyn Law School

## Joseph Russello | Partner

Joseph Russello is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. He began his career as a defense lawyer and now represents investors in securities class actions at the trial and appellate levels.

Rusello spearheaded the team that recovered \$85 million in litigation against The Blackstone Group, LLC, a case that yielded a landmark decision from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on "materiality" in securities actions. *Litwin v. Blackstone Grp., L.P.*, 634 F.3d 706 (2d Cir. 2011). He also led the team responsible for partially defeating dismissal and achieving a \$50 million settlement in litigation against BHP Billiton, an Australia-based mining company accused of concealing safety issues at a Brazilian iron-ore dam. *In re BHP Billiton Ltd. Sec. Litig.*, 276 F. Supp. 3d 65 (S.D.N.Y. 2017).

Recently, Rusello was co-counsel in a lawsuit against Allied Nevada Gold Corporation, recovering \$14.5 million for investors after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed two dismissal decisions. *In re Allied Nev. Gold Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 743 F. App'x 887 (9th Cir. 2018). He was also instrumental in obtaining a settlement and favorable appellate decision in litigation against SAIC, Inc., a defense contractor embroiled in a decade-long overbilling fraud against the City of New York. *Ind. Pub. Ret. Sys. v. SAIC, Inc.*, 818 F.3d 85 (2d Cir. 2016). Other notable recent decisions include: *In re Qudian Sec. Litig.*, 189 A.D. 3d 449 (N.Y. App. Div., 1st Dep't 2020); *Kazi v. XP Inc.*, 2020 WL 4581569 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Aug. 5, 2020); *In re Dentsply Sirona, Inc. S'holders Litig.*, 2019 WL 3526142 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Aug. 2, 2019); and *Matter of PPD AI Grp. Sec. Litig.*, 64 Misc. 3d 1208(A), 2019 WL 2751278 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2019). Other notable settlements include: *NBTY, Inc.* (\$16 million); *LaBranche & Co., Inc.* (\$13 million); *The Children's Place Retail Stores, Inc.* (\$12 million); and *Prestige Brands Holdings, Inc.* (\$11 million).

## Education

B.A., Gettysburg College, 1998; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 2001

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2020; *Law360* Securities Editorial Advisory Board, 2017

## Scott H. Saham | Partner

Scott Saham is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. He is licensed to practice law in both California and Michigan. Most recently, Saham was a member of the litigation team that obtained a \$125 million settlement in *In re LendingClub Sec. Litig.*, a settlement that ranked among the top ten largest securities recoveries ever in the Northern District of California. He was also part of the litigation teams in *Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.*, which resulted in a \$215 million recovery for shareholders, the largest securities class action recovery ever in Tennessee, and *Luna v. Marvell Tech. Grp., Ltd.*, which resulted in a \$72.5 million settlement that represents approximately 24% to 50% of the best estimate of classwide damages suffered by investors. He also served as lead counsel prosecuting the *Pharmacia* securities litigation in the District of New Jersey, which resulted in a \$164 million recovery. Additionally, Saham was lead counsel in the *In re Coca-Cola Sec. Litig.* in the Northern District of Georgia, which resulted in a \$137.5 million recovery after nearly eight years of litigation. He also obtained reversal from the California Court of Appeal of the trial court's initial dismissal of the landmark *Countrywide* mortgage-backed securities action. This decision is reported as *Luther v. Countrywide Fin. Corp.*, 195 Cal. App. 4th 789 (2011), and following this ruling that revived the action the case settled for \$500 million.

## Education

B.A., University of Michigan, 1992; J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Distinguished Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, *Casa Cornelia Law Center*, 2022; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022

## Juan Carlos Sanchez | Partner

Juan Carlos Sanchez is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Sanchez was a member of the litigation team that secured a \$60 million settlement – the largest shareholder derivative recovery ever in Tennessee and the Sixth Circuit – and unprecedented corporate governance reforms in *In re Community Health Sys., Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.* More recently, Sanchez's representation of California passengers in a landmark consumer and civil rights case against Greyhound Lines, Inc. led to a ruling recognizing that transit passengers do not check their rights and dignity at the bus door.

In addition to actively litigating cases, Sanchez is also a member of the Firm's Lead Plaintiff Advisory Team, which evaluates clients' exposure to securities fraud, advises them on lead plaintiff motions, and helps them secure appointment as lead plaintiff. Sanchez's efforts have assisted institutional and retail clients secure lead plaintiff appointments in more than 40 securities class actions.

Sanchez is also part of Robbins Geller's SPAC Task Force, which is dedicated to rooting out and prosecuting fraud on behalf of injured investors in special purpose acquisition companies. The rise in "blank check" financing poses unique risks to investors, and this group – comprised of experienced litigators, investigators, and forensic accountants – represents the vanguard of ensuring integrity, honesty, and justice in this rapidly developing investment arena.

## Education

B.S., University of California, Davis, 2005; J.D., University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), 2014

## Vincent M. Serra | Partner

Vincent Serra is a partner in the Firm's Melville office and focuses his practice on complex securities, antitrust, consumer, and employment litigation. His efforts have contributed to the recovery of over a billion dollars on behalf of aggrieved plaintiffs and class members. Notably, Serra has contributed to several significant recoveries, including *Dahl v. Bain Cap. Partners, LLC* (\$590.5 million recovery), an antitrust action against the world's largest private equity firms alleging collusive practices in multi-billion dollar leveraged buyouts, and *Samit v. CBS Corp.* (\$14.75 million recovery, pending final approval), a securities action alleging that defendants made false and misleading statements about their knowledge of former CEO Leslie Moonves's exposure to the #MeToo movement.

Additionally, Serra was a member of the litigation team that obtained a \$22.75 million settlement fund on behalf of route drivers in an action asserting violations of federal and state overtime laws against Cintas Corp. He was also part of the successful trial team in *Lebrilla v. Farmers Grp., Inc.*, which involved Farmers' practice of using inferior imitation parts when repairing insureds' vehicles. Other notable cases include *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Pharmacia Corp.* (\$164 million recovery), *In re Priceline.com Sec. Litig.* (\$80 million recovery), and *In re DouYu Int'l Holdings Ltd. Sec. Litig* (\$15 million recovery pending final approval). Serra is currently litigating several actions against manufacturers and retailers for the improper marketing and sale of purportedly "flushable" wipes products. In *Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Charleston (d.b.a. Charleston Water System) v. Costco Wholesale Corp.*, Serra serves as court-appointed class counsel in connection with a settlement that secured an unprecedented commitment of Kimberly-Clark to meet the national municipal wastewater standard for flushability.

## Education

B.A., University of Delaware, 2001; J.D., California Western School of Law, 2005

## Honors / Awards

Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, State Bar of California

## Jessica T. Shinnfield | Partner

Jessica Shinnfield is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Currently, her practice focuses on initiating, investigating, and prosecuting securities fraud class actions. Shinnfield served as lead counsel in *In re Am. Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.*, a case arising out of ARCP's manipulative accounting practices, and obtained a \$1.025 billion recovery. For five years, she and the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages of any major PSLRA case prior to trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history. Shinnfield also served as lead counsel in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, and obtained a \$350 million settlement on the eve of trial. The settlement is fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit.

Shinnfield was also a member of the litigation team prosecuting actions against investment banks and leading national credit rating agencies for their roles in structuring and rating structured investment vehicles backed by toxic assets in *Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated* and *King County, Washington v. IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG*. These cases were among the first to successfully allege fraud against the rating agencies, whose ratings have traditionally been protected by the First Amendment. Shinnfield also litigated individual opt-out actions against AOL Time Warner – *Regents of the Univ. of Cal. v. Parsons* and *Ohio Pub. Emps. Ret. Sys. v. Parsons* (recovery more than \$600 million). Additionally, she litigated an action against Omnicare, in which she helped obtain a favorable ruling for plaintiffs from the United States Supreme Court. Shinnfield has also successfully appealed lower court decisions in the Second, Seventh, and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals.

## Education

B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara, 2001; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2004

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers®*, 2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Plaintiffs' Lawyers Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2021; Litigator of the Week, *The American Lawyer*, 2020; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2019; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2019; B.A., *Phi Beta Kappa*, University of California at Santa Barbara, 2001

## Elizabeth A. Shonson | Partner

Elizabeth Shonson is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. She concentrates her practice on representing investors in class actions brought pursuant to the federal securities laws. Shonson has litigated numerous securities fraud class actions nationwide, helping achieve significant recoveries for aggrieved investors. She was a member of the litigation teams responsible for recouping millions of dollars for defrauded investors, including: *In re Massey Energy Co. Sec. Litig.* (S.D. W.Va.) (\$265 million); *Nieman v. Duke Energy Corp.* (W.D.N.C.) (\$146.25 million recovery); *In re ADT Inc. S'holder Litig.* (Fla. Cir. Ct., 15th Jud. Cir.) (\$30 million settlement); *Eshe Fund v. Fifth Third Bancorp* (S.D. Ohio) (\$16 million); *City of St. Clair Shores Gen. Emps. Ret. Sys. v. Lender Processing Servs., Inc.* (M.D. Fla.) (\$14 million); and *In re Synovus Fin. Corp.* (N.D. Ga.) (\$11.75 million).

## Education

B.A., Syracuse University, 2001; J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, 2005

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2019; J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of Florida Levin College of Law, 2005; Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Technology Law & Policy*; Phi Delta Phi; B.A., with Honors, *Summa Cum Laude*, Syracuse University, 2001; Phi Beta Kappa

## Trig Smith | Partner

Trig Smith is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office where he focuses his practice on complex securities litigation. He has been involved in the prosecution of numerous securities class actions that have resulted in over a billion dollars in recoveries for investors. His cases have included: *In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$600 million recovery); *Jones v. Pfizer Inc.* (\$400 million recovery); *Silverman v. Motorola, Inc.* (\$200 million recovery); and *City of Livonia Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Wyeth* (\$67.5 million). Most recently, he was a member of the Firm's trial team in *Hsu v. Puma Biotechnology, Inc.*, a securities fraud class action that resulted in a verdict in favor of investors after a two-week jury trial.

