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9 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10 COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

11 JOHN R. SWITZER, Individually and on)
12 Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,)
13 Plaintiff,)

14 vs.)

15 W.R. HAMBRECHT & CO., LLC, et al.,)
16 Defendants.)

Lead Case No. CGC-18-564904
(Consolidated with No. CGC-18-565324)

CLASS ACTION

JOINT DECLARATION OF JAMES I.
JACONETTE AND PHONG L. TRAN IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL
OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Assigned for all purposes to
Judge Mary E. Wiss, Dept. 305
Date Action Filed: 03/09/18

DATE: June 4, 2019
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DEPT: 305

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1 JAMES I. JACONETTE and PHONG L. TRAN each hereby declare as follows:

2 1. James I. Jaconette is an attorney duly licensed to practice before all courts of the state of
3 California and a member of the firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP (“Robbins Geller”).
4 Phong L. Tran is an attorney duly licensed to practice before all courts of the state of California and an
5 attorney at Johnson Fistel, LLP (“Johnson Fistel”). Robbins Geller and Johnson Fistel are counsel of
6 record for John R. Switzer (“Switzer”) in this class action (hereinafter, the “Litigation”).¹

7 2. We were actively involved in the prosecution of this Litigation, are familiar with the
8 proceedings in this Court, and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein based upon our
9 active participation in all material aspects of the Litigation.² If called upon to do so, we could and
10 would testify competently as to the matters herein.

11 3. We respectfully submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs’ Unopposed Motion for
12 Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. The Motion seeks: (a) preliminary approval of the
13 proposed Settlement set forth in the Stipulation, which provides for a cash Settlement Amount of
14 \$2,450,000; and (b) approval of the proposed form and method of providing notice to the Class of class
15 certification and the proposed Settlement.

16 **I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

17 4. This is a securities class action for violation of §§12(a)(2) and 15 of the Securities Act of
18 1933 (the “1933 Act”) on behalf of all Persons who purchased Arcimoto, Inc. common stock pursuant
19 to the Prospectus issued in connection with the Company’s September 21, 2017 initial public offering
20 (“IPO” or “Offering”). These claims were brought against Arcimoto, Inc. (“Arcimoto” or the
21 “Company”), certain of its officers and directors (collectively, the “Arcimoto Defendants”),³ and W. R.

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23 ¹ Plaintiff Jay Mendelson (“Mendelson”) is represented by Stephen J. Oddo of Robbins Arroyo LLP.
Mendelson and Switzer are hereinafter referred to as “Plaintiffs” or the “Class Representatives.”

24 ² Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms have the meaning ascribed to them in the
25 Stipulation of Settlement dated April 24, 2019 (the “Stipulation”), which is being filed concurrently
with the Court.

26 ³ The Individual Defendants are Mark Frohnmayer, Arcimoto’s founder, President, Chief Executive
27 Officer and Chairman of the Board; Douglas M. Campoli, Chief Financial Officer; and Thomas
Thurston, Terry Becker, and Jefferson Curl, who were all members of Arcimoto’s Board of Directors.

1 Hambrecht + Co., LLC (the “Underwriter Defendant” or “Hambrecht”), the underwriter of the Offering.
2 The Arcimoto Defendants and Hambrecht are hereinafter referred to as “Defendants.”

3 5. Plaintiffs’ First Amended Consolidated Complaint for Violations of §§ 12(a)(2) and 15 of
4 the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Complaint”) alleges that the Company’s Prospectus and certain videos
5 used in connection with the IPO roadshow (collectively, the “Offering Materials”) contained materially
6 false and misleading statements and omitted material adverse information. In particular, the Complaint
7 alleges the Offering Materials misrepresented and omitted material facts concerning Arcimoto’s then-
8 existing production capabilities at the time of the IPO, its ability to deliver properly-functioning SRK
9 electric vehicles to customers, and the purported “street legal” status of the SRKs.

10 6. This Litigation has been diligently prosecuted from its commencement on March 9,
11 2018, and it was extensively investigated at the outset. In that regard, Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs’ Counsel
12 have:

13 (a) Conducted an extensive factual investigation of the events underlying Arcimoto’s
14 September 21, 2017 Offering;

15 (b) Reviewed and analyzed the representations made by the Company in the
16 Prospectus and Registration Statement, as well as in subsequent U.S. Securities and Exchange
17 Commission (“SEC”) filings;

18 (c) Reviewed and analyzed the representations made by Defendants in the IPO
19 roadshow videos;

20 (d) Reviewed and analyzed industry and securities analyst reports, comprehensive
21 news reports, press releases, and other media files concerning Arcimoto;

22 (e) Reviewed and analyzed witness accounts of Arcimoto’s operations provided by
23 former Arcimoto employees, which were developed through counsel’s investigation;

24 (f) Researched and filed multiple complaints, including the operative Complaint;

25 (g) Briefed, argued, and successfully opposed, in part, the demurrers brought by
26 Defendants to the Consolidated Complaint;

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1 (h) Briefed, argued and successfully opposed Defendants' motion to stay further
2 discovery pending ruling on demurrer;

3 (i) Negotiated, prepared and filed the stipulation consolidating and coordinating the
4 related actions;

5 (j) Prepared and filed initial and updated joint case management conference
6 statements addressing the status of discovery and the scheduling of pre-trial matters;

7 (k) Prepared and propounded written discovery on Defendants, including special
8 interrogatories and document requests;

9 (l) Met and conferred with Defendants over the discovery requests;

10 (m) Reviewed and drafted responses and objections to the discovery requests
11 propounded on Plaintiffs;

12 (n) Obtained and reviewed over 107,000 pages of document discovery produced by
13 Arcimoto and Hambrecht;

14 (o) Reviewed and produced documents on behalf of Plaintiffs in response to
15 Defendants' discovery requests;

16 (p) Retained and consulted with a damages consultant regarding the calculation of
17 damages under the 1933 Act;

18 (q) Prepared for and participated in a day-long mediation session with Michelle
19 Yoshida, Esq. of Phillips ADR on January 25, 2019, during which Plaintiffs were able to negotiate a
20 cash Settlement Amount of \$2,450,000 and other favorable settlement terms for the Class;

21 (r) Prepared and submitted a detailed mediation statement and binder of exhibits
22 prior to the mediation with Ms. Yoshida; and

23 (s) Prepared and negotiated with Defendants the Stipulation, Notice of Proposed
24 Settlement of Class Action, Proof of Claim and Release, and other related exhibits in support of the
25 proposed Settlement.

26 7. The proposed Settlement of \$2,450,000 is the product of diligent litigation and hard-
27 fought negotiations and takes into consideration the risks specific to this Litigation. The Settlement was
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1 negotiated with the assistance and oversight of Michelle Yoshida, Esq. of Phillips ADR – an
2 accomplished and well-regarded mediator with substantial securities class action expertise. The
3 Settlement was negotiated by experienced counsel for both Plaintiffs and Defendants with each having a
4 firm understanding of both the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions. Plaintiffs
5 prepared and submitted a comprehensive mediation statement, and expended substantial efforts in
6 connection with the mediation, including an analysis of Plaintiffs’ and Defendants’ theories of falsity,
7 materiality, causation, and damages.

8 8. Counsel for Plaintiffs believe the proposed Settlement for \$2,450,000 in cash represents
9 an excellent result for the Class. As discussed below, proceeding with this Litigation through another
10 round of demurrers, motions for summary judgment, and/or trial would have posed a number of real and
11 substantial risks for the Class. For example, there would be a risk that a jury would find that Plaintiffs
12 failed to meet their burden of demonstrating falsity or materiality. There was also a risk that
13 Defendants could assert and prevail on a negative causation defense. In addition, a fact-finder could
14 conclude that the damages that Class Representatives would seek for the Class were less than requested
15 based on competing views of the amount of recoverable damages.

16 9. Plaintiffs’ burden at trial would also require expert testimony, on, *inter alia*, industry
17 specific issues and damages. Even with the most competent experts in these fields, there could be no
18 guarantee that Plaintiffs would prevail on liability and damages. Defendants’ experts would likely
19 present opinions designed to establish affirmative defenses, undermine Plaintiffs’ ability to demonstrate
20 liability, and mitigate or eliminate damages. Regardless of the merits, a jury’s impression of a party’s
21 expert is an unknown factor which would present a substantial risk at trial. In the best case scenario for
22 Plaintiffs and the Class here, the highest possible damage figure for the claims asserted in the Litigation
23 was estimated to be in the range of \$8.4 million. To be clear, any finding by the jury that damages in
24 this case were \$8.4 million assumes: Plaintiffs’ 100% success in establishing liability; Plaintiffs’
25 success in submitting the complete opinions of Plaintiffs’ damages expert at trial; and, 100% success by
26 Plaintiffs in rebutting all affirmative defenses, including negative causation. On the other hand, if
27 liability could not be proven, or if Defendants were successful in their negative causation defense,

1 Plaintiffs and the Class would recover nothing. Accordingly, a Settlement which recovers close to 25%
2 of the total estimated damages represents a clearly meaningful result.

3 10. Even if Plaintiffs prevailed on any or all of the alleged claims at summary judgment and
4 trial, and were awarded damages, Defendants would almost certainly appeal any opinion, verdict or
5 award. The appeals process would likely take years, during which time the Class would receive no
6 distribution at all. Further, any appeal would also create the risk of reversal, in which case the Class
7 would receive nothing after prevailing at the trial court level.

8 11. These issues and others were thoroughly considered in deciding to settle the Litigation.
9 In reaching the determination to settle, Plaintiffs' Counsel weighed the evidence and legal authority
10 supporting Plaintiffs' allegations against the anticipated evidence and legal authority that Defendants
11 believed undermined the strength of Plaintiffs' claims, as well as Defendants' characterizations and
12 interpretations of the allegations and damages in this case.

13 12. On balance, considering all the circumstances and risks both sides faced at the pleading
14 stage, summary judgment and trial, the conclusion was reached that settlement on the terms agreed
15 upon is in the best interests of the Class. The Settlement confers a substantial benefit on the Class now,
16 and eliminates the significant risks and expenses of protracted litigation, the outcome of which was
17 uncertain. Plaintiffs respectfully submit that the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable and
18 adequate.

19 13. Plaintiffs' Counsel will submit a fee application for no more than 33-1/3% of the
20 Settlement Fund. Such a request is fair both to the Class and Plaintiffs' Counsel and is within the range
21 of fees awarded in similar class actions and is justified in light of the substantial benefits conferred on
22 the Class, the risks undertaken by counsel, the overall quality of representation and the extent of legal
23 services performed. Indeed, Plaintiffs' Counsel have invested hundreds of hours of attorney and other
24 professional time.