## Education

B.S., University of Colorado, Denver, 1995; M.S., University of Colorado, Denver, 1997; J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2000

## Honors / Awards

Member, *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, Brooklyn Law School; CALI Excellence Award in Legal Writing, Brooklyn Law School

## Mark Solomon | Partner

Mark Solomon is a founding and managing partner of the Firm and leads its international litigation practice. Over the last 29 years, he has regularly represented United States and United Kingdom-based pension funds and asset managers in class and non-class securities litigation in federal and state courts throughout the United States. He was first admitted to the Bar of England and Wales as a Barrister (he is non-active) and is an active member of the Bars of Ohio, California, and various United States federal district and appellate courts.

Since 1993, Solomon has spearheaded the prosecution of many significant securities fraud cases. He has obtained multi-hundred million-dollar recoveries for plaintiffs in pre-trial settlements and significant corporate governance reforms designed to limit recidivism and promote appropriate standards. Prior to the most recent financial crisis, he was instrumental in obtaining some of the first mega-recoveries in the field in California and Texas, serving in the late 1990s and early 2000s as class counsel in *In re Informix Corp. Sec. Litig.* in the federal district court for the Northern District of California, and recovering \$131 million for Informix investors; and serving as class counsel in *Schwartz v. TXU Corp.* in the federal district court for the Northern District of Texas, where he helped obtain a recovery of over \$149 million for a class of purchasers of TXU securities as well as securing important governance reforms. He litigated and tried the securities class action *In re Helionetics, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, where he won a \$15.4 million federal jury verdict in the federal district court for the Central District of California.

Solomon is currently counsel to a number of pension funds serving as lead plaintiffs in cases throughout the United States. He represents the UK's Norfolk Pension Fund in *Hsu v. Puma Biotechnology, Inc.* where, in the federal district court for the Central District of California, after three weeks of trial, the Fund obtained a jury verdict valued at over \$54 million in favor of the class against the company and its CEO. Solomon also represents Norfolk Pension Fund in separate class actions currently pending against Apple Inc. and Apple executives in the federal district court for the Northern District of California and against Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and former Anadarko executives in the federal district court for the Southern District of Texas. He represented the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme and the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.* in the federal district court for the District of Arizona, in which the class recently recovered \$350 million on the eve of trial. That settlement is the fifth-largest recovered in the Ninth Circuit since the advent in 1995 of statutory reforms to securities litigation that established the current legal regime. Solomon also represents the same coal industry funds in the recently filed class action against Citrix Inc. and Citrix executives in the federal district court for the Southern District of Florida, and he represents North East Scotland Pension Fund in a class action pending against Under Armour and Under Armour executives in the federal district court for the District of Maryland. In addition, he is currently representing Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association in a class action pending against FirstEnergy and FirstEnergy executives in the federal district court for the Southern District of Ohio and he is representing Strathclyde Pension Fund in a class action pending against Bank OZK and its CEO in the federal district court for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

## Education

B.A., Trinity College, Cambridge University, England, 1985; L.L.M., Harvard Law School, 1986; Inns of Court School of Law, Degree of Utter Barrister, England, 1987

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2018; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2016-2017; Lizette Bentwich Law Prize, Trinity College, 1983 and 1984; Hollond Travelling Studentship, 1985; Harvard Law School Fellowship, 1985-1986; Member and Hardwicke Scholar of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn



## Hillary B. Stakem | Partner

Hillary Stakem is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Stakem was a member of the litigation team in *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, a securities class action that obtained a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a verdict for plaintiffs. She was also part of the litigation teams that secured a \$388 million recovery for investors in J.P. Morgan residential mortgage-backed securities in *Fort Worth Employees' Retirement Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.* and a \$131 million recovery in favor of plaintiffs in *Bennett v. Sprint Nextel Corp.* Additionally, Stakem helped to obtain a landmark settlement, on the eve of trial, from the major credit rating agencies and Morgan Stanley arising out of the fraudulent ratings of bonds issued by the structured investment vehicles in *Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.* Stakem also obtained a \$350 million settlement on the eve of trial in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, the fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit, and was on the team of Robbins Geller attorneys who obtained a \$97.5 million recovery in *Marcus v. J.C. Penney Company, Inc.*

Most recently, Stakem was a member of the Robbins Geller litigation team in *Monroe County Employees' Retirement System v. The Southern Company* in which an \$87.5 settlement was reached after three years of litigation. The settlement resolved claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 stemming from defendants' issuance of materially misleading statements and omissions regarding the status of construction of a first-of-its-kind "clean coal" power plant that was designed to transform coal into synthetic gas that could then be used to fuel the power plant.

## Education

B.A., College of William and Mary, 2009; J.D., UCLA School of Law, 2012

## Honors / Awards

40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2021; B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, College of William and Mary, 2009

## Jeffrey J. Stein | Partner

Jeffrey Stein is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where he practices securities fraud litigation and other complex matters. He was a member of the litigation team that secured a historic recovery on behalf of Trump University students in two class actions against President Donald J. Trump. The settlement provides \$25 million to approximately 7,000 consumers. This result means individual class members are eligible for upwards of \$35,000 in restitution. Stein represented the class on a *pro bono* basis.

Before joining the Firm, Stein focused on civil rights litigation, with special emphasis on the First, Fourth, and Eighth Amendments. In this capacity, he helped his clients secure successful outcomes before the United States Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Education

B.S., University of Washington, 2005; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2009

## Christopher D. Stewart | Partner

Christopher Stewart is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. His practice focuses on complex securities and shareholder derivative litigation. Stewart served as lead counsel in *In re Am. Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.*, a case arising out of ARCP's manipulative accounting practices, and obtained a \$1.025 billion recovery. For five years, he and the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages of any major PSLRA case prior to trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history. Most recently, Stewart served as lead counsel in *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, and obtained a \$350 million settlement on the eve of trial. The settlement is fifth-largest PSLRA settlement ever recovered in the Ninth Circuit.

He was also part of the litigation team that obtained a \$67 million settlement in *City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. Stumpf*, a shareholder derivative action alleging that Wells Fargo participated in the mass-processing of home foreclosure documents by engaging in widespread robo-signing. Stewart also served on the litigation team in *In re Deutsche Bank AG Sec. Litig.*, in which the Firm obtained a \$18.5 million settlement in a case against Deutsche Bank and certain of its officers alleging violations of the Securities Act of 1933.

## Education

B.S., Santa Clara University, 2004; M.B.A., University of San Diego School of Business Administration, 2009; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2009

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2020; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, Order of the Coif, University of San Diego School of Law, 2009; Member, *San Diego Law Review*

## Sabrina E. Tirabassi | Partner

Sabrina Tirabassi is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation, including the Firm's lead plaintiff motion practice. In this role, Tirabassi remains at the forefront of litigation trends and issues arising under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Further, Tirabassi has been an integral member of the litigation teams responsible for securing significant monetary recoveries on behalf of shareholders, including: *Villella v. Chemical and Mining Company of Chile Inc.*, No. 1:15-cv-02106 (S.D.N.Y.); *In re ADT Inc. S'holder Litig.*, No. 502018CA003494XXXXMB-AG (Fla. Cir. Ct., 15th Jud. Cir.); *KBC Asset Mgmt. NV v. Aegerion Pharms., Inc.*, No. 1:14-cv-10105-MLW (D. Mass.); *Sohal v. Yan*, No. 1:15-cv-00393-DAP (N.D. Ohio); *McGee v. Constant Contact, Inc.*, No. 1:15-cv-13114-MLW (D. Mass.); and *Schwartz v. Urban Outfitters, Inc.*, No. 2:13-cv-05978-MAK (E.D. Pa.).

## Education

B.A., University of Florida, 2000; J.D., Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, 2006, *Magna Cum Laude*

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2010, 2015-2018; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, 2006

## Douglas Wilens | Partner

Douglas Wilens is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. Wilens is a member of the Firm's Appellate Practice Group, participating in numerous appeals in federal and state courts across the country. Most notably, Wilens handled successful and precedent-setting appeals in *Ind. Pub. Ret. Sys. v. SAIC, Inc.*, 818 F.3d 85 (2d Cir. 2016) (addressing duty to disclose under SEC Regulation Item 303 in §10(b) case), *Mass. Ret. Sys. v. CVS Caremark Corp.*, 716 F.3d 229 (1st Cir. 2013) (addressing pleading of loss causation in §10(b) case), and *Lormand v. US Unwired, Inc.*, 565 F.3d 228 (5th Cir. 2009) (addressing pleading of falsity, scienter, and loss causation in §10(b) case).

Before joining the Firm, Wilens was an associate at a nationally recognized firm, where he litigated complex actions on behalf of numerous professional sports leagues, including the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, and Major League Soccer. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University and Nova Southeastern University, where he taught undergraduate and graduate-level business law classes.

## Education

B.S., University of Florida, 1992; J.D., University of Florida College of Law, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Book Award for Legal Drafting, University of Florida College of Law; J.D., with Honors, University of Florida College of Law, 1995

## Shawn A. Williams | Partner

Shawn Williams, a founding partner of the Firm, is the managing partner of the Firm's San Francisco office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. Williams specializes in complex commercial litigation focusing on securities litigation, and has served as lead counsel in a range of actions resulting in more than a billion dollars in recoveries. For example, Williams was among lead counsel in *In re Facebook Biometric Info. Privacy Litig.*, charging Facebook with violations of the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act, resulting in a \$650 million recovery for injured Facebook users, the largest ever privacy class action.