25 14. Plaintiffs' Counsel will also seek approval of expenses reasonably and necessarily
26 incurred in prosecuting the Litigation. Plaintiffs' Counsel prosecuted this Litigation on a wholly
27 contingent basis and advanced or incurred certain litigation expenses. In doing so, counsel bore the risk
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1 of an unfavorable result and have not received any compensation for their efforts, nor have they been
2 paid for their expenses.

3 15. Specifically, Plaintiffs' Counsel have incurred tens of thousands of dollars in expenses.
4 This includes: (a) fees and expenses of a consultant in the field of damage analysis; (b) organizing and
5 maintaining a document database for tens of thousands of document images; (c) online factual and legal
6 research; (d) travel; and (e) mediation fees. As demonstrated herein by the efforts required to achieve
7 this Settlement, these expenses were reasonably and necessarily incurred to obtain this result.

8 **II. RELEVANT PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND SUMMARY OF PLAINTIFFS'**
9 **CLAIMS**

10 16. On March 9, 2018, the first complaint in this matter was filed by Plaintiff Switzer. The
11 complaint asserted violations of §§ 12(a)(2) and 15 of the 1933 Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 771(a)(2) and 77o) for
12 alleged misrepresentations and omissions of material fact in the Prospectus for Arcimoto's September
13 21, 2017 Offering, as well as in certain videos presented to the investing public in connection with the
14 Company's IPO roadshow. The complaint asserted claims against Arcimoto, the Arcimoto officers
15 and/or directors who signed the Offering Materials and allegedly solicited Arcimoto securities through
16 the Offering, and Hambrecht, the underwriter of the Offering. On March 27, 2018, Plaintiff Mendelson
17 filed a complaint in this Court alleging the same or similar claims against the same Defendants named
18 in the *Switzer* action. The two actions were consolidated by order of the Court on May 24, 2018, and a
19 consolidated complaint was later filed on June 26, 2018.

20 17. The putative Class includes all Persons, except for Defendants and other specifically
21 excluded persons and entities, who purchased Arcimoto common stock pursuant to the Prospectus
22 issued in connection with Arcimoto's IPO.

23 18. Arcimoto purports to design and build electric vehicles. Its primary product is the SRK,
24 a three-wheeled, two-passenger electric vehicle. On or about March 31, 2017, Arcimoto filed with the
25 SEC its initial registration statement on Form 1-A, which, following several amendments, was declared
26 qualified by the SEC on September 19, 2017, and utilized for the IPO (the "Registration Statement").
27 The Registration Statement was signed by Defendants Frohnmayer and Campoli, along with the other
28 members of Arcimoto's Board of Directors, Defendants Becker, Thurston and Curl. The Registration

1 Statement included an Offering Circular that formed part of the Registration Statement (collectively, the
2 “Prospectus”). The Complaint alleges that in August 2017, Arcimoto, Frohnmayer, Campoli, and
3 Hambrecht (as the underwriter of the Offering) commenced a six-week, multi-city roadshow to market
4 Arcimoto common stock to the investing public.

5 19. As explained in the Complaint, as part of the IPO Roadshow, Arcimoto and Hambrecht
6 placed two videos on their respective company websites which presented information about Arcimoto
7 and the Offering. These videos were displayed on Arcimoto’s and Hambrecht’s websites in close
8 proximity to “INVEST NOW!” buttons that were linked to web forms designed to take investor
9 financial and share purchase information.

10 20. Plaintiffs allege that in connection with the IPO, Defendants were responsible for false
11 and misleading statements in the Prospectus and the IPO roadshow videos concerning: (i) Arcimoto’s
12 then-existing capability to commence large scale commercial production of its SRK vehicles
13 (Complaint, ¶¶21, 23, 29); (ii) the Company’s then-existing ability to sell and deliver safe and properly-
14 functioning SRK vehicles to customers (*id.*, ¶¶21, 25, 29); and (iii) the SRK’s purported “street legal”
15 status (*id.*, ¶¶27, 34).

16 21. As detailed in the Complaint, Defendants’ misstatements were actionable under
17 §§12(a)(2) and 15 of the 1933 Act because they misrepresented and omitted material adverse facts
18 about the Company that existed at the time of the IPO. Specifically, the Complaint asserts that
19 Arcimoto was experiencing production delays and was unable to make more than one SRK function
20 properly. Other than one SRK that defendant Frohnmayer took possession of on November 30, 2017,
21 and one improperly working SRK delivered to Hollywood actor Nathan Fillion on or about December
22 17, 2017, Arcimoto was not on track to deliver six SRKs to paying customers and was not building six
23 SRKs as of the IPO.

24 22. Additionally, as described in the Complaint, Arcimoto’s purported “[r]etail production
25 and manufacturing of vehicles” was not on track to “start at the beginning of 2018.” The Complaint
26 alleges that commercial production was not feasible due to delays and the Company’s inability to
27 produce a safe, reliable and properly working product. Arcimoto allegedly did not have a production
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1 facility capable of commercial production, its existing facility did not have an assembly line, and no
2 robotic assembly had been ordered, designed, or implemented. Moreover, there were no Beta vehicles
3 in production as represented, and the design of the Beta vehicles was not even ready at the time of the
4 IPO.

5 23. The Complaint also alleges that Arcimoto’s two prototype vehicles, which were
6 repeatedly displayed in the IPO videos, were rife with safety and operational issues, including rollover
7 issues, poor braking, and engine problems. These safety and operational issues continued to plague the
8 prototypes, and no design had been test “proven” to be ready for production. The Complaint further
9 avers that Arcimoto vehicles were not street legal as of the IPO, and the Company later admitted its
10 legal status was still being negotiated after the Offering.

11 24. The IPO was successful for Defendants who sold 2,945,657 shares of Arcimoto common
12 stock to the investing public at \$6.50 per share, raising over \$19 million in gross proceeds. Not long
13 afterwards, however, the price of Arcimoto common stock plummeted, as the market learned about the
14 material adverse facts that Defendants misrepresented and omitted from the Offering Materials. Indeed,
15 when this action was initially filed, Arcimoto’s stock price dropped to as low as \$3.00 per share, less
16 than 50% of the price the stock was sold at the time of the Offering.

17 25. Defendants have denied and continue to deny all such allegations and continue to deny
18 any liability, including any liability for the claims of Plaintiffs asserted in this Litigation under
19 §§12(a)(2) and 15 of the 1933 Act.

20 26. On July 30, 2018, the Arcimoto Defendants and Hambrecht brought two separate
21 demurrers to the Consolidated Complaint. The demurrers sought to dismiss the Litigation in its
22 entirety, with prejudice. The Arcimoto Defendants argued in their demurrer that Plaintiffs had failed to
23 plead an actionable misrepresentation or omission, and that none of the Individual Defendants were
24 “statutory sellers” within the meaning of §12(a)(2). Hambrecht likewise argued in its demurrer that
25 Plaintiffs had failed to plead an actionable misrepresentation or omission, and that it too was not a
26 statutory seller.

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1 27. In addition to demurring to the Consolidated Complaint, on July 30, 2018, the Arcimoto
2 Defendants filed a motion to stay further discovery pending a ruling on the demurrer to the
3 Consolidated Complaint. In their motion, the Arcimoto Defendants argued that all discovery in the
4 Litigation should be stayed pending the Court’s ruling on the demurrers, pursuant to the automatic stay
5 provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (“PSLRA”).

6 28. On August 17, 2018, Plaintiffs filed oppositions to the demurrers and the motion to stay.
7 Defendants filed reply briefs on August 24, 2018. On September 5, 2018, the Court heard oral
8 argument on the demurrers and motion to stay. Following full briefing and oral argument, the Court
9 entered an Order on September 19, 2018, overruling in its entirety, Hambrecht’s demurrer to the
10 Consolidated Complaint. The same day, the Court entered an Order sustaining in part and overruling in
11 part the Arcimoto Defendants’ demurrer to the Consolidated Complaint. In the latter Order, the Court
12 upheld the First Cause of Action (based on alleged violations of §12 of the 1933 Act) against Arcimoto
13 and sustained with leave to amend the control person allegations under §15 of the 1933 Act in the
14 Second Cause of Action asserted against Arcimoto. The Court also upheld the allegations under the
15 Second Cause of Action against the Individual Defendants and sustained with leave to amend the
16 allegations under the First Cause of Action against the Individual Defendants. The Court granted 30
17 days leave to amend the complaint.

18 29. Also, on September 19, 2018, the Court entered another Order denying the motion to
19 stay, holding in relevant part: “The Court finds that the PSLRA’s provision for a discovery stay is of a
20 procedural nature, and therefore only applies to actions filed in federal court, not state court.
21 Accordingly, the motion is denied.”

22 30. After the Court denied Defendants’ motion to stay discovery and overruled the
23 demurrers in part, on September 28, 2018, Plaintiffs filed the First Amended Consolidated Complaint,
24 which pled additional allegations of solicitations against Defendants Frohnmayer and Campoli. The
25 Court also set a case management conference and encouraged the Parties to discuss an ESI protocol
26 regarding the production of documents.

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1 **III. SUMMARY OF PLAINTIFFS’ INVESTIGATION AND DISCOVERY**

2 31. Before filing the initial complaints, and prior to filing the amended complaints,
3 Plaintiffs’ Counsel conducted an extensive investigation of Defendants’ conduct in connection with
4 Arcimoto’s IPO and their preparation and dissemination of the Offering Materials. This investigation
5 included a thorough review and analysis of relevant SEC filings, press releases, analyst reports, media
6 reports, and consultation with a damages expert. Further, in contesting Defendants’ demurrers and
7 submitting mediation statements, Plaintiffs’ Counsel evaluated Defendants’ contentions that the
8 Offering Materials were not materially misleading and that Plaintiffs’ claims for damages would be
9 limited.

10 32. The Parties engaged in preliminary discovery, which was later limited by agreement in
11 order to facilitate mediation. Plaintiffs served document requests on the Arcimoto Defendants on
12 March 26, 2018, and on Hambrecht on March 27, 2018, shortly after the filing of the initial complaint.
13 The requests were largely focused on the preparation, review, and dissemination of the Prospectus and
14 the roadshow videos. While there were preliminary meet and confer sessions regarding the scope of the
15 document requests, Defendants made a limited production, which did not include any ESI.

16 33. On October 16, 2018, Plaintiffs served a second set of document requests on the
17 Arcimoto Defendants and Hambrecht, which largely sought documents concerning the production, sale,
18 and delivery of Arcimoto vehicles, among other things. The Parties further met and conferred, and
19 Defendants began producing additional documents. While there was some discussion by the Parties
20 during that time concerning potential ESI search terms, no agreement was reached.

21 34. When the possibility of mediation was raised in October 2018, the Parties agreed to limit
22 their efforts to “pre-mediation discovery,” so they could focus their efforts on preparing for mediation.
23 Thereafter, on December 14, 2018, Defendants served special interrogatories and document requests.
24 These discovery requests included, among other things, numerous “contention” interrogatories. On
25 January 16, 2019, Plaintiffs served their responses to Defendants’ discovery requests.

26 35. Defendants ultimately produced approximately 7,600 documents, totaling more than
27 107,000 pages, which Plaintiffs’ Counsel reviewed and considered in connection with the mediation.

1 **IV. MEDIATION AND THE NEGOTIATION OF THE SETTLEMENT**

2 36. After the Court’s rulings on the demurrers and motion to stay, in October 2018, the
3 Parties discussed the possibility of mediation and thereafter agreed to vacate the scheduled case
4 management conference and extend the deadline for the filing of Defendants’ response to the First
5 Amended Consolidated Complaint, so they could focus their efforts on mediation. The Parties also
6 agreed to engage in limited discovery necessary to facilitate the mediation.

7 37. After pre-mediation discovery was exchanged, the Parties participated in a day-long
8 mediation session on January 25, 2019, conducted by third-party neutral Michelle Yoshida, Esq. of
9 Phillips ADR. Prior to the mediation, Plaintiffs and Defendants prepared and exchanged detailed
10 mediation statements fully summarizing their respective positions. Plaintiffs relied on information
11 obtained through their investigation and from their discovery efforts. During the mediation that
12 followed, Ms. Yoshida pressed the Parties to realistically assess the strengths and weaknesses of
13 Plaintiffs’ claims and Defendants’ defenses. At the end of this full day of mediation and negotiations
14 under the guidance of Ms. Yoshida, the Parties were able to reach an agreement to settle all claims on
15 behalf of Plaintiffs and the putative Class for \$2,450,000 in cash.

16 38. In the weeks following mediation, the Parties began to negotiate the terms of the
17 Stipulation of Settlement and related exhibits. These negotiations led to the execution of the Parties’
18 Stipulation of Settlement, dated April 24, 2019.

19 39. The settlement negotiations were at all times hard fought and conducted at arm’s length.
20 During these negotiations, Plaintiffs’ Counsel advanced Plaintiffs’ positions and were fully prepared to
21 continue to litigate rather than accept a settlement that was not in the best interest of the Class.

22 **V. INVESTIGATORS AND CONSULTANTS**

23 **A. Investigators**

24 40. As part of Plaintiffs’ investigation, Plaintiffs’ Counsel not only personally participated in
25 the investigation, but also relied on in-house investigators to perform investigative services relating to
26 the Litigation. Utilizing in-house personnel was more cost-effective than hiring outside investigators,
27 saving the Clsss a significant amount of money. At the direction of Plaintiffs’ Counsel, the
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1 investigators helped identify, locate and interview former Arcimoto employee witnesses likely to have
2 information relating to the issues and claims alleged. One of these investigators is an attorney licensed
3 to practice in California and who previously worked as a staff auditor at a national accounting firm.
4 Another investigator who worked on this case has a B.S. in criminal justice and over 15 years of
5 experience as a New York City detective who worked with various federal agencies in conjunction with
6 high level criminal investigations.

7 **B. Consultants**

8 41. In addition to in-house experts, Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel retained the services of
9 a consultant to assist in their evaluation of damages in this action. Mr. Bjorn Steinholt specializes in
10 financial analysis and related economic consulting services, providing expert testimony on various
11 economic issues that typically arise in securities class actions. Mr. Steinholt provided Plaintiffs and
12 Plaintiffs' Counsel with substantial assistance in their analysis based on his professional experience as
13 well as, *inter alia*, a review of: (a) the Complaint; (b) Arcimoto's public filings with the SEC; and (c)
14 price and volume data for Arcimoto common stock. Mr. Steinholt provided consulting services
15 regarding issues related to the Offering, various aspects of damage calculations of potential §12(a)(2)
16 damages suffered by persons who purchased Arcimoto common stock pursuant to the alleged
17 misleading Prospectus or oral communication, and assisted in preparing the proposed Plan of Allocation
18 of settlement proceeds. Mr. Steinholt's services in these proceedings were necessary and contributed
19 materially to the benefits achieved by the proposed Class.

20 **VI. THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE CASE**

21 42. Based on discovery obtained, publicly available documents, and their own investigation,
22 Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel believed that they had obtained and would continue to obtain
23 substantial evidence to support their claims. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel also realized, however,
24 that they faced considerable risks and defenses as the case proceeded. For example, Defendants
25 maintained that the Prospectus adequately disclosed the developmental status of the SRK, the status of
26 Arcimoto's production facility, and other significant risks faced by the Company. Plaintiffs carefully
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1 considered these risks during the months leading up to the Settlement and during the settlement
2 discussions with Ms. Yoshida and the Defendants.

3 43. Although Plaintiffs' Counsel respectfully submit that, by the time of the mediation,
4 sufficient investigation and discovery had been taken to allow the Parties to reasonably assess the
5 fairness of the proposed Settlement, they were also aware that much discovery would still remain to be
6 completed absent the Settlement. For example, at the time the Settlement was reached, the Parties had
7 not yet reached an agreement on the production of ESI, nor had they started taking depositions. In
8 addition, formal – and expensive – expert discovery on hotly contested issues of liability, causation, and
9 damages had not yet begun.

10 44. Summary judgment and trial posed further real and substantial risks. At summary
11 judgment, Plaintiffs would have to demonstrate to the Court that a genuine issue of material fact exists
12 with regard to each element of their securities claims. Summary judgment can allow both Plaintiffs and
13 Defendants to present their strongest evidence before the Court. Here, there may be a risk that the
14 Court would find evidence submitted by Plaintiffs in support of falsity and/or materiality inadequate to
15 create a genuine issue of material fact. *See, e.g., Fecht v. Price Co.*, 70 F.3d 1078, 1082 (9th Cir. 1995).
16 Of course, even if Plaintiffs received a favorable ruling on summary judgment, Defendants would likely
17 seek reconsideration of such a ruling, or, if the ruling was dispositive, would appeal. At trial, Plaintiffs
18 would have to convince a jury that the Offering Materials contained materially false or misleading
19 statements or omissions concerning Arcimoto's business operations. In the event that Plaintiffs failed
20 to do so, the Class would recover nothing.

21 45. Defendants would also assert the statutory defense of negative causation. Under §12(b)
22 of the 1933 Act, a defendant can reduce or eliminate damage through a showing that the false or
23 misleading statement or omission alleged was not the cause of the losses suffered by the class. In this
24 Litigation, Defendants would argue that Arcimoto's post-IPO stock price decline was not attributable to
25 any omission or misrepresentation in the Offering Materials, but rather as a result of extraneous industry
26 factors. Indeed, after years of discovery, issues of loss causation can prove at times to be an
27 insurmountable hurdle at trial. *See In re BankAtlantic Bancorp, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 07-61542-CIV,

1 2011 WL 1585605 (S.D. Fla. Apr. 25, 2011) (court granted defendants' judgment as a matter of law on
2 the basis of loss causation, overturning jury verdict and award in plaintiffs' favor). The risk of no
3 recovery at all was a real possibility.

4 **VII. THE SETTLEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CLASS AND**
5 **WARRANTS APPROVAL**

6 46. While Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel believe that the Class could have ultimately
7 prevailed on the merits of the case, Arcimoto, the Individual Defendants and the Underwriter Defendant
8 were equally insistent that the Class would fail. As discussed in detail above, there was a risk that
9 Plaintiffs might not prevail at summary judgment or at trial. Had Plaintiffs successfully opposed
10 Defendants' motion for summary judgment and proceeded to trial, Plaintiffs faced the risk that the jury
11 would not be convinced by the evidence presented in support of liability and damages. There was also
12 the risk that even if Plaintiffs prevailed at trial, Defendants would move to have the verdict overturned
13 or appealed, which would take years to resolve and bore the risk of reversal.

14 47. Having considered all of the foregoing, and evaluating the Defendants' likely defenses, it
15 is the informed judgment of Plaintiffs' Counsel, based upon all proceedings to date and their extensive
16 experience in litigating shareholder class actions, that the Settlement of this matter before this Court is
17 fair, reasonable and adequate, and in the best interest of the Class.

18 48. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the Firm resume of Robbins Geller.
19 *See also* www.rgrdlaw.com.

20 49. Attached as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of the Firm resume of Johnson Fistel.
21 *See also* www.johnsonfistel.com.

22 50. Attached as Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of *Robinson v. Audience, Inc., et al.*, No.
23 1-12-CV-232227, Order After Hearing on January 16, 2015 (Santa Clara Sup. Ct. Jan. 16, 2015).

24 **VIII. CONCLUSION**

25 51. For the reasons set forth above, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court
26 preliminarily approve the proposed Settlement and enter the Preliminary Approval Order.
27
28

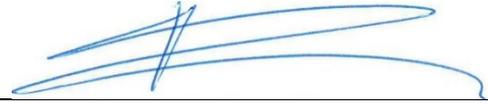
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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 8th day of May, 2019, at San Diego, California.



JAMES I. JACONETTE

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 8th day of May, 2019, at San Diego, California.



PHONG L. TRAN

EXHIBIT A

FIRM RESUME

 Robbins Geller
Rudman & Dowd LLP

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INTRODUCTION

Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP (“Robbins Geller” or the “Firm”) is a 200-lawyer firm with offices in Atlanta, Boca Raton, Chicago, Manhattan, Melville, Nashville, San Diego, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. (www.rgrdlaw.com). The Firm is actively engaged in complex litigation, emphasizing securities, consumer, antitrust, insurance, healthcare, human rights and employment discrimination class actions, as well as intellectual property disputes. 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 seventh-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 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 the 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 Cty.). 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 Pensioenfonds obtained a \$400 million settlement on behalf of class members who purchased Pfizer Inc. 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 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. 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.
- ***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.
- ***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 approximately 70% of classwide damages, which as a percentage of damages significantly exceeds the median class action recovery of 2%-3% of damages.
- ***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 ranks among the top ten largest securities recoveries ever in the Northern District of California.