Williams led the team of Robbins Geller attorneys in the investigation and drafting of comprehensive securities fraud claims in *Hefler v. Wells Fargo & Co.*, alleging widespread opening of unauthorized and undisclosed customer accounts. The *Hefler* action resulted in the recovery of \$480 million for Wells Fargo investors. In *City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. MetLife, Inc.*, Williams led the Firm's team of lawyers alleging MetLife's failure to disclose and account for the scope of its use and non-use of the Social Security Administration Death Master File and its impact on MetLife's financial statements. The *MetLife* action resulted in a recovery of \$84 million. Williams also served as lead counsel in the following actions resulting in significant recoveries: *Chicago Laborers Pension Fund v. Alibaba Grp. Holding Ltd.* (\$75 million recovery); *In re Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$75 million recovery); *In re Medtronic, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$43 million recovery); *In re Cadence Design Sys., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$38 million recovery); and *City of Sterling Heights Gen. Emps' Ret. Sys. v. Prudential Fin., Inc.* (\$33 million recovery).

Williams is also a member of the Firm's Shareholder Derivative Practice Group which has secured tens of millions of dollars in cash recoveries and comprehensive corporate governance reforms in a number of high-profile cases including: *In re McAfee, Inc. Derivative Litig.*; *In re Marvell Tech. Grp. Ltd. Derivative Litig.*; *In re KLA-Tencor Corp. S'holder Derivative Litig.*; *The Home Depot, Inc. Derivative Litig.*; and *City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. Stumpf (Wells Fargo & Co.)*.

Williams led multiple shareholder actions in which the Firm obtained favorable appellate rulings, including: *W. Va. Pipe Trades Health & Welfare Fund v. Medtronic, Inc.*, 845 F.3d 384 (8th Cir. 2016); *Knollenberg v. Harmonic, Inc.*, 152 F. App'x 674 (9th Cir. 2005); *Nursing Home Pension Fund, Local 144 v. Oracle Corp.*, 380 F.3d 1226 (9th Cir. 2004); *Lynch v. Rawls*, 429 F. App'x 641 (9th Cir. 2011); and *Barrie v. Intervoice-Brite, Inc.*, 409 F.3d 653 (5th Cir. 2005).

Before joining the Firm in 2000, Williams served for 5 years as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, where he tried over 20 cases to New York City juries.

## Education

B.A., The State of University of New York at Albany, 1991; J.D., University of Illinois, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2018-2023; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2022-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Top Plaintiff Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2022; Most Influential Black Lawyers, *Savoy*, 2022; Top 100 Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2019, 2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2014-2017, 2020-2021; California Trailblazer, *The Recorder*, 2019; Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar, *Law360*, 2019; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2019; Board Member, California Bar Foundation, 2012-2014

## Christopher M. Wood | Partner

Christopher Wood is the partner in charge of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP's Nashville office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. He has been a member of the litigation teams responsible for recovering hundreds of millions of dollars for investors, including: *In re Massey Energy Co. Sec. Litig.* (\$265 million recovery); *In re VeriFone Holdings, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$95 million recovery); *Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.* (\$65 million recovery); *Grae v. Corrections Corporation of America* (\$56 million recovery); *In re Micron Tech., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$42 million recovery); *Jackson Cnty. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Ghosn* (\$36 million recovery); and *Winslow v. BancorpSouth, Inc.* (\$29.5 million recovery).

Working together with the ACLU of Tennessee and Public Funds Public Schools (a national campaign founded by the Southern Poverty Law Center and Education Law Center), Wood is litigating an action challenging Tennessee's school voucher program, which diverts critically needed funds from public school students in Nashville and Memphis. Wood has also provided *pro bono* legal services through Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors, Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts, the Ninth Circuit's Pro Bono Program, and the San Francisco Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services Program.

## Education

B.A., Vanderbilt University, 2003; J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law, 2006

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America: One to Watch, *Best Lawyers*®, 2023; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2011-2013, 2015-2020

## Debra J. Wyman | Partner

Debra Wyman is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. She specializes in securities litigation and has litigated numerous cases against public companies in state and federal courts that have resulted in over \$2 billion in securities fraud recoveries. Wyman served as lead counsel in *In re Am. Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.*, a case arising out of ARCP's manipulative accounting practices, and obtained a \$1.025 billion recovery. For five years, she and the litigation team prosecuted nine different claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933, involving seven different stock or debt offerings and two mergers. The recovery represents the highest percentage of damages of any major PSLRA case prior to trial and includes the largest personal contributions by individual defendants in history. Most recently, Wyman was part of the litigation team in *Monroe County Employees' Retirement System v. The Southern Company* in which an \$87.5 settlement was reached after three years of litigation. The settlement resolved claims for violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 stemming from defendants' issuance of materially misleading statements and omissions regarding the status of construction of a first-of-its-kind "clean coal" power plant that was designed to transform coal into synthetic gas that could then be used to fuel the power plant.

Wyman was also a member of the trial team in *Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.*, which resulted in a \$215 million recovery for shareholders, the largest securities class action recovery ever in Tennessee. The recovery achieved represents more than 30% of the aggregate classwide damages, far exceeding the typical recovery in a securities class action. Wyman prosecuted the complex securities and accounting fraud case *In re HealthSouth Corp. Sec. Litig.*, one of the largest and longest-running corporate frauds in history, in which \$671 million was recovered for defrauded HealthSouth investors. She was also part of the trial team that litigated *In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.*, which was tried in the United States District Court, District of New Jersey, and settled after only two weeks of trial for \$100 million. Wyman was also part of the litigation team that secured a \$64 million recovery for Dana Corp. shareholders in *Plumbers & Pipefitters National Pension Fund v. Burns*, in which the Firm's Appellate Practice Group successfully appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals twice, reversing the district court's dismissal of the action.

## Education

B.A., University of California Irvine, 1990; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 1997

## Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2020-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Top 250 Women in Litigation, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; San Diego Litigator of the Year, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Plaintiff Litigator of the Year, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021; Top Woman Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2017, 2020; MVP, *Law360*, 2020; Litigator of the Week, *The American Lawyer*, 2020; Litigator of the Year, *Our City San Diego*, 2017; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2017

## Jonathan Zweig | Partner

Jonathan Zweig is a partner with the Firm and is based in the Manhattan office. Zweig's practice focuses primarily on complex securities litigation, corporate control cases, and breach of fiduciary duty actions on behalf of investors.

Before joining Robbins Geller, Zweig served for over six years as an Assistant Attorney General with the New York State Office of the Attorney General's Investor Protection Bureau, where he prosecuted civil securities fraud actions and tried two major cases on behalf of the State. In *New York v. Exxon Mobil Corporation*, a high-profile securities fraud case concerning climate risk disclosures, Zweig examined numerous witnesses and delivered the State's closing argument at trial. In *New York v. Laurence Allen et al.*, Zweig and his colleagues achieved a total victory at trial for defrauded investors in a private equity fund, and established for the first time the retroactive application of the Martin Act's expanded statute of limitations. Zweig also conducted data-intensive investigations of Credit Suisse concerning its alternative trading system and its wholesale market making business, resulting in joint settlements with the SEC totaling \$70 million from Credit Suisse. On three occasions, Zweig was awarded the Louis J. Lefkowitz Award for Exceptional Service.

Zweig was previously a litigator at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, where he represented clients in securities litigation, mass tort, and other matters. Zweig also clerked for Judge Jacques L. Wiener, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and Judge Sarah S. Vance of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

## Education

B.A., Yale University, 2007; J.D., Harvard Law School, 2010

## Honors / Awards

Louis J. Lefkowitz Award for Exceptional Service, New York State Office of the Attorney General, 2015, 2020, 2021; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, Harvard Law School, 2010; B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Yale University, 2007

## Susan K. Alexander | Of Counsel

Susan Alexander is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the San Francisco office. Alexander's practice specializes in federal appeals of securities fraud class actions on behalf of investors. With nearly 30 years of federal appellate experience, she has argued on behalf of defrauded investors in circuit courts throughout the United States. Among her most notable cases are *Mineworkers' Pension Scheme v. First Solar Inc.* (\$350 million recovery), *In re VeriFone Holdings, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$95 million recovery), and the successful appellate ruling in *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Flowserve Corp.* (\$55 million recovery). Other representative results include: *Stoyas v. Toshiba Corp.*, 896 F.3d 933 (9th Cir. 2018) (reversing dismissal of securities fraud action and holding that the Exchange Act applies to unsponsored American Depositary Shares); *W. Va. Pipe Trades Health & Welfare Fund v. Medtronic, Inc.*, 845 F.3d 384 (8th Cir. 2016) (reversing summary judgment of securities fraud action on statute of limitations grounds); *In re Ubiquiti Networks, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 669 F. App'x 878 (9th Cir. 2016) (reversing dismissal of §11 claim); *Carpenters Pension Tr. Fund of St. Louis v. Barclays PLC*, 750 F.3d 227 (2d Cir. 2014) (reversing dismissal of securities fraud complaint, focused on loss causation); *Panther Partners Inc. v. Ikanos Commc'ns, Inc.*, 681 F.3d 114 (2d Cir. 2012) (reversing dismissal of §11 claim); *City of Pontiac Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. MBIA, Inc.*, 637 F.3d 169 (2d Cir. 2011) (reversing dismissal of securities fraud complaint, focused on statute of limitations); *In re Gilead Scis. Sec. Litig.*, 536 F.3d 1049 (9th Cir. 2008) (reversing dismissal of securities fraud complaint, focused on loss causation); *Barrie v. Intervoice-Brite, Inc.*, 397 F.3d 249 (5th Cir.) (reversing dismissal of securities fraud complaint, focused on scienter), *reh'g denied and op. modified*, 409 F.3d 653 (5th Cir. 2005); and *Pirraglia v. Novell, Inc.*, 339 F.3d 1182 (10th Cir. 2003) (reversing dismissal of securities fraud complaint, focused on scienter). Alexander's prior appellate work was with the California Appellate Project ("CAP"), where she prepared appeals and petitions for writs of *habeas corpus* on behalf of individuals sentenced to death. At CAP, and subsequently in private practice, she litigated and consulted on death penalty direct and collateral appeals for ten years.