- ***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.
- ***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 third-largest securities recovery ever in the district and 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.
- ***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 one 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.

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, 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 and Fire Retirement System 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 Cty.). 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 Cty.). 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 Cty.). 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 Pharm., Inc. S'holder Derivative Litig.***, No. CIV 499030 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cty.). 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 Cty.). 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 Kinder Morgan, Inc. S'holders Litig.*, No. 06-C-801 (Kan. Dist. Ct., Shawnee Cty.). 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. Stockholder 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. Stockholders 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 Capital 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 Cty.). Robbins Geller successfully obtained a record-breaking \$40 million in *Websense, Inc.*, 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 Pharm., Inc. S'holder Litig.***, No. CIV523789 (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cty.). 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 the 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 Cty.). 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 Cty.). 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 Cty.). 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 Hospitality, 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 Cty.). 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 Cty.). 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 Cty.). 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.

Insurance

Fraud and collusion in the insurance industry by executives, agents, brokers, lenders and others is one of the most costly crimes in the United States. Some experts have estimated the annual cost of white collar crime in the insurance industry to be over \$120 billion nationally. Recent legislative proposals seek to curtail anti-competitive behavior within the industry. However, in the absence of comprehensive regulation, Robbins Geller has played a critical role as private attorney general in protecting the rights of consumers against insurance fraud and other unfair business practices within the insurance industry.

Robbins Geller attorneys have long been at the forefront of litigating race discrimination issues within the life insurance industry. For example, the Firm has fought the practice by certain insurers of charging African-Americans and other people of color more for life insurance than similarly situated Caucasians. The Firm recovered over \$400 million for African-Americans and other minorities as redress for civil

rights abuses, including landmark recoveries in *McNeil v. American General Life & Accident Insurance Company*; *Thompson v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company*; and *Williams v. United Insurance Company of America*.

The Firm's attorneys fight on behalf of elderly victims targeted for the sale of deferred annuity products with hidden sales loads and illusory bonus features. Sales agents for life insurance companies such as Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, Midland National Life Insurance Company, and National Western Life Insurance Company targeted senior citizens for these annuities with lengthy investment horizons and high sales commissions. The Firm recovered millions of dollars for elderly victims and seeks to ensure that senior citizens are afforded full and accurate information regarding deferred annuities.

Robbins Geller attorneys also stopped the fraudulent sale of life insurance policies based on misrepresentations about how the life insurance policy would perform, the costs of the policy, and whether premiums would "vanish." Purchasers were also misled about the financing of a new life insurance policy, falling victim to a "replacement" or "churning" sales scheme where they were convinced to use loans, partial surrenders or withdrawals of cash values from an existing permanent life insurance policy to purchase a new policy.

- **Brokerage "Pay to Play" Cases.** On behalf of individuals, governmental entities, businesses, and non-profits, Robbins Geller has sued the largest commercial and employee benefit insurance brokers and insurers for unfair and deceptive business practices. While purporting to provide independent, unbiased advice as to the best policy, the brokers failed to adequately disclose that they had entered into separate "pay to play" agreements with certain third-party insurance companies. These agreements provide additional compensation to the brokers based on such factors as profitability, growth and the volume of insurance that they place with a particular insurer, and are akin to a profit-sharing arrangement between the brokers and the insurance companies. These agreements create a conflict of interest since the brokers have a direct financial interest in selling their customers only the insurance products offered by those insurance companies with which the brokers have such agreements.

Robbins Geller attorneys were among the first to uncover and pursue the allegations of these practices in the insurance industry in both state and federal courts. On behalf of the California Insurance Commissioner, the Firm brought an injunctive case against the biggest employee benefit insurers and local San Diego brokerage, ULR, which resulted in major changes to the way they did business. The Firm also sued on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco to recover losses due to these practices. Finally, Robbins Geller represents a putative nationwide class of individuals, businesses, employers, and governmental entities against the largest brokerage houses and insurers in the nation. To date, the Firm has obtained over \$200 million on behalf of policyholders and enacted landmark business reforms.

- **Discriminatory Credit Scoring and Redlining Cases.** Robbins Geller attorneys have prosecuted cases concerning countrywide schemes of alleged discrimination carried out by Nationwide, Allstate, and other insurance companies against African-American and other persons of color who are purchasers of homeowner and automobile insurance policies. Such discrimination includes alleged redlining and the improper use of "credit scores," which disparately impact minority communities. Plaintiffs in these actions have alleged that the insurance companies' corporate-driven scheme of intentional racial discrimination includes refusing coverage and/or charging them higher premiums for homeowners and automobile insurance. On behalf of the class of aggrieved policyholders, the Firm has recovered over \$400 million for these predatory and racist policies.

- **Senior Annuities.** Robbins Geller has prosecuted numerous cases against insurance companies and their agents who targeted senior citizens for the sale of deferred annuities. Plaintiffs alleged that the insurers misrepresented or failed to disclose to senior consumers material facts concerning the costs associated with their fixed and equity indexed deferred annuities and enticed seniors to buy the annuities by promising them illusory up-front bonuses. As a result of the Firm's efforts, hundreds of millions of dollars in economic relief has been made available to seniors who have been harmed by these practices. Notable recoveries include:
 - *Negrete v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, No. CV-05-6838 (C.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller attorneys served as co-lead counsel on behalf of a nationwide RICO class consisting of over 200,000 senior citizens who had purchased deferred annuities issued by Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America. In March 2015, after nine years of litigation, District Judge Christina A. Snyder granted final approval of a class action settlement that made available in excess of \$250 million in cash payments and other benefits to class members. In approving the settlement, the Court praised the effort of the Firm and noted that "counsel has represented their clients with great skill and they are to be complimented."
 - *In re Am. Equity Annuity Practices & Sales Litig.*, No. CV-05-6735 (C.D. Cal.). As co-lead counsel, Robbins Geller attorneys secured a settlement that made available \$129 million in economic benefits to a nationwide class of 114,000 senior citizens.
 - *In re Midland Nat'l Life Ins. Co. Annuity Sales Practices Litig.*, MDL No. 07-1825 (C.D. Cal.). After four years of litigation, the Firm secured a settlement that made available \$79.5 million in economic benefits to a nationwide class of 70,000 senior citizens.
 - *Negrete v. Fidelity & Guar. Life Ins. Co.*, No. CV-05-6837 (C.D. Cal.). The Firm's efforts resulted in a settlement under which Fidelity made available \$52.7 million in benefits to 56,000 class members across the country.
 - *In re Nat'l Western Life Ins. Deferred Annuities Litig.*, No. 05-CV-1018 (S.D. Cal.). The Firm litigated this action for more than eight years. On the eve of trial, the Firm negotiated a settlement providing over \$21 million in value to a nationwide class of 12,000 senior citizens.

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, have reached a \$6.26 billion cash settlement with defendants in this antitrust litigation. Defendants have contributed additional funds to the class settlement fund that remains from the earlier settlement in 2012, which was approved by the district court in 2013 but was then reversed on appeal in 2016. The case is pending preliminary approval before the Honorable Margo K. Brodie in the Eastern District of New York.

- ***Dahl v. Bain Capital Partners, LLC***, No. 07-cv-12388-EFH (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 America Corp.***, No. 14-cv-07126-JMF (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.”
- ***Sheet Metal Workers Pension Plan of Northern California v. Bank of America Corporation***, No. 1:16-cv-04603-ER (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, two of the more than a dozen corporate defendants have settled for more than \$65 million.
- ***In re Aftermarket Automotive Lighting Products Antitrust Litig.***, 09 MDL No. 2007 (C.D. Cal.). Robbins Geller attorneys are 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 Dig. Music Antitrust Litig.***, 06 MDL No. 1780 (S.D.N.Y.). Robbins Geller attorneys are co-lead counsel in an action against the major music labels (Sony-BMG, EMI, Universal and Warner Music Group) in a case involving music that can be downloaded digitally from the Internet. Plaintiffs allege that defendants restrained the development of digital downloads and agreed to fix the distribution price of digital downloads at supracompetitive prices. Plaintiffs also allege that as a result of defendants’ restraint of the development of digital downloads, and the market and price for downloads, defendants were able to maintain the prices of their CDs at supracompetitive levels. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld plaintiffs’ complaint, reversing the trial court’s dismissal. Discovery is ongoing.
- ***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 Cty.). 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

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, 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 practice.

- ***In re Nat’l Prescription Opiate Litig.***, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio). Robbins Geller serves on the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee to spearhead more than 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 Inc.* litigation. The case alleges Apple Inc. 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 Intel Corp. CPU Mktg., Sales Practices & Prods. Liab. Litig.***, No. 3:18-md-02828-SI (D. Or.). 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.
- ***Hauck v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.***, No. 18-CV-00447-LHK (N.D. Cal.). An attorney from Robbins Geller serves as co-lead counsel in a case against Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (“AMD”), which alleges that AMD’s processors are incapable of operating as intended and at processing speeds represented by AMD without exposing users to the Spectre vulnerability, which allows hackers to covertly access sensitive information stored within the CPU’s kernel.

- ***In re Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Mktg., Sales Practices, & Prods. Liab. Litig.***, No. 15-md-2672 (N.D. Cal.). 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.
- ***Trump University***. After six and 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.
- ***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.
- ***Schwartz v. Visa Int’l***, No. 822404-4 (Cal. Super. Ct., Alameda Cty.). 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.
- ***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.
- ***In re Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.,*** No. 3:11-md-2258-AJB (MDD) (S.D. Cal.). 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 pending \$15 million settlement.

Intellectual Property

Individual inventors, universities, and research organizations provide the fundamental research behind many existing and emerging technologies. Every year, the majority of U.S. patents are issued to this group of inventors. Through this fundamental research, these inventors provide a significant competitive advantage to this country. Unfortunately, while responsible for most of the inventions that issue into U.S. patents every year, individual inventors, universities and research organizations receive very little of the licensing revenues for U.S. patents. Large companies reap 99% of all patent licensing revenues.

Robbins Geller enforces the rights of these inventors by filing and litigating patent infringement cases against infringing entities. Our attorneys have decades of patent litigation experience in a variety of technical applications. This experience, combined with the Firm's extensive resources, gives individual inventors the ability to enforce their patent rights against even the largest infringing companies.

Our attorneys have experience handling cases involving a broad range of technologies, including:

- biochemistry
- telecommunications
- medical devices
- medical diagnostics
- networking systems
- computer hardware devices and software
- mechanical devices
- video gaming technologies
- audio and video recording devices

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 Cty.). 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, 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 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.