## Education

B.A., Stanford University, 1983; J.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1986

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2021; American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; California Academy of Appellate Lawyers; Ninth Circuit Advisory Rules Committee; Appellate Delegate, Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference; ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers



## Laura M. Andracchio | Of Counsel

Laura Andracchio is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office. Having first joined the Firm in 1997, she was a Robbins Geller partner for ten years before her role as Of Counsel. As a partner with the Firm, Andracchio led dozens of securities fraud cases against public companies throughout the country, recovering hundreds of millions of dollars for injured investors. Her current focus remains securities fraud litigation under the federal securities laws.

Most recently, Andracchio was a member of the litigation team in *In re American Realty Cap. Props., Inc. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.), in which a \$1.025 billion recovery was approved in 2020. She was also on the litigation team for *City of Pontiac Gen. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Walmart Stores, Inc.* (W.D. Ark.), in which a \$160 million recovery for Walmart investors was approved in 2019. She also assisted in litigating a case brought against J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., *Fort Worth Emps.' Ret. Fund v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.* (S.D.N.Y.), on behalf of investors in residential mortgage-backed securities, which resulted in a recovery of \$388 million in 2017.

Andracchio was also a lead member of the trial team in *In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.*, recovering \$100 million for the class after two weeks of trial in district court in New Jersey. Before trial, she managed and litigated the case, which was pending for four years. She also led the trial team in *Brody v. Hellman*, a case against Qwest and former directors of U.S. West seeking an unpaid dividend, recovering \$50 million for the class, which was largely comprised of U.S. West retirees. Other cases Andracchio has litigated include: *City of Hialeah Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Toll Brothers, Inc.*; *Ross v. Abercrombie & Fitch Co.*; *In re GMH Cmtys. Tr. Sec. Litig.*; *In re Vicuron Pharms., Inc. Sec. Litig.*; and *In re Navarre Corp. Sec. Litig.*

## Education

B.A., Bucknell University, 1986; J.D., Duquesne University School of Law, 1989

## Honors / Awards

Order of the Barristers, J.D., with honors, Duquesne University School of Law, 1989

## Matthew J. Balotta | Of Counsel

Matt Balotta is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office, where his practice focuses on securities fraud litigation. Balotta earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Pittsburgh and his Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School. During law school, Balotta was a summer associate with the Firm and interned at the National Consumer Law Center. He also participated in the Employment Law and Delivery of Legal Services Clinics and served on the General Board of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.

## Education

B.A., University of Pittsburgh, 2005; J.D., Harvard Law School, 2015

## Honors / Awards

B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, University of Pittsburgh, 2005

## Randi D. Bandman | Of Counsel

Randi Bandman is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office. Throughout her career, she has represented and advised hundreds of clients, including pension funds, managers, banks, and hedge funds, such as the Directors Guild of America, Screen Actors Guild, Writers Guild of America, and Teamster funds. Bandman's cases have yielded billions of dollars of recoveries. Notable cases include the AOL Time Warner, Inc. merger (\$629 million), *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$7.2 billion), Private Equity litigation (*Dahl v. Bain Cap. Partners, LLC*) (\$590.5 million), *In re WorldCom Sec. Litig.* (\$657 million), and *In re Facebook Biometric Info. Privacy Litig.* (\$650 million).

Bandman is currently representing plaintiffs in the Foreign Exchange Litigation pending in the Southern District of New York which alleges collusive conduct by the world's largest banks to fix prices in the \$5.3 trillion a day foreign exchange market and in which billions of dollars have been recovered to date for injured plaintiffs. Bandman is part of the Robbins Geller Co-Lead Counsel team representing the class in the "High Frequency Trading" case, which accuses stock exchanges of giving unfair advantages to high-speed traders versus all other investors, resulting in billions of dollars being diverted. Bandman was instrumental in the landmark state settlement with the tobacco companies for \$12.5 billion. Bandman also led an investigation with congressional representatives on behalf of artists into allegations of "pay for play" tactics, represented Emmy winning writers with respect to their claims involving a long-running television series, represented a Hall of Fame sports figure, and negotiated agreements in connection with a major motion picture. Recently, Bandman was chosen to serve on the Law Firm Advisory Board of the Association of Media & Entertainment Counsel, an organization made up of thousands of attorneys from studios, networks, guilds, talent agencies, and top media companies, dealing with protecting content distributed through a variety of formats worldwide.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles; J.D., University of Southern California

## Mary K. Blasy | Of Counsel

Mary Blasy is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the Firm's Melville and Washington, D.C. offices. Her practice focuses on the investigation, commencement, and prosecution of securities fraud class actions and shareholder derivative suits. Blasy has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for investors in securities fraud class actions against Reliance Acceptance Corp. (\$66 million); Sprint Corp. (\$50 million); Titan Corporation (\$15+ million); Martha Stewart Omni-Media, Inc. (\$30 million); and Coca-Cola Co. (\$137.5 million). Blasy has also been responsible for prosecuting numerous complex shareholder derivative actions against corporate malefactors to address violations of the nation's securities, environmental, and labor laws, obtaining corporate governance enhancements valued by the market in the billions of dollars.

In 2014, the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the Second Department of the Supreme Court of the State of New York appointed Blasy to serve as a member of the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission, which until December 2018 reviewed the qualifications of candidates seeking public election to New York State Supreme Courts in the 10th Judicial District. She also served on the *Law360* Securities Editorial Advisory Board from 2015 to 2016.

## Education

B.A., California State University, Sacramento, 1996; J.D., UCLA School of Law, 2000

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2020; *Law360* Securities Editorial Advisory Board, 2015-2016; Member, Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission, 2014-2018

## William K. Cavanagh, Jr. | Of Counsel

Bill Cavanagh is Of Counsel in the Firm's Washington, D.C. office. Cavanagh concentrates his practice in employee benefits law and works with the Firm's Institutional Outreach Team. Prior to joining Robbins Geller, Cavanagh was employed by Ullico for the past nine years, most recently as President of Ullico Casualty Group. The Ullico Casualty Group is the leading provider of fiduciary liability insurance for trustees in both the private as well as the public sector. Prior to that he was President of the Ullico Investment Company.

Preceding Cavanagh's time at Ullico, he was a partner at the labor and employee benefits firm Cavanagh and O'Hara in Springfield, Illinois for 28 years. In that capacity, Cavanagh represented public pension funds, jointly trustee Taft-Hartley, health, welfare, pension, and joint apprenticeship funds advising on fiduciary and compliance issues both at the Board level as well as in administrative hearings, federal district courts, and the United States Courts of Appeals. During the course of his practice, Cavanagh had extensive trial experience in state and the relevant federal district courts. Additionally, Cavanagh served as co-counsel on a number of cases representing trustees seeking to recover plan assets lost as a result of fraud in the marketplace.

### Education

B.A., Georgetown University, 1974; J.D., John Marshall Law School, 1978

### Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell

## Christopher Collins | Of Counsel

Christopher Collins is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office and his practice focuses on antitrust and consumer protection. Collins served as co-lead counsel in *Wholesale Elec. Antitrust Cases I & II*, charging an antitrust conspiracy by wholesale electricity suppliers and traders of electricity in California's newly deregulated wholesale electricity market wherein plaintiffs secured a global settlement for California consumers, businesses, and local governments valued at more than \$1.1 billion. He was also involved in California's tobacco litigation, which resulted in the \$25.5 billion recovery for California and its local entities. Collins is currently counsel on the California Energy Manipulation antitrust litigation, the Memberworks upsell litigation, as well as a number of consumer actions alleging false and misleading advertising and unfair business practices against major corporations. He formerly served as a Deputy District Attorney for Imperial County where he was in charge of the Domestic Violence Unit.

### Education

B.A., Sonoma State University, 1988; J.D., Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 1995

## Vicki Multer Diamond | Of Counsel

Vicki Multer Diamond is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the Firm's Melville office. She has over 25 years of experience as an investigator and attorney. Her practice at the Firm focuses on the initiation, investigation, and prosecution of securities fraud class actions. Diamond played a significant role in the factual investigations and successful oppositions to the defendants' motions to dismiss in a number of cases, including *Tableau*, *One Main*, *Valeant*, and *Orbital ATK*.

Diamond has served as an investigative consultant to several prominent law firms, corporations, and investment firms. Before joining the Firm, she was an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn, New York, where she served as a senior Trial Attorney in the Felony Trial Bureau, and was special counsel to the Special Commissioner of Investigations for the New York City schools, where she investigated and prosecuted crime and corruption within the New York City school system.

## Education

B.A., State University of New York at Binghamton, 1990; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 1993

## Honors / Awards

Member, *Hofstra Property Law Journal*, Hofstra University School of Law

## Michael J. Dowd | Of Counsel

Mike Dowd was a founding partner of the Firm. He has practiced in the area of securities litigation for 20 years, prosecuting dozens of complex securities cases and obtaining significant recoveries for investors in cases such as *UnitedHealth* (\$925 million), *WorldCom* (\$657 million), *AOL Time Warner* (\$629 million), *Qwest* (\$445 million), and *Pfizer* (\$400 million).

Dowd served as lead trial counsel in *Jaffe v. Household International* in the Northern District of Illinois, a securities class action that obtained a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a verdict for plaintiffs. Dowd also served as the lead trial lawyer in *In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.*, which was tried in the District of New Jersey and settled after only two weeks of trial for \$100 million. Dowd served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of California from 1987-1991, and again from 1994-1998, where he handled dozens of jury trials and was awarded the Director's Award for Superior Performance.

## Education

B.A., Fordham University, 1981; J.D., University of Michigan School of Law, 1984

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Director's Award for Superior Performance, United States Attorney's Office; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2015-2023; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2021; Southern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers*®, 2015-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2010-2020; Lawyer of the Year, *Best Lawyers*®, 2020; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2016-2019; Hall of Fame, *Lawdragon*, 2018; Litigator of the Year, *Our City San Diego*, 2017; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2014-2016; Litigator of the Week, *The American Lawyer*, 2015; Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation* 2013; Directorship 100, NACD Directorship, 2012; Attorney of the Year, *California Lawyer*, 2010; Top 100 Lawyers, *Daily Journal*, 2009; B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, Fordham University, 1981

## Christopher T. Gilroy | Of Counsel

Christopher Gilroy is Of Counsel in the Firm's Melville office. His practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Since joining the Firm, Gilroy has played a significant role in the following litigations: *Landmen Partners, Inc. v. The Blackstone Grp., L.P.* (\$85 million recovery on the eve of trial); *In re OSG Sec. Litig.* (\$34 million recovery, representing 87% of the maximum Section 11 damages); *City of Austin Police Ret. Sys. v. Kinross Gold Corp.* (\$33 million recovery); *Citiline Holdings, Inc. v. iStar Fin. Inc.* (\$29 million recovery); *City of Pontiac Gen. Emps. Ret. Sys. v. Lockheed Martin Corp.* (\$19.5 million recovery); *Carpenters Pension Tr. Fund of St. Louis v. Barclays PLC* (\$14 million recovery); *Beaver Cnty. Emps' Ret. Fund v. Tile Shop Holdings, Inc.* (\$9.5 million recovery); *IBEW Local 90 Pension Fund v. Deutsche Bank AG* (confidential settlement); *In re Ply Gem Holdings, Inc., Sec. Litig.* (\$25.9 million recovery); *In re BRF S.A. Sec. Litig.* (\$40 million recovery pending final approval); and *In re SandRidge Energy, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (successfully obtaining class certification in an ongoing litigation). Gilroy also performed an exhaustive factual investigation in *In re Satcon Tech. Corp.*, on behalf of Satcon's Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee, resulting in a seven-figure settlement in an action alleging breaches of fiduciary duties against former Satcon directors and officers.

## Education

B.A., City University of New York at Queens College, 2005; J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2010

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2019-2021; B.A., *Cum Laude*, City University of New York at Queens College, 2005

## Richard W. Gonnello | Of Counsel

Richard Gonnello is Of Counsel in the Firm's Manhattan office. He has two decades of experience litigating complex securities actions.

Gonnello has successfully represented institutional and individual investors. He has obtained substantial recoveries in numerous securities class actions, including *In re Royal Ahold Sec. Litig.* (D. Md.) (\$1.1 billion) and *In re Tremont Sec. Law, State Law & Ins. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$100 million). Gonnello has also obtained favorable recoveries for institutional investors pursuing direct opt-out claims, including cases against Qwest Communications International, Inc. (\$175 million) and Tyco International Ltd (\$21 million).

Gonnello has co-authored the following articles appearing in the *New York Law Journal*: "Staehr Hikes Burden of Proof to Place Investor on Inquiry Notice" and "Potential Securities Fraud: 'Storm Warnings' Clarified."

## Education

B.A., Rutgers University, 1995; J.D., UCLA School of Law, 1998

## Honors / Awards

B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, Rutgers University, 1995

## Mitchell D. Gravo | Of Counsel

Mitchell Gravo is Of Counsel to the Firm and is a member of the Firm's institutional investor client services group. With more than 30 years of experience as a practicing attorney, he serves as liaison to the Firm's institutional investor clients throughout the United States and Canada, advising them on securities litigation matters.

Gravo's clients include Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, UST Public Affairs, Inc., International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Alaska Seafood International, Distilled Spirits Council of America, RIM Architects, Anchorage Police Department Employees Association, Fred Meyer, and the Automobile Manufacturer's Association. Prior to joining the Firm, he served as an intern with the Municipality of Anchorage, and then served as a law clerk to Superior Court Judge J. Justin Ripley.

## Education

B.A., Ohio State University; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law

## Dennis J. Herman | Of Counsel

Dennis Herman is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Francisco office where he focuses his practice on securities class actions. He has led or been significantly involved in the prosecution of numerous securities fraud claims that have resulted in substantial recoveries for investors, including settled actions against Massey Energy (\$265 million), Coca-Cola (\$137 million), VeriSign (\$78 million), Psychiatric Solutions, Inc. (\$65 million), St. Jude Medical, Inc. (\$50 million), NorthWestern (\$40 million), BancorpSouth (\$29.5 million), America Service Group (\$15 million), Specialty Laboratories (\$12 million), Stellant (\$12 million), and Threshold Pharmaceuticals (\$10 million).

## Education

B.S., Syracuse University, 1982; J.D., Stanford Law School, 1992

## Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2018-2023; Northern California Best Lawyer, *Best Lawyers*®, 2018-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2018; Order of the Coif, Stanford Law School; Urban A. Sontheimer Award (graduating second in his class), Stanford Law School; Award-winning Investigative Newspaper Reporter and Editor in California and Connecticut



## Helen J. Hodges | Of Counsel

Helen Hodges is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office. She specializes in securities fraud litigation. Hodges has been involved in numerous securities class actions, including: *Dynegy*, which was settled for \$474 million; *Thurber v. Mattel*, which was settled for \$122 million; *Nat'l Health Labs*, which was settled for \$64 million; and *Knapp v. Gomez*, Civ. No. 87-0067-H(M) (S.D. Cal.), in which a plaintiffs' verdict was returned in a Rule 10b-5 class action. Additionally, beginning in 2001, Hodges focused on the prosecution of *Enron*, where a record \$7.2 billion recovery was obtained for investors.

## Education

B.S., Oklahoma State University, 1979; J.D., University of Oklahoma, 1983

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell; Hall of Fame, Oklahoma State University, 2022; served on the Oklahoma State University Foundation Board of Trustees, 2013-2021; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2021; Philanthropist of the Year, Women for OSU at Oklahoma State University, 2020; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2007

## David J. Hoffa | Of Counsel

David Hoffa is Of Counsel in the Firm's Washington D.C. office. He has served as a liaison to over 110 institutional investors in portfolio monitoring, securities litigation, and claims filing matters. His practice focuses on providing a variety of legal and consulting services to U.S. state and municipal employee retirement systems and single and multi-employer U.S. Taft-Hartley benefit funds. In addition to serving as a leader on the Firm's Israel Institutional Investor Outreach Team, Hoffa also serves as a member of the Firm's lead plaintiff advisory team, and advises public and multi-employer pension funds around the country on issues related to fiduciary responsibility, legislative and regulatory updates, and "best practices" in the corporate governance of publicly traded companies.

Early in his legal career, Hoffa worked for a law firm based in Birmingham, Michigan, where he appeared regularly in Michigan state court in litigation pertaining to business, construction, and employment related matters. Hoffa has also appeared before the Michigan Court of Appeals on several occasions.

## Education

B.A., Michigan State University, 1993; J.D., Michigan State University College of Law, 2000

## Andrew W. Hutton | Of Counsel

Drew Hutton is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego and New York offices. Hutton has prosecuted a variety of securities actions, achieving high-profile recoveries and results. Representative cases against corporations and their auditors include *In re AOL Time Warner Sec. Litig.* (\$2.5 billion) and *In re Williams Cos. Sec. Litig.* (\$311 million). Representative cases against corporations and their executives include *In re Broadcom Sec. Litig.* (\$150 million) and *In re Clarent Corp. Sec. Litig.* (class plaintiff's 10b-5 jury verdict against former CEO). Hutton is also active in shareholder derivative litigation, achieving monetary recoveries and governance changes, including *In re Affiliated Computer Servs. Derivative Litig.* (\$30 million), *In re KB Home S'holder Derivative Litig.* (\$30 million), and *In re KeyCorp Derivative Litig.* (modified CEO stock options and governance). Hutton has also litigated securities cases in bankruptcy court (*In re WorldCom, Inc.* – \$15 million for individual claimant) and a complex options case before FINRA (eight-figure settlement for individual investor). Hutton is also experienced in complex, multi-district consumer litigation. Representative nationwide insurance cases include *In re Prudential Sales Pracs. Litig.* (\$4 billion), *In re Metro. Life Ins. Co. Sales Pracs. Litig.* (\$2 billion), and *In re Conseco Life Ins. Co. Cost of Ins. Litig.* (\$200 million). Representative nationwide consumer lending cases include a \$30 million class settlement of Truth-in-Lending claims against American Express and a \$24 million class settlement of RICO and RESPA claims against Community Bank of Northern Virginia (now PNC Bank).

Hutton is the founder of Hutton Law Group, a plaintiffs' litigation practice currently representing retirees, individual investors, and businesses. Before founding Hutton Law and joining Robbins Geller, Hutton was a public company accountant, Certified Public Accountant, and broker of stocks, options, and insurance products. Hutton has also served as an expert litigation consultant in both financial and corporate governance capacities. Hutton is often responsible for working with experts retained by the Firm in litigation and has conducted dozens of depositions of financial professionals, including audit partners, CFOs, directors, bankers, actuaries, and opposing experts.

## Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1983; J.D., Loyola Law School, 1994

## Nancy M. Juda | Of Counsel

Nancy Juda is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the Firm's Washington, D.C. office. Her practice focuses on advising Taft-Hartley pension and welfare funds on issues related to corporate fraud in the United States securities markets. Juda's experience as an ERISA attorney provides her with unique insight into the challenges faced by pension fund trustees as they endeavor to protect and preserve their funds' assets.

Prior to joining Robbins Geller, Juda was employed by the United Mine Workers of America Health & Retirement Funds, where she began her practice in the area of employee benefits law. She was also associated with a union-side labor law firm in Washington, D.C., where she represented the trustees of Taft-Hartley pension and welfare funds on qualification, compliance, fiduciary, and transactional issues under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code.

Using her extensive experience representing employee benefit funds, Juda advises trustees regarding their options for seeking redress for losses due to securities fraud. She currently advises trustees of funds providing benefits for members of unions affiliated with North America's Building Trades of the AFL-CIO. Juda also represents funds in ERISA class actions involving breach of fiduciary claims.

## Education

B.A., St. Lawrence University, 1988; J.D., American University, 1992

## Francis P. Karam | Of Counsel

Frank Karam is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the Firm's Melville office. Karam is a trial lawyer with 30 years of experience. His practice focuses on complex class action litigation involving shareholders' rights and securities fraud. He also represents a number of landowners and royalty owners in litigation against large energy companies. He has tried complex cases involving investment fraud and commercial fraud, both on the plaintiff and defense side, and has argued numerous appeals in state and federal courts. Throughout his career, Karam has tried more than 100 cases to verdict.

Karam has served as a partner at several prominent plaintiffs' securities firms. From 1984 to 1990, Karam was an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx, New York, where he served as a senior Trial Attorney in the Homicide Bureau. He entered private practice in 1990, concentrating on trial and appellate work in state and federal courts.

## Education

A.B., College of the Holy Cross; J.D., Tulane University School of Law

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2019-2022; "Who's Who" for Securities Lawyers, *Corporate Governance Magazine*, 2015

## Arthur C. Leahy | Of Counsel

Art Leahy is a founding partner in the Firm's San Diego office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. He has over 20 years of experience successfully litigating securities actions and derivative cases. Leahy has recovered well over two billion dollars for the Firm's clients and has negotiated comprehensive pro-investor corporate governance reforms at several large public companies. Most recently, Leahy helped secure a \$272 million recovery on behalf of mortgage-backed securities investors in *NECA-IBEW Health & Welfare Fund v. Goldman Sachs & Co.* In the *Goldman Sachs* case, he helped achieve favorable decisions in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of investors of Goldman Sachs mortgage-backed securities and again in the Supreme Court, which denied Goldman Sachs' petition for certiorari, or review, of the Second Circuit's reinstatement of the plaintiff's case. He was also part of the Firm's trial team in the AT&T securities litigation, which AT&T and its former officers paid \$100 million to settle after two weeks of trial. Prior to joining the Firm, he served as a judicial extern for the Honorable J. Clifford Wallace of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Alan C. Kay of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.

## Education

B.A., Point Loma Nazarene University, 1987; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 1990

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2021; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2021; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2017; J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of San Diego School of Law, 1990; Managing Editor, *San Diego Law Review*, University of San Diego School of Law

## Avital O. Malina | Of Counsel

Avital Malina is Of Counsel in the Firm's Melville office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation.

Malina has been recognized as a Rising Star by *Super Lawyers Magazine* for the New York Metro area numerous times. Before joining the Firm, she was an associate in the New York office of a large international law firm, where her practice focused on complex commercial litigations.

## Education

B.A., Barnard College, 2005, J.D., Fordham University School of Law, 2009

## Honors / Awards

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2021; B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, Barnard College, 2005

## Jerry E. Martin | Of Counsel

Jerry Martin is Of Counsel in the Firm's Nashville office. He specializes in representing individuals who wish to blow the whistle to expose fraud and abuse committed by federal contractors, health care providers, tax cheats, or those who violate the securities laws. Martin was a member of the litigation team that obtained a \$65 million recovery in *Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.*, the fourth-largest securities recovery ever in the Middle District of Tennessee and one of the largest in more than a decade.

Before joining the Firm, Martin served as the presidentially appointed United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee from May 2010 to April 2013. As U.S. Attorney, he made prosecuting financial, tax, and health care fraud a top priority. During his tenure, Martin co-chaired the Attorney General's Advisory Committee's Health Care Fraud Working Group. Martin has been recognized as a national leader in combatting fraud and has addressed numerous groups and associations, such as Taxpayers Against Fraud and the National Association of Attorneys General, and was a keynote speaker at the American Bar Association's Annual Health Care Fraud Conference.

## Education

B.A., Dartmouth College, 1996; J.D., Stanford University, 1999

## Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2016-2019

## Ruby Menon | Of Counsel

Ruby Menon is Of Counsel to the Firm and serves as a member of the Firm's legal, advisory, and business development group. She also serves as the liaison to the Firm's many institutional investor clients in the United States and abroad. For over 12 years, Menon served as Chief Legal Counsel to two large multi-employer retirement plans, developing her expertise in many areas of employee benefits and pension administration, including legislative initiatives and regulatory affairs, investments, tax, fiduciary compliance, and plan administration.

## Education

B.A., Indiana University, 1985; J.D., Indiana University School of Law, 1988

## Eugene Mikolajczyk | Of Counsel

Eugene Mikolajczyk is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the Firm's San Diego Office. Mikolajczyk has over 30 years' experience prosecuting shareholder and securities litigation cases as both individual and class actions. Among the cases are *Heckmann v. Ahmanson*, in which the court granted a preliminary injunction to prevent a corporate raider from exacting greenmail from a large domestic media/entertainment company.

Mikolajczyk was a primary litigation counsel in an international coalition of attorneys and human rights groups that won a historic settlement with major U.S. clothing retailers and manufacturers on behalf of a class of over 50,000 predominantly female Chinese garment workers, in an action seeking to hold the Saipan garment industry responsible for creating a system of indentured servitude and forced labor. The coalition obtained an unprecedented agreement for supervision of working conditions in the Saipan factories by an independent NGO, as well as a substantial multi-million dollar compensation award for the workers.

## Education

B.S., Elizabethtown College, 1974; J.D., Dickinson School of Law, Penn State University, 1978

## Roxana Pierce | Of Counsel

Roxana Pierce is Of Counsel in Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP's Washington D.C. office. She is an international lawyer whose practice focuses on protecting investor rights and the rights of victims of consumer fraud, waste, and abuse, including county pension funds, institutional investors, and state and city governmental entities. She zealously represents her clients with claims for consumer protection, securities, products liability, contracts, and other violations, whether through litigation, arbitration, mediation, or negotiation. She has represented clients in over 75 countries and 12 states, with extensive experience in the Middle East, Asia, Russia, the former Soviet Union, Germany, Belgium, the Caribbean, and India. Pierce's client base includes large institutional investors, state, county, and city retirement funds, pension funds, attorneys general, international banks, asset managers, foreign governments, multinational corporations, sovereign wealth funds, and high-net-worth individuals. She presently has over 20 class, private, and group actions on file, including cases against the largest pharmaceutical and automobile manufacturers in the world for securities fraud consumer rights violations.

Pierce has counseled international clients since 1994. She has spearheaded the contract negotiations for hundreds of projects, including several valued at over \$1 billion, and typically conducts her negotiations with the leadership of foreign governments and the leadership of Fortune 500 corporations, foreign and domestic. Pierce presently represents several European legacy banks in litigation concerning the 2008 financial crisis.

Pierce has been assisting the litigation team at Robbins Geller with the investigation of the opioids and e-cigarette issues facing many states, cities, and municipalities for more than four years. In particular, she has been working closely with doctors and other health care providers to obtain evidence relating to the opioid crisis facing Maryland, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

## Education

B.A., Pepperdine University, 1988; J.D., Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 1994

## Honors / Awards

Certificate of Accomplishment, Export-Import Bank of the United States; Humanitarian Spirit Award for Advocacy, The National Center for Children and Families, 2019

## Sara B. Polychron | Of Counsel

Sara Polychron is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. She is part of the litigation team prosecuting actions against investment banks and the leading credit rating agencies for their role in the structuring and rating of residential mortgage-backed securities and their subsequent collapse.

Sara earned her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of Minnesota, where she studied Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology and Law. As an undergraduate she interned with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, where she advocated for victims of domestic violence and assisted in sentencing negotiations in Juvenile Court. Sara received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, where she was the recipient of two academic scholarships. While in law school, she interned with the Center for Public Interest Law and was a contributing author and assistant editor to the California Regulatory Law Reporter. She also worked as a legal research assistant at the law school and clerked for two San Diego law firms.

### Education

B.A., University of Minnesota, 1999; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2005

## Svenna Prado | Of Counsel

Svenna Prado is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office, where she focuses on various aspects of international securities and consumer litigation. She was part of the litigation teams that secured settlements against German defendant IKB, as well as Deutsche Bank and Deutsche Bank/West LB for their role in structuring residential mortgage-backed securities and their subsequent collapse. Before joining the Firm, Prado was Head of the Legal Department for a leading international staffing agency in Germany where she focused on all aspects of employment litigation and corporate governance. After she moved to the United States, Prado worked with an internationally oriented German law firm as Counsel to corporate clients establishing subsidiaries in the United States and Germany. As a law student, Prado worked directly for several years for one of the appointed Trustees winding up Eastern German operations under receivership in the aftermath of the German reunification. Utilizing her experience in this area of law, Prado later helped many clients secure successful outcomes in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

### Education

J.D., University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany, 1996; Qualification for Judicial Office, Upper Regional Court Nuremberg, Germany, 1998; New York University, "U.S. Law and Methodologies," 2001



## Andrew T. Rees | Of Counsel

Andrew Rees is Of Counsel in the Firm's Boca Raton office. His practice focuses on complex class actions, including securities, corporate governance and consumer fraud litigation. He was on the litigation team that successfully obtained a \$146.25 million recovery in *Nieman v. Duke Energy Corp.*, which is the largest recovery in North Carolina for a case involving securities fraud and one of the five largest recoveries in the Fourth Circuit.