E-Discovery

Robbins Geller has successfully litigated some of the largest and most complex shareholder and antitrust actions in history and has become the vanguard of a rapidly evolving world of e-discovery in complex litigation. The Firm has 200 attorneys supported by a large staff of forensic and e-discovery specialists and has a level of technological sophistication that is unmatched by any other firm. As the size and stakes of complex litigation continue to increase, it is more important than ever to retain counsel with a successful track record of results. Robbins Geller has consistently proven to be the right choice for anyone seeking representation in actions against the largest corporations in the world.

Led by 20-year litigation veteran Tor Gronborg, and advised by Lea Bays, e-discovery counsel, and Christine Milliron, Director of E-Discovery and Litigation Support, the Robbins Geller e-discovery practice group is a multi-disciplinary team of attorneys, forensic analysts and database professionals. No plaintiffs' firm is better equipped to develop the type of comprehensive and case specific e-discovery strategy that is necessary for today's complex litigation. The attorneys have extensive knowledge and experience in drafting and negotiating sophisticated e-discovery protocols, including those involving the use of predictive coding. High quality document review services are performed by a consistent group of staff attorneys who are experienced in the Firm's litigation practice areas and specialize in document review and analysis. A team of forensic and technology professionals work closely with the attorneys to ensure an effective and efficient e-discovery strategy. The litigation support team includes six Relativity Certified Administrators. Collectively, the Robbins Geller forensic and technology professionals have more than 75 years of e-discovery experience.

Members of the practice group are also leaders in shaping the broader dialogue on e-discovery issues. They regularly contribute to industry publications, speak at conferences organized by leading e-discovery think tanks such as The Sedona Conference and Georgetown University Law Center's Advanced eDiscovery Institute, and play prominent roles in the local chapters of Women in eDiscovery and the Relativity Users Steering Committee. The e-discovery practice group also offers regular in-house training and education, ensuring that members of the Firm are always up-to-date on the evolving world of e-discovery law and technology.

Robbins Geller has always been a leader in document-intensive litigation. Boasting high-performing infrastructure resources, state-of-the-art technology, and a deep bench of some of the most highly trained Relativity Certified Administrators and network engineers, the Firm's capabilities rival, if not outshine, those of the top e-discovery vendors in the industry. Additionally, the Firm's implementation of advanced analytic technologies and custom workflows makes its work fast, smart and efficient. Combined with Robbins Geller's decision to manage and host its litigation support in-house, these technologies reduce the Firm's reliance on third-party vendors, enabling it to offer top-notch e-discovery services to clients at a fair and reasonable cost.

Security is a top priority at Robbins Geller. The Firm's hosted e-discovery is secured using bank-level 128 encryption and is protected behind state-of-the-art Cisco firewalls. All e-discovery data is hosted on Firm-owned equipment at an SSAE 16-compliant, SOC 1, 2, and 3 audited facility that features 9.1 megawatts of power, N+1 or better redundancy on all data center systems, and security protocols required by leading businesses in the most stringent verticals. Originally designed to support a large defense contractor, it is built to rigorous standards, complete with redundant power and cooling systems plus multiple generators.

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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 seventh-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 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 Ret. 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 notable 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:

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 Cty.). 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 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.

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- ***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 Inc. 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.”
- ***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:

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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 approximately 70% of classwide damages, which as a percentage of damages significantly exceeds the median class action recovery of 2%-3% of damages. 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, 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. 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:

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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.

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- ***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 Cty.). 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 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 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 Cty.). 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 Practices 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 Corporation***, No. 16-56058 (9th Cir.). In July 2018, the Ninth Circuit ruled in plaintiffs' favor in the *Toshiba Corporation* 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, stating "that the Exchange Act could apply to the Toshiba ADR transactions, as domestic transactions in securities [are] not registered on an exchange." Additionally, the court held that "Toshiba ADRs were 'securities' under the Exchange Act." In adopting the Second and Third Circuits' "irrevocable liability" test, the panel further concluded 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 County Employees Retirement Fund***, No. 15-1439 (U.S.). In March 2018, the

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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 1933 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.***, No. 15-17282 (9th Cir.). 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 Systems, 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 and Food Employees Welfare Fund v. Regions Financial Corp.***, No. CV-10-J-2847-S (N.D. Ala.). In the *Regions Financial Corp.* 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 Corporation 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 Corp.'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 District Council Construction Industry Pension Fund***, No. 13-435 (U.S.). In March 2015, the 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.

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- ***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.

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- ***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.

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- ***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 Capital 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.

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- ***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.

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- ***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, et al. 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.

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- ***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:

- 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).
- On December 20, 2018, at the final approval hearing for the settlement, the court lauded Robbins Geller’s attorneys and their work: “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

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you, [and] not just because of the outcome.” *Duncan v. Joy Global, Inc.*, No. 16-CV-1229, Transcript at 20-21 (E.D. Wis. Dec. 20, 2018).

- 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 Electrical Pension Fund v. Bank of America 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); *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).

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- 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 third largest securities recovery ever in the Middle District of Tennessee and 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).

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- 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 Cty. 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).

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- 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 Cty. 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 Technologies, 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 Cty. June 30, 2009).
- In March 2009, in granting class certification, the Honorable Robert Sweet of the Southern District

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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 General Employees’ Ret. Sys. v. Langone*, No. 2006-122302, Findings of Fact in Support of Order and Final Judgment at 2 (Ga. Super. Ct., Fulton Cty. 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: BRF S.A., Ryanair Holdings PLC, HCP, Inc., Iconix Brand Group, Advisory Board Company, Endo International PLC, Impax Laboratories, Inc., Super Micro Computer, Inc., Skechers USA, Inc. and Hertz Global Holdings, Inc. Alba's institutional clients are also involved in certain antitrust actions, namely: *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, *In re Epipen (Epinephrine Injection, USP) Marketing, Sales Practices and Antitrust Litigation* and *Forth v. Walgreen Co.* 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 millions of dollars in numerous actions, including cases against BHP Billiton Limited (\$50 million), NBTY, Inc. (\$16 million), OSI Pharmaceuticals (\$9 million) 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 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 "Rising Star," 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

Susan K. Alexander | Partner

Susan Alexander is a partner in the Firm's 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 *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: *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.*, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 19141 (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); and *Barrie v. Intervoice-Brite, Inc.*, 397 F.3d 249 (5th Cir. 2005) (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, 2015-2018; 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

Jason H. Alperstein | Partner

Jason Alperstein is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. His practices focuses on consumer fraud, securities fraud, mass torts and data breach litigation. Alperstein was an integral member of the *In re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices, & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 15-md-2672 (N.D. Cal.), litigation team, prosecuting claims on behalf of almost 600,000 consumers who were duped into purchasing and leasing Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche vehicles that were marketed as environmentally friendly, yet spewed toxic pollutants up to 40 times the legal limit permitted by the EPA. Working closely with Plaintiffs' Steering Committee ("PSC") member Paul J. Geller, Alperstein was involved in almost all aspects of the litigation. The PSC and government agencies ultimately reached a series of settlements on behalf of purchasers, lessees and dealers that totaled well over \$17 billion, the largest consumer automotive settlement in history. Alperstein is actively involved in a number of other class actions and MDLs pending throughout the country, including: *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litig.*, No. 16-md-02752 (N.D. Cal.), regarding the largest data breach in history; *In re FieldTurf Artificial Turf Mktg. & Sales Practices Litig.*, No. 17-md-02779 (D.N.J.), concerning the sale of defective synthetic turf for use in athletic fields; *In re Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep Ecodiesel Mktg., Sales Practices & Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 17-md-02777 (N.D. Cal.), pertaining to Fiat Chrysler's use of defeat devices to hide emission levels on its Jeep and Dodge "EcoDiesel" vehicles; *Benkle v. Ford Motor Co.*, No. 16-cv-01569 (C.D. Cal.), involving defective electronic throttle body units in Ford vehicles; and *Zimmerman v. The 3M Company*, No. 17-cv-01062 (W.D. Mich.), relating to the dumping of toxic waste and polluting of groundwater in Kent County, Michigan.

Before joining Robbins Geller, Alperstein served on lead and co-lead litigation teams in nationwide and statewide class action lawsuits against dozens of the largest banking institutions in connection with the unlawful assessment of checking account overdraft fees. His efforts resulted in over \$250 million in settlements for his clients and significant changes in the way banks charge overdraft fees to their customers. In addition, he led consumer class actions against product manufacturers for false and deceptive labeling, and some of the world's largest clothing retailers for their use of false and deceptive comparative pricing in their outlet stores.

Education

B.A., Brown University, 2004; M.B.A., University of Miami School of Business, 2008, J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 2008

Honors / Awards

40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2017-2018; Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2014-2018; Rising Star, Consumer Protection, *Law360*, 2017; J.D., *Cum Laude*, University of Miami School of Law, 2008

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 Diplomat Pharmacy (E.D. Mich.), Valeant (D.N.J.), Santander Consumer USA (N.D. Tex.) and Banc of California (C.D. Cal.). Alpert is part 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.

Education

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

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2019

Darryl J. Alvarado | Partner

Darryl Alvarado is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Alvarado focuses his practice on securities fraud and other complex civil litigation. Alvarado helped secure \$388 million for investors in J.P. Morgan RMBS in *Fort Worth Emps.' Ret. 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 Litig.* In addition, 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.

Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2004; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2007

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2019; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018; "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 Quest 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

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 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 Serus., 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.

Most recently, in *In re Dole Food Co., Inc. Stockholder 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 Hospitality, 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

Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2018; M&A Litigation Attorney of the Year in California, *Corporate International*, 2015; Super Lawyer, 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 other Robbins Geller attorneys, is currently leading the effort on behalf of cities and counties around the country in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*. Additionally, she 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 was 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

Super Lawyer, 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, 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 Cty.) (\$200 million common fund for former Kinder Morgan shareholders, the largest merger & acquisition class action recovery in history); *In re Dole Food Co., Inc. Stockholder Litig.* (Del. Ch.) (obtained \$148 million, the largest trial verdict ever in a class action challenging a merger transaction); and *In re Rural/Metro Corp. Stockholders Litig.* (Del. Ch.) (Baron and co-counsel obtained nearly \$110 million 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. In *In re Dollar Gen. Corp. S'holder Litig.* (Tenn. Cir. Ct., Davidson Cty.), Baron was lead trial counsel and helped to secure a settlement of up to \$57 million in a common fund shortly before trial, and in *Brown v. Brewer* (C.D. Cal.), he secured \$45 million for shareholders of Intermix Corporation, relating to News Corp.'s acquisition of that company. Formerly, Baron served as a Deputy District Attorney from 1990-1997 in Los Angeles County.