Before joining the Firm, Rees worked as an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Hogan & Hartson LLP, where he practiced in the area of commercial transactions, including financings, stock purchases, asset acquisitions and mergers.

## Education

B.A., Pennsylvania State University, 1997; J.D., William and Mary School of Law, 2002

## Jack Reise | Of Counsel

Jack Reise is Of Counsel in the Firm's Boca Raton office. Devoted to protecting the rights of those who have been harmed by corporate misconduct, his practice focuses on class action litigation (including securities fraud, shareholder derivative actions, consumer protection, antitrust, and unfair and deceptive insurance practices). Reise also dedicates a substantial portion of his practice to representing shareholders in actions brought under the federal securities laws. He is currently serving as lead counsel in more than a dozen cases nationwide. Most recently, Reise and a team of Robbins Geller attorneys obtained a \$1.21 billion settlement in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (D.N.J.), a case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." This is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest ever. As lead counsel, Reise has also represented investors in a series of cases involving mutual funds charged with improperly valuating their net assets, which settled for a total of more than \$50 million. Other notable actions include: *In re NewPower Holdings, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$41 million settlement); *In re ADT Inc. S'holder Litig.* (Fla. Cir. Ct., 15th Jud. Cir.) (\$30 million settlement); *In re Red Hat, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (E.D.N.C.) (\$20 million settlement); and *In re AFC Enters., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (N.D. Ga.) (\$17.2 million settlement).

## Education

B.A., Binghamton University, 1992; J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 1995

## Honors / Awards

Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyer, *Lawdragon*, 2019-2022; American Jurisprudence Book Award in Contracts; J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of Miami School of Law, 1995; *University of Miami Inter-American Law Review*, University of Miami School of Law

## Stephanie Schroder | Of Counsel

Stephanie Schroder is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office. Schroder advises institutional investors, including public and multi-employer pension funds, on issues related to corporate fraud in the United States and worldwide financial markets. Schroder has been with the Firm since its formation in 2004, and has over 20 years of securities litigation experience.

Schroder has represented institutional investors in securities fraud litigation that has resulted in collective recoveries of over \$2 billion. Most recently, Schroder was part of the Robbins Geller team that obtained a \$1.21 billion settlement in *In re Valeant Pharms. Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, a case that *Vanity Fair* reported as "the corporate scandal of its era" that had raised "fundamental questions about the functioning of our health-care system, the nature of modern markets, and the slippery slope of ethical rationalizations." This is the largest securities class action settlement against a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the ninth largest securities class action settlement ever. Additional prominent cases include: *In re AT&T Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$100 million recovery at trial); *In re FirstEnergy Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$89.5 million recovery); *Rasner v. Sturm (FirstWorld Communications)*; and *In re Advanced Lighting Sec. Litig.* Schroder also specializes in derivative litigation for breaches of fiduciary duties by corporate officers and directors. Significant litigation includes *In re OM Grp. S'holder Litig.* and *In re Chiquita S'holder Litig.* Schroder previously represented clients that suffered losses from the Madoff fraud in the *Austin Capital* and *Meridian Capital* litigations, which were also successfully resolved. In addition, Schroder is a frequent lecturer on securities fraud, shareholder litigation, and options for institutional investors seeking to recover losses caused by securities and accounting fraud.

## Education

B.A., University of Kentucky, 1997; J.D., University of Kentucky College of Law, 2000

## Kevin S. Sciarani | Of Counsel

Kevin Sciarani is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the San Diego office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Sciarani earned Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of California, San Diego. He graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law with a Juris Doctor degree, where he served as a Senior Articles Editor on the *Hastings Law Journal*.

During law school, Sciarani interned for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Antitrust Section of the California Department of Justice. In his final semester, he served as an extern to the Honorable Susan Illston of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Sciarani also received recognition for his *pro bono* assistance to tenants living in foreclosed properties due to the subprime mortgage crisis.

## Education

B.S., B.A., University of California, San Diego, 2005; J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2014

## Honors / Awards

J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, Order of the Coif, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2014; CALI Excellence Award, Senior Articles Editor, Hastings Law Journal, University of California, Hastings College of the Law

## Christopher P. Seefer | Of Counsel

Christopher Seefer is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Francisco office. He concentrates his practice in securities class action litigation, including cases against Verisign, UTStarcom, VeriFone, Nash Finch, NextCard, Terayon, and America West. Seefer served as an Assistant Director and Deputy General Counsel for the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, which reported to Congress in January 2011 its conclusions as to the causes of the global financial crisis. Prior to joining the Firm, he was a Fraud Investigator with the Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury (1990-1999), and a field examiner with the Office of Thrift Supervision (1986-1990).

## Education

B.A., University of California Berkeley, 1984; M.B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1990; J.D., Golden Gate University School of Law, 1998

## Arthur L. Shingler III | Of Counsel

Arthur Shingler is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office. Shingler has successfully represented both public and private sector clients in hundreds of complex, multi-party actions with billions of dollars in dispute. Throughout his career, he has obtained outstanding results for those he has represented in cases generally encompassing shareholder derivative and securities litigation, unfair business practices litigation, publicity rights and advertising litigation, ERISA litigation, and other insurance, health care, employment, and commercial disputes.

Representative matters in which Shingler served as lead litigation or settlement counsel include, among others: *In re Royal Dutch/Shell ERISA Litig.* (\$90 million settlement); *In re Priceline.com Sec. Litig.* (\$80 million settlement); *In re General Motors ERISA Litig.* (\$37.5 million settlement, in addition to significant revision of retirement plan administration); *Wood v. Ionatron, Inc.* (\$6.5 million settlement); *In re Lattice Semiconductor Corp. Derivative Litig.* (corporate governance settlement, including substantial revision of board policies and executive management); *In re 360networks Class Action Sec. Litig.* (\$7 million settlement); and *Rothschild v. Tyco Int'l (US), Inc.*, 83 Cal. App. 4th 488 (2000) (shaped scope of California's Unfair Practices Act as related to limits of State's False Claims Act).

## Education

B.A., Point Loma Nazarene College, 1989; J.D., Boston University School of Law, 1995

## Honors / Awards

B.A., *Cum Laude*, Point Loma Nazarene College, 1989

## Leonard B. Simon | Of Counsel

Leonard Simon is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office. His practice has been devoted to litigation in the federal courts, including both the prosecution and the defense of major class actions and other complex litigation in the securities and antitrust fields. Simon has also handled a substantial number of complex appellate matters, arguing cases in the United States Supreme Court, several federal Courts of Appeals, and several California appellate courts. He has also represented large, publicly traded corporations. Simon served as plaintiffs' co-lead counsel in *In re Am. Cont'l Corp./Lincoln Sav. & Loan Sec. Litig.*, MDL No. 834 (D. Ariz.) (settled for \$240 million), and *In re NASDAQ Market-Makers Antitrust Litig.*, MDL No. 1023 (S.D.N.Y.) (settled for more than \$1 billion). He was also in a leadership role in several of the state court antitrust cases against Microsoft, and the state court antitrust cases challenging electric prices in California. He was centrally involved in the prosecution of *In re Washington Pub. Power Supply Sys. Sec. Litig.*, MDL No. 551 (D. Ariz.), the largest securities class action ever litigated.

Simon is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Duke University, the University of San Diego, and the University of Southern California Law Schools. He has lectured extensively on securities, antitrust, and complex litigation in programs sponsored by the American Bar Association Section of Litigation, the Practising Law Institute, and ALI-ABA, and at the UCLA Law School, the University of San Diego Law School, and the Stanford Business School. He is an Editor of *California Federal Court Practice* and has authored a law review article on the PSLRA.

## Education

B.A., Union College, 1970; J.D., Duke University School of Law, 1973

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2016-2020; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2008-2016; J.D., Order of the Coif and with Distinction, Duke University School of Law, 1973

## Laura S. Stein | Of Counsel

Laura Stein is Of Counsel in the Firm's Philadelphia office. Since 1995, she has practiced in the areas of securities class action litigation, complex litigation, and legislative law. Stein has served as one of the Firm's and the nation's top asset recovery experts with a focus on minimizing losses suffered by shareholders due to corporate fraud and breaches of fiduciary duty. She also seeks to deter future violations of federal and state securities laws by reinforcing the standards of good corporate governance. Stein works with over 500 institutional investors across the nation and abroad, and her clients have served as lead plaintiff in successful cases where billions of dollars were recovered for defrauded investors against such companies as: AOL Time Warner, TYCO, Cardinal Health, AT&T, Hanover Compressor, 1st Bancorp, Enron, Dynegy, Inc., Honeywell International, Bridgestone, LendingClub, Orbital ATK, and Walmart, to name a few. Many of the cases led by Stein's clients have accomplished groundbreaking corporate governance achievements, including obtaining shareholder-nominated directors. She is a frequent presenter and educator on securities fraud monitoring, litigation, and corporate governance.