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); Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2016-2019; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2011, 2017-2019; Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016-2019; California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; National Practice Area Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2019; Super Lawyer, 2014-2016, 2018-2019; Winning Litigator, *The National Law Journal*, 2018; Titan of the Industry, *The American Lawyer*, 2018; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018; Leading Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2014-2018; 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 at the Firm and manages the Firm's Chicago office. He is a trial lawyer who has tried 18 cases to verdict, a registered CPA, a former federal prosecutor, and has been an adjunct professor at Northwestern University School of Law from 2008 to 2019, 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 \$1 billion, including: *HCA* (\$215 million, M.D. Tenn.); *Motorola* (\$200 million, N.D. Ill.); *Sprint* (\$131 million, D. Kan.); *Psychiatric Solutions* (\$65 million, M.D. Tenn.); *Dana Corp.* (\$64 million, N.D. Ohio); and *Hospira* (\$60 million, N.D. Ill.). 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 is currently representing investors in securities fraud litigation against Valeant Pharmaceuticals Inc. (D.N.J.). Barz also handles whistleblower cases, including a successful settlement in *United States v. Signature Healthcare LLC* (M.D. Tenn.) (\$30 million), and antitrust cases, including recently being appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Dealer Management Systems Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill.).

Before joining the Firm, Barz was a partner at Mayer Brown LLP from 2006 to 2011 and an associate from 1998 to 2002. At Mayer Brown, Barz handled commercial litigation, internal investigations, and antitrust cases. Barz was also active in their *pro bono* program where, in his first jury trial, he won an acquittal on all charges and, in his first appeal, he obtained the reversal of a conviction based on the trial judge having solicited a bribe from the defendant. From 2002 to 2006 he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Chicago, trying cases and supervising investigations involving public corruption, financial frauds, tax offenses, money laundering, and drug and firearm offenses. He successfully obtained a conviction against every defendant who went to trial.

Education

B.B.A., Loyola University Chicago, School of Business Administration, 1995; J.D., Northwestern University School of Law, 1998

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, 2018-2019; 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

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. He has 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 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 Kapitalanlegermustersverfahrensgesetz (KapMuG), the Capital Market Investors' Model Proceeding Act. In *Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.*, Bear commenced a lawsuit resulting in 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 is currently pursuing banks over their manipulation of LIBOR, FOREX and other benchmark rates.

Education

B.A., University of California at Berkeley, 1998; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2006

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 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 up to \$6.26 billion was recently preliminarily approved by 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. Bernay has also had experience in large consumer class actions, including *In re Checking Account Overdraft Litig.*, which case was brought on behalf of bank customers who were overcharged for debit card transactions and resulted in more than \$500 million in settlements with major banks that manipulated customers' debit transactions to maximize overdraft fees. She also helped try to verdict a case against one of the world's largest companies who was sued on behalf of consumers.

Education

B.A., Humboldt State University, 1997; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2000

Honors / Awards

Litigator of the Week, *Global Competition Review*, October 1, 2014

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 Trust 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 Financial 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 Kiyo 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 "Rising Star," 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 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. Other prominent cases recently prosecuted by Brooks include *Fort Worth Employees' Retirement 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.

Education

B.A., University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1997; J.D., University of San Francisco, 2000

Honors / Awards

California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2017-2018; 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 Executive and Management Committees. He has 21 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 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. 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). He is currently representing large institutional investors in actions involving the credit crisis.

Education

B.A., Clark University, 1985; J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1989

Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2018-2019; Top 100 Trial Lawyer, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2019; Top 20 Trial Lawyer in California, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Super Lawyer, 2015-2016, 2019; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2018-2019; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2019; Plaintiff Attorney of the Year, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2015-2018; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2018; B.A., *Cum Laude*, Clark University, 1985; *Phi Beta Kappa*, Clark University, 1985

Michael G. Capeci | Partner

Michael Capeci is a partner in Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP's Melville office. His practice focuses on prosecuting complex securities and breach of fiduciary duty class actions, as well as shareholder derivative lawsuits.

Throughout his tenure with the Firm, Capeci has played an integral role in cases such as: *Carpenters Pension Trust Fund of St. Louis v. Barclays PLC*; *City of Pontiac General Employees' Retirement System v. Lockheed Martin Corporation*; *Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 630 Pension-Annuity Trust Fund v. Arbitron Inc.*; *Billhofer v. Flamel Technologies, S.A.*; *In re Virgin Media Inc. Shareholders Litigation*; and *Allen v. El Paso Pipeline GP Company, L.L.C.* Most recently, he was on the litigation team responsible for recovering \$50 million in litigation against BHP Billiton, an Australian-based mining company accused of failing to disclose significant safety problems at the Fundão iron-ore dam, in Brazil.

Education

B.S., Villanova University, 2007; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 2010

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2014-2018; J.D., *Cum Laude*, Hofstra University School of Law, 2010

Brian E. Cochran | Partner

Brian Cochran is a partner in the Firm's San Diego and Chicago offices. He focuses his practice on complex securities and shareholder derivative litigation. In particular, Cochran specializes in case investigation and initiation, and lead plaintiff issues arising under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. He was a member of the litigation team that obtained a \$65 million recovery in *Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Solutions, Inc.*, the third largest securities recovery ever in the Middle District of Tennessee and the largest in more than a decade.

Most recently, Cochran 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. In addition, Cochran developed a groundbreaking securities fraud lawsuit against Fifth Street Finance and its external asset manager, which led to over \$14 million in settlements, significant corporate reforms and a follow-on SEC investigation. Cochran has also helped secure class certification and/or successfully opposed a motion to dismiss in class action litigation against several prominent corporate defendants, including Goldman Sachs, Big Lots and Scotts Miracle-Gro.

Education

A.B., Princeton University, 2006; J.D., University of California at Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall, 2012

Honors / Awards

A.B., With Honors, Princeton University, 2006; J.D., Order of the Coif, University of California at Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall, 2012

Susannah R. Conn | Partner

Susannah Conn is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Since joining the Firm, Conn has participated in the prosecution of several cases that have resulted in substantial recoveries for investors, including *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Pharmacia Corp.*, *City of Livonia Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Wyeth* and *In re Sanofi-Aventis Sec. Litig.* Most recently, she was 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.

Education

B.A., University of Wyoming, 1995; J.D., California Western School of Law, 1999

Honors / Awards

J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, California Western School of Law, 1999; Executive Lead Articles Editor, *California Western Law Review*, California Western School of Law; B.A., *Cum Laude*, University of Wyoming, 1995; Outstanding Graduate Award, University of Wyoming

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 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

Super Lawyer, 2011-2012, 2014-2018; 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. The *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 counsels private and state government pension funds, central banks and fund managers in the United States, Australia, 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 on "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

One of the Most 20 Most Influential Lawyers in the State of California Under 40 Years of Age, *Daily Journal*; Rising Star of Corporate Governance, Yale School of Management's Milstein Center for Corporate Governance & Performance; 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. Davidson served as class counsel in one of the earliest privacy cases, *Kehoe v. Fidelity Federal Bank & Trust*, where he represented half-a-million Florida drivers against a national bank for purchasing their private information from the state department of motor vehicles for marketing purposes, in violation of the Driver's Privacy Protection Act. His efforts resulted in a seminal privacy decision on damages by the Eleventh Circuit, 421 F.3d 1209 (11th Cir. 2005), *cert. denied*, 547 U.S. 1051 (2006), and after years of hard-fought litigation, including an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, he was able to obtain a \$50 million recovery for the class. He was also integral in obtaining a settlement valued at \$15 million in *In re Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Security Breach Litigation*, concerning claims related to the massive data breach of Sony's PlayStation Network, and currently serves as a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in *In re Yahoo! Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation* in the Northern District of California regarding the largest data breach in history. Davidson is actively involved in *In re Facebook Biometric Information Privacy Litigation*, concerning Facebook's alleged privacy violations through its collection of user's biometric identifiers without informed consent, both cutting-edge nationwide privacy consumer class actions in California.

Most recently, Davidson was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *In re Intel Corp. CPU Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, which 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. Davidson also currently serves as co-lead counsel for hundreds of retired NHL players in *In re NHL Players' Concussion Injury Litigation* in the District of Minnesota, and is spearheading several aspects of *In re EpiPen (Epinephrine Injection, USP) Marketing, Sales Practices and Antitrust Litigation* in the District of Kansas, a case involving the illegal monopolization of the epinephrine auto-injector market, which allowed the prices of the life-saving EpiPen to rise over 600% in 9 years, and where Robbins Geller named partner Paul J. Geller was appointed co-lead counsel.

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, conducted hundreds of depositions, handled numerous evidentiary hearings, engaged in extensive motion practice, 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

J.D., *Summa Cum Laude*, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, 1996; Associate Editor, *Nova Law Review*, Book Awards in Trial Advocacy, Criminal Pretrial Practice and International Law

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, whistleblower and corporate takeover 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 Litigation*. He was also recently appointed as the Chair of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in *In re Apple Inc. Device Performance Litigation* and was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in *In re FieldTurf Artificial Turf Mktg. Practices Litig.*, which alleges that FieldTurf USA Inc. and its related companies sold defective synthetic turf for use in athletic fields. His other recent representative cases include: *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 Practice, & 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 Cty.); *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 Cty.). 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; Super Lawyer, 2014-2018; In top 1.5% of Florida Civil Trial Lawyers in *Florida Trend's* Florida Legal Elite, 2006, 2004

Kathleen B. Douglas | Partner

Kathleen Douglas is a partner in Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP's Boca Raton office. She focuses her practice on securities fraud class actions and consumer fraud.

Douglas was a member of the litigation team in *In re UnitedHealth Grp. Inc. PSLRA Litig.*, achieving a substantial \$925 million settlement. 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. Douglas also worked on *Nieman v. Duke Energy Corp.* (\$146.25 million recovery), 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. She also worked on the *R.H. Donnelley* case, obtaining a \$25 million settlement, and the *21st Century* case, resulting in a \$2.2 million recovery.

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

Super Lawyer "Rising Star" in the field of Class Actions, 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).

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, 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

Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2018-2019; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2019; Board of Trustees, Whitworth University; Super Lawyer, 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*, *Coca-Cola*, *Petco*, *PMI* and *America West*. Drosman served as one of the lead trial attorneys in *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.* 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 led a group of attorneys prosecuting fraud claims against the credit rating agencies, where he was distinguished as one of the few plaintiffs' counsel to overcome the credit rating agencies' motions to dismiss.

Prior to 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

Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2019; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2018-2019; Super Lawyer, 2017-2019; 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

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. 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, 2017-2018; Associate Editor, the *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. 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

Super Lawyer, 2017-2018; Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 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 preliminary approval of a \$160 million recovery in the first securities fraud case against Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in *City of Pontiac General Employees' Retirement System v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* Most recently, 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.

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. He was a member of the litigation team that obtained a \$125 million settlement in *In re LendingClub Securities Litigation*, a settlement that ranks 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. Forge has also taught trial practice techniques on local and national levels, and has written and argued many state and federal appeals, including an *en banc* argument in the Ninth Circuit. He also teaches White Collar Crime at the University of San Diego School of Law.

Education

B.B.A., The University of Michigan Ross School of Business, 1990; J.D., The University of Michigan Law School, 1993

Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2019; 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

Paul J. Geller | Partner

Paul Geller, managing partner of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP's Boca Raton, Florida office, is a founding partner of the Firm, a member of its Executive and Management Committees and head of the Firm's Consumer Practice Group. Geller's 25 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 litigation, providing him 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 Geller and "[t]he team reads like a 'Who's Who' in mass torts." Geller was also part of the leadership team representing consumers in the massive *Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Emissions* case. The San Francisco legal newspaper *The Recorder* labeled Geller and the group that was appointed in that case, which settled for more than \$17 billion, a "class action dream team."

Geller is also currently serving as Co-Lead Counsel in *In re EpiPen (Epinephrine Injection, USP) Mktg., Sales Practices & Antitrust Litig.*, a nationwide class action that alleges that pharmaceutical company Mylan N.V. and others engaged in anticompetitive and unfair business conduct in its sale and marketing of the EpiPen Auto-Injector device.

Some of Geller's other recent noteworthy successes include a \$265 million recovery against Massey Energy 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. Geller also secured a \$146.25 million recovery against Duke Energy in *Nieman v. Duke Energy Corp.*, the largest recovery in North Carolina for a case involving securities fraud, and one of the five largest recoveries in the Fourth Circuit.

Education

B.S., University of Florida, 1990; J.D., Emory University School of Law, 1993

Honors / Awards

Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers*®, 2017-2019; Rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell; Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (LCA) Proven Trial Lawyers; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2006-2007, 2009-2019; Super Lawyer, 2007-2018; 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; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2016; 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

Christopher C. Gold | Partner

Christopher Gold is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office. His practice focuses on merger and acquisition, securities fraud, and consumer fraud litigation.

Gold is licensed to practice in Florida at both the state and the federal level and has worked on a number of notable cases, including: *In re Sony Gaming Networks & Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.* (S.D. Cal.), involving the massive data breach of Sony's PlayStation Network in 2011, which settled for benefits valued at \$15 million; *In re Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. S'holder Litig.* (Fla. 4th Cir. Ct.), which recovered \$9 million for former Winn-Dixie shareholders following the corporate buyout by BI-LO, the then-largest merger and acquisition recovery in Florida history; *In re AuthenTec, Inc. S'holder Litig.* (Fla. 18th Cir. Ct.), which settled for \$10 million (a new Florida record) on behalf of the former shareholders of AuthenTec following a buyout by Apple, which incorporated AuthenTec's fingerprint technology into the Apple iPhone; and *Boland v. Gerdau S.A., et al.* (S.D.N.Y.), which settled for \$15 million.

Education

B.S., Lynn University, 2006; J.D., DePaul University College of Law, 2010

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 third largest securities recovery ever in the Middle District of Tennessee and 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; 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

Super Lawyer, 2018-2019; 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*. 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

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 nearly \$2 billion for investors. Most recently, he was 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.

Gronborg's work has included significant recoveries against corporations such as Cardinal Health (\$600 million), Motorola (\$200 million), Duke Energy (\$146.25 million), Sprint Nextel Corp. (\$131 million), Prison Realty (\$104 million), CIT Group (\$75 million), Wyeth (\$67.5 million) and Intercept Pharmaceuticals (\$55 million). On three separate occasions, Gronborg's pleadings have been upheld by the federal Courts of Appeals (*Broudo v. Dura Pharm., 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); *Staeher v. Hartford Fin. Servs. Grp.*, 547 F.3d 406 (2d Cir. 2008)). He has also been responsible for a number of significant rulings, including *In re Sanofi-Aventis Sec. Litig.*, 293 F.R.D. 449 (S.D.N.Y. 2013); *Silverman v. Motorola, Inc.*, 798 F. Supp. 2d 954 (N.D. Ill. 2011); *Roth v. Aon Corp.*, No. 04-C-6835, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18471 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 7, 2008); *In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litigs.*, 426 F. Supp. 2d 688 (S.D. Ohio 2006); and *In re Dura Pharm., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 452 F. Supp. 2d 1005 (S.D. Cal. 2006).

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

Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2019; Super Lawyer, 2013-2019; 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: *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

Peer-Rated 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 served on 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 approximately 70% of classwide damages, which as a percentage of damages significantly exceeds the median class action recovery of 2%-3% of damages. Henssler was also part of the litigation teams for *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).

Education

B.A., University of New Hampshire, 1997; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2001

Honors / Awards

Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018

Dennis J. Herman | Partner

Dennis Herman is a partner 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*®, 2018-2019; Super Lawyer, 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

John Herman | Partner

John Herman is a partner at the Firm, the Chair of the Firm's Intellectual Property and Technology Practice and manages the Firm's Atlanta office. His practice focuses on complex civil litigation, with a particular emphasis on high technology matters. His experience includes securities, patent, antitrust, data breach, whistleblower and class action litigation. Herman also has significant first chair trial experience, handling numerous cases through verdict in both federal and state courts. Herman has worked on many noteworthy cases and successfully achieved favorable results for his clients. His notable cases include a recent derivative settlement of \$60 million on behalf of Community Health Systems, as well as leading a team of attorneys enforcing the 3Com Ethernet patents, winning two jury trial victories in federal court. Herman also represented renowned inventor Ed Phillips in the landmark case of *Phillips v. AWH Corp.* He has represented the pioneers of mesh technology – David Petite, Edwin Brownrigg and SIPCO – in connection with their mesh technology portfolio. Herman has also worked on numerous class action cases, including acting as lead plaintiffs' counsel in the Home Depot shareholder derivative action, which achieved landmark corporate governance reforms for investors.

Education

B.S., Marquette University, 1988; J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School, 1992

Honors / Awards

Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (LCA) Proven Trial Lawyers; Super Lawyer, 2005-2010, 2017-2019; Top Lawyers, *Atlanta Magazine*, 2017; Top 100 Georgia Super Lawyers list, 2007; One of "Georgia's Most Effective Lawyers," *Legal Trend*; John Wade Scholar, Vanderbilt University Law School; Editor-in-Chief, *Vanderbilt Journal*, Vanderbilt University Law School; B.S., *Summa Cum Laude*, Marquette University, 1988

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*, 2014-2019; Super Lawyer, 2007-2009, 2019; 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

Maxwell R. Huffman | Partner

Maxwell Huffman is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. He focuses his practice on representing both institutional and individual shareholders in securities class action litigation in the context of mergers and acquisitions. Huffman was part of the litigation team for *In re Dole Food Co., Inc. Stockholder Litig.*, 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.

Education

B.A., California State University, Sacramento, 2005; J.D., Gonzaga University School of Law, 2009

Honors / Awards

Winning Litigator, *The National Law Journal*, 2018; Titan of the Industry, *The American Lawyer*, 2018

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 approximately 70% of classwide damages, which as a percentage of damages significantly exceeds the median class action recovery of 2%-3% of damages.

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

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

Rachel L. Jensen | Partner

Rachel Jensen is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. For 16 years, Jensen has developed a track record of success in helping to craft impactful business reforms and recover billions on behalf of individuals, businesses, and government entities injured by unlawful business practices, fraudulent schemes, and hazardous products.

Jensen was one of the lead attorneys who secured a historic recovery on behalf of Trump University students nationwide in two class actions against President Donald J. Trump. The settlement provided \$25 million and provided nearly 100% refunds to 7,000 class members. Jensen represented the class on a *pro bono* basis. She was appointed by Judge Chen to serve on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in multidistrict litigation ("MDL") against Fiat Chrysler and Bosch for installing and concealing defeat devices in "EcoDiesel" SUVs and trucks; a global \$840 million settlement is pending approval. Jensen also serves as one of class counsel in a RICO class action against Scotts Miracle-Gro for selling wild bird food treated with pesticides that are hazardous to birds; a class action settlement of up to \$85 million is pending approval. Additionally, Jensen represents drivers against Volkswagen in one of the most brazen corporate frauds in recent history and helped recover \$17 billion; represents California passengers in a consumer and civil rights case against Greyhound for voluntarily subjecting its paying customers to discriminatory immigration raids; and serves as one of the lead counsel for policyholders against certain Lloyd's Syndicates for collusive practices in the Lloyd's market.

Among other recoveries, Jensen has played significant roles in *In re LendingClub Sec. Litig.*, No. 3:16-cv-02627-WHA (N.D. Cal.) (\$125 million settlement that ranks among the top ten largest securities recoveries ever in the Northern District of California); *Negrete v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, No. CV056838CAS(MANx) (C.D. Cal.) (\$250 million to senior citizens targeted for exorbitant deferred annuities that would not mature in their lifetimes); *In re Ins. Brokerage Antitrust Litig.*, No. 04-5184(CCC) (D.N.J.) (\$200 million recovered for policyholders who paid inflated premiums due to kickback scheme among major insurers and brokers); *City of Westland Police & Fire Ret. Sys. v. Stumpf*, No. 3:11-cv-02369-SI (N.D. Cal.) (\$67 million in homeowner down-payment assistance and credit counseling for cities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis and computer integration for mortgage servicing segments in derivative settlement with Wells Fargo for "robo-signing" of foreclosure affidavits); *In re Mattel, Inc., Toy Lead Paint Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 2:07-ml-01897-DSF-AJW (C.D. Cal.) (\$50 million in refunds and quality assurance business reforms for toys made in China with lead and magnets); *In re Checking Account Overdraft Litig.*, No. 1:09-md-2036-JLK (S.D. Fla.) (\$500 million in settlements with major banks for manipulating debit transactions to maximize overdraft fees).