## Education

B.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1992; J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School, 1995

## John J. Stoia, Jr. | Of Counsel

John Stoia is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the Firm's San Diego office. He is one of the founding partners and former managing partner of the Firm. He focuses his practice on insurance fraud, consumer fraud, and securities fraud class actions. Stoia has been responsible for over \$10 billion in recoveries on behalf of victims of insurance fraud due to deceptive sales practices such as "vanishing premiums" and "churning." He has worked on dozens of nationwide complex securities class actions, including *In re Am. Cont'l Corp./Lincoln Sav. & Loan Sec. Litig.*, which arose out of the collapse of Lincoln Savings & Loan and Charles Keating's empire. Stoia was a member of the plaintiffs' trial team that obtained verdicts against Keating and his co-defendants in excess of \$3 billion and settlements of over \$240 million.

He also represented numerous large institutional investors who suffered hundreds of millions of dollars in losses as a result of major financial scandals, including AOL Time Warner and WorldCom. Currently, Stoia is lead counsel in numerous cases against online discount voucher companies for violations of both federal and state laws including violation of state gift card statutes.

## Education

B.S., University of Tulsa, 1983; J.D., University of Tulsa, 1986; LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center, 1987

## Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2020; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2007-2017; Litigator of the Month, *The National Law Journal*, July 2000; LL.M. Top of Class, Georgetown University Law Center

## Christopher J. Supple | Of Counsel

Chris Supple is Senior Counsel to Robbins Geller, having joined the Firm after spending the past decade (2011-2021) as Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel at MassPRIM (the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Management Board). While at MassPRIM, Supple also served for the last half-decade as Chair and Co-Chair of the Securities Litigation Committee of NAPPA (the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys). Supple is very familiar with, and experienced in, the role that institutional investors play in private securities litigation, having successfully directed MassPRIM's securities litigation activity in dozens of actions that recovered more than a billion dollars for investors, including *Schering-Plough* (\$473 million), *Massey Energy* (\$265 million), and *Fannie Mae* (\$170 million).

Supple's 30-plus years of experience in law and investments also includes over five years as a federal prosecutor, six years in senior leadership positions for two Massachusetts Governors, and over ten years in private law practice where his clients included MassPRIM and also its sibling Health Care Security/State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund. Supple began his career (after a federal court clerkship) as a litigating attorney assigned to securities cases at the Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr (now called WilmerHale). Supple has litigated in state and federal courts throughout the nation, and has successfully tried over 25 cases to jury verdict, tried dozens of cases to judges sitting without juries, argued hundreds of evidentiary and non-evidentiary motions, and settled dozens of cases by negotiated agreement. Supple holds the Investment Foundations™ Certificate awarded by the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) Institute, and for nearly a decade was an adjunct law professor teaching a course in Federal Criminal Prosecution.

## Education

B.A., The College of the Holy Cross, 1985; J.D., Duke University School of Law, 1988

## Honors / Awards

J.D., with Honors, Duke University School of Law, 1988

## Michael A. Troncoso | Of Counsel

Michael Troncoso is Of Counsel to Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP. His practice focuses on securities fraud class action litigation and other affirmative litigation. Prior to joining the Firm, Troncoso served as a prosecutor, senior in-house counsel, and legal and policy advisor across numerous sectors. He served as chief counsel and chief of public policy to then-California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, overseeing the office's priority litigation, enforcement, and legislative matters. In this role, he served as lead counsel for the State of California in securing the National Mortgage Settlement, the largest consumer financial protection settlement in state history that brought \$20 billion in loan relief and direct payments to California homeowners. He led the state's Mortgage Fraud Task Force and its investigations of securities law violations arising from the issuance of residential mortgage-backed securities. His team recovered nearly \$1 billion in RMBS-related losses for California public pension funds.

Earlier in his career, Troncoso served for nearly six years as a trial attorney and assistant chief attorney for policy in the San Francisco District Attorney's office, where he tried multiple criminal cases to jury verdict and led the office's mortgage and investment fraud team, where he was responsible for investigating and prosecuting complex financial crimes from initial report through charging and trial.

Troncoso most recently served as Vice President at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, a philanthropic organization, where he led bipartisan policy and advocacy efforts nationwide. He also served in the University of California's Office of General Counsel as managing counsel for health affairs and technology law and chief campus counsel, where he oversaw various litigation, regulatory, and data protection matters.

## Education

B.A., University of California at Berkeley, 1999; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2002

## Honors / Awards

Top 40 Under 40, *Daily Journal*, 2012



## David C. Walton | Of Counsel

David Walton was a founding partner of the Firm. For over 25 years, he has prosecuted class actions and private actions on behalf of defrauded investors, particularly in the area of accounting fraud. He has investigated and participated in the litigation of highly complex accounting scandals within some of America's largest corporations, including Enron (\$7.2 billion), HealthSouth (\$671 million), WorldCom (\$657 million), AOL Time Warner (\$629 million), Countrywide (\$500 million), and Dynegy (\$474 million), as well as numerous companies implicated in stock option backdating.

Walton is a member of the Bar of California, a Certified Public Accountant (California 1992), a Certified Fraud Examiner, and is fluent in Spanish. In 2003-2004, he served as a member of the California Board of Accountancy, which is responsible for regulating the accounting profession in California.

## Education

B.A., University of Utah, 1988; J.D., University of Southern California Law Center, 1993

## Honors / Awards

Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2019; Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2016; California Board of Accountancy, Member, 2003-2004; *Southern California Law Review*, Member, University of Southern California Law Center; Hale Moot Court Honors Program, University of Southern California Law Center

## Bruce Gamble | Special Counsel

Bruce Gamble is Special Counsel to the Firm in the Firm's Washington D.C. office and is a member of the Firm's institutional investor client services group. He serves as liaison with the Firm's institutional investor clients in the United States and abroad, advising them on securities litigation matters. Gamble formerly served as Of Counsel to the Firm, providing a broad array of highly specialized legal and consulting services to public retirement plans. Before working with Robbins Geller, Gamble was General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for the District of Columbia Retirement Board, where he served as chief legal advisor to the Board of Trustees and staff. Gamble's experience also includes serving as Chief Executive Officer of two national trade associations and several senior level staff positions on Capitol Hill.

## Education

B.S., University of Louisville, 1979; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1989

## Honors / Awards

Executive Board Member, National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, 2000-2006; American Banker selection as one of the most promising U.S. bank executives under 40 years of age, 1992

## Tricia L. McCormick | Special Counsel

Tricia McCormick is Special Counsel to the Firm and focuses primarily on the prosecution of securities class actions. McCormick has litigated numerous cases against public companies in the state and federal courts which resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in recoveries to investors. She is also a member of a team that is in constant contact with clients who wish to become actively involved in the litigation of securities fraud. In addition, McCormick is active in all phases of the Firm's lead plaintiff motion practice.

### Education

B.A., University of Michigan, 1995; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 1998

### Honors / Awards

J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of San Diego School of Law, 1998

## R. Steven Aronica | Forensic Accountant

Steven Aronica is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the States of New York and Georgia and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Aronica has been instrumental in the prosecution of numerous financial and accounting fraud civil litigation claims against companies that include Lucent Technologies, Tyco, Oxford Health Plans, Computer Associates, Aetna, WorldCom, Vivendi, AOL Time Warner, Ikon, Doral Financial, First BanCorp, Acclaim Entertainment, Pall Corporation, iStar Financial, Hibernia Foods, NBTY, Tommy Hilfiger, Lockheed Martin, the Blackstone Group, and Motorola. In addition, he assisted in the prosecution of numerous civil claims against the major United States public accounting firms.

Aronica has been employed in the practice of financial accounting for more than 30 years, including public accounting, where he was responsible for providing clients with a wide range of accounting and auditing services; the investment bank Drexel Burnham Lambert, Inc., where he held positions with accounting and financial reporting responsibilities; and at the SEC, where he held various positions in the divisions of Corporation Finance and Enforcement and participated in the prosecution of both criminal and civil fraud claims.

### Education

B.B.A., University of Georgia, 1979

## Andrew J. Rudolph | Forensic Accountant

Andrew Rudolph is the Director of the Firm's Forensic Accounting Department, which provides in-house forensic accounting expertise in connection with securities fraud litigation against national and foreign companies. He has directed hundreds of financial statement fraud investigations, which were instrumental in recovering billions of dollars for defrauded investors. Prominent cases include *Qwest*, *HealthSouth*, *WorldCom*, *Boeing*, *Honeywell*, *Vivendi*, *Aurora Foods*, *Informix*, *Platinum Software*, *AOL Time Warner*, and *UnitedHealth*.

Rudolph is a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Public Accountant licensed to practice in California. He is an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, California's Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. His 20 years of public accounting, consulting, and forensic accounting experience includes financial fraud investigation, auditor malpractice, auditing of public and private companies, business litigation consulting, due diligence investigations, and taxation.

### Education

B.A., Central Connecticut State University, 1985

## Christopher Yurcek | Forensic Accountant

Christopher Yurcek is the Assistant Director of the Firm's Forensic Accounting Department, which provides in-house forensic accounting and litigation expertise in connection with major securities fraud litigation. He has directed the Firm's forensic accounting efforts on numerous high-profile cases, including *In re Enron Corp. Sec. Litig.* and *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, which obtained a record-breaking \$1.575 billion settlement after 14 years of litigation, including a six-week jury trial in 2009 that resulted in a verdict for plaintiffs. Other prominent cases include *HealthSouth*, *UnitedHealth*, *Vesta*, *Informix*, *Mattel*, *Coca-Cola*, and *Media Vision*.

Yurcek has over 20 years of accounting, auditing, and consulting experience in areas including financial statement audit, forensic accounting and fraud investigation, auditor malpractice, turn-around consulting, business litigation, and business valuation. He is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in California, holds a Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) Credential from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and is a member of the California Society of CPAs and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

### Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 1985