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 Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2017-2019; Super Lawyer, 2016-2019; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2018; Top Woman Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2017; Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 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 has resulted in the recovery of \$504.5 million on behalf of investors, *In re Treasuries Sec. Auction Antitrust Litig.*, and *In re SSA Bonds Antitrust Litig.* 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

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 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

Peter M. Jones | Partner

Peter Jones is a partner in the Firm's Atlanta office. He has experience handling a wide range of complex civil litigation matters, including securities, intellectual property, whistleblower, product liability, premises liability, class action and commercial disputes. Jones has significant trial experience in both federal and state courts. Before joining the Firm, Jones practiced at King & Spalding LLP and clerked for the Honorable J.L. Edmondson, then Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Education

B.A., University of the South, 1999; J.D., University of Georgia School of Law, 2003

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2012-2013; Member, *Georgia Law Review*, Order of the Barristers, University of Georgia School of Law

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, 2013-2015, 2017-2018; Member, *Fordham International Law Journal*, Fordham University School of Law

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. Stockholders 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; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2018; 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 Cty.) (\$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.).

She is a past board member on the San Diego County Bar Foundation and the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. Largent 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

Board Member, San Diego County Bar Foundation, 2013-2017; Board Member, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, 2014-2017

Angel P. Lau | Partner

Angel Lau is a partner in Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP's San Diego office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. She is a member of the litigation team prosecuting actions against investment banks and the leading national credit rating agencies for their role in structuring and rating structured investment vehicles. These cases are among the first to successfully allege fraud against the rating agencies, whose ratings have historically been protected by the First Amendment.

As part of the Firm's litigation team, Lau 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.* The resulting settlement is, on a percentage basis, the largest recovery ever achieved in a class action brought on behalf of purchasers of RMBS. She was part of the litigation team that obtained a landmark \$272 million recovery 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. Additionally, Lau also 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.* Prior to joining the Firm, Lau worked at an investment bank in New York, with experience in arbitrage trading and securitized products.

Education

B.A., Stanford University, 1994; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2012

Arthur C. Leahy | Partner

Art Leahy is a founding partner in the Firm's San Diego office and a member of the Firm's Executive and Management Committees. 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

Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2019; Super Lawyer, 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

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 Employees' Retirement 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 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Litig.* (\$95 million recovery); *Massachusetts Bricklayers and Masons Trust Funds v. Deutsche Alt-A Securities, Inc.* (\$32.5 million recovery); *City of Ann Arbor Employees' Ret. Sys. v. Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust Inc.* (\$24.9 million recovery); and *Plumbers' Union Local No. 12 Pension Fund v. Nomura Asset Acceptance Corp.* (\$21.2 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, et al. v. Morgan Stanley, et al.*

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

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 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

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 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 his practice focuses on the prosecution of complex securities and shareholder derivative litigation. Luedeke was a member of the trial team in *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, No. 02-C-5893 (N.D. Ill.), 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. He was also part 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 Pharm., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 8:12-cv-01623 (C.D. Cal.) (\$38 million recovery).

Currently, Luedeke is involved in prosecuting a variety of shareholder derivative actions on behalf of corporations and shareholders injured by wayward corporate fiduciaries. Notable shareholder derivative actions in which he 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).

Education

B.S./B.A., University of California Santa Barbara, 2001; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2006

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2017; Student Comment Editor, *San Diego International Law Journal*, University of San Diego School of Law

Carmen A. Medici | Partner

Carmen Medici is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and focuses on complex antitrust class action litigation and unfair competition law. He represents businesses and consumers who are the victims of price-fixing, monopolization, collusion, and other anticompetitive and unfair business practices. Medici specializes in litigation against giants in the financial, pharmaceutical and commodities industries.

A veteran of litigation in the credit card industry, Medici is currently representing merchants in *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Litig.*, in which a settlement of up to \$6.26 billion was recently preliminarily approved by the Eastern District of New York. Thought to be the largest antitrust class action case in history, the case charges Visa, MasterCard and the country's major banks with violating federal law in the allegedly collusive manner in which rules are set in the industry, including rules requiring payment of ever-increasing interchange fees by merchants. He is also a part of the co-lead counsel team in *In re SSA Bonds Antitrust Litig.*, pending in the Southern District of New York, representing bond purchasers who were defrauded by a brazen price-fixing scheme perpetrated by traders at some of the nation's largest banks. Medici is also a member of the litigation team in *In re Dealer Management Systems Antitrust Litig.*, a lawsuit brought on behalf of car dealerships pending in federal court in Chicago, where one defendant has settled for nearly \$30 million.

Education

B.S., Arizona State University, 2003; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2006

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2019

Matthew S. Melamed | Partner

Matt Melamed is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office, where he focuses on complex securities litigation and whistleblower representation. Since joining the Firm, he has been a member of litigation teams responsible for substantial investor recoveries, including *Jones v. Pfizer* (S.D.N.Y.), *In re St. Jude Medical, Inc. Securities Litigation* (D. Minn.), *Oklahoma Police Pension & Retirement System v. Sientra, Inc.* (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cty.) and *In re Willbros Group, Inc. Securities Litigation* (S.D. Tex.). He has also contributed to the Firm's appellate work, including in *Mineworkers' Pension Scheme, British Coal Staff Superannuation v. First Solar, Inc.* (9th Cir.) and *China Development Industrial Bank v. Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated* (N.Y. App. Div.). Melamed, 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 Litigation*.

Education

B.A., Wesleyan University, 1996; J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2008

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2018; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2008; Tony Patino Fellow, University of California, Hastings College of the Law; Order of the Coif, University of California, Hastings College of the Law; Senior Articles Editor, *Hastings Law Journal*, University of California, Hastings College of the Law; Student Director, General Assistance Advocacy Project, University of California, Hastings College of the 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 approximately \$300 million in settlements.

Education

B.A., Yale University, 1981; M.A., University of Virginia, 1983; J.D., University of Virginia, 1987

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, 2013-2018

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. 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 cases include *Dahl v. Bain Capital 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 up to \$6.26 billion was recently preliminarily approved by the Eastern District of New York. Thought to be the largest antitrust class action case in history, the case charges Visa, MasterCard and the country's major banks with violating federal law in the allegedly collusive manner in which rules are set in the industry, including rules requiring payment of ever-increasing interchange fees by merchants.

Additionally, Mitchell served as class 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 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; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2018-2019; Super Lawyer, 2016-2019; 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

Maureen E. Mueller | Partner

Maureen Mueller is a partner in the Firm's Boca Raton office, where her practice focuses on complex securities litigation. Mueller has helped recover more than \$3 billion for investors. She was a member of the Firm's trial team in *Jaffe v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, No. 02-C-05893 (N.D. Ill.), 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 a member of the team of attorneys responsible for recovering a record-breaking \$925 million for investors in the *UnitedHealth* litigation, *In re UnitedHealth Grp. Inc. PSLRA Litig.*, No. 06-CV-1216 (JMR/FLN) (D. Minn.), and served as co-lead counsel in *In re Wachovia Preferred Securities and Bond/Notes Litig.*, No. 09 Civ. 6351 (RJS) (S.D.N.Y.), which recovered \$627 million. More recently, Mueller was part of the litigation team that secured a \$64 million recovery for shareholders of Dana Corp. in *Plumbers & Pipefitters National Pension Fund v. Burns*, No. 3:05-cv-07393-JGC (N.D. Ohio), 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. She was also a member of the team of attorneys that recovered \$13 million in *Burges v. BancorpSouth, Inc.*, No. 3:14-cv-01564 (M.D. Tenn.), and represented investors in *Knurr v. Orbital ATK, Inc.*, No. 1:16-cv-01031-TSE-MSN (E.D. Va.), in which the district court has preliminarily approved a \$108 million settlement.

Education

B.S., Trinity University, 2002; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2007

Honors / Awards

Next Generation Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018; Top Litigator Under 40, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2017; Top Women Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2017; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017; Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2017; "Outstanding Young Attorneys," *San Diego Daily Transcript*, 2010; Lead Articles Editor, *San Diego Law Review*, University of San Diego School of Law

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 that 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. In addition, Myers advises the Firm's clients in connection with lead plaintiff applications and has secured appointment of the Firm's clients as lead plaintiff in over 100 cases, including *Knurr v. Orbital ATK, Inc.*, No. 1:16-cv-01031 (E.D. Va.), *Evellard v. LendingClub Corp.*, No. 3:16-cv-02627 (N.D. Cal.), *In re Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. Sec. Litig.*, No. 4:15-cv-02404 (S.D. Tex.), *Marcus v. J.C. Penney Co., Inc.*, No. 6:13-cv-00736 (E.D. Tex.), *In re Hot Topic, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 2:13-cv-02939 (C.D. Cal.), *Smilovits v. First Solar, Inc.*, No. 2:12-cv-00555 (D. Ariz.), and *In re Goldman Sachs Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 1:10-cv-03461 (S.D.N.Y.). Myers has obtained significant recoveries for shareholders in several cases, including: *Marcus v. J.C. Penney Co., Inc.*, No. 13-cv-00736 (E.D. Tex.) (\$97.5 million recovery); *In re Hot Topic, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 2:13-cv-02939 (C.D. Cal.) (\$14.9 million recovery); *Genesee Cty. Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Thornburg Mortg., Inc.*, No. 1:09-cv-00300 (D.N.M.) (\$11.25 million recovery); *Goldstein v. Tongxin Int'l Ltd.*, No. 2:11-cv-00348 (C.D. Cal.) (\$3 million recovery); and *Lane v. Page*, No. Civ-06-1071 (D.N.M.) (pre-merger increase in cash consideration and post-merger cash settlement). Myers is also a frequent lecturer 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

Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2018; Next Generation Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2017-2018; 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. Recent 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.); *Commc'ns Workers of Am. Plan for Emps.' Pensions and Death Benefits v. CSK Auto Corp.* (D. Ariz.); *Marie Raymond Revocable Tr. v. Mat Five* (Del. Ch.); and *Kelleher v. ADVO, Inc.* (D. Conn.). Niehaus is currently prosecuting cases against several financial institutions arising from their role in the collapse of the mortgage-backed securities market. 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

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2016; J.D., *Cum Laude*, California Western School of Law, 2005; Member, *California Western Law Review*

Brian O. O'Mara | Partner

Brian O'Mara is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. His practice focuses on complex securities and antitrust litigation. Since 2003, O'Mara has served as lead or co-lead counsel in numerous shareholder and antitrust actions, including: *Bennett v. Sprint Nextel Corp.* (D. Kan.) (\$131 million recovery); *In re CIT Grp. Inc. Sec. Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.) (\$75 million recovery); *In re MGM Mirage Sec. Litig.* (D. Nev.) (\$75 million recovery); *C.D.T.S. No. 1 v. UBS AG* (S.D.N.Y.); *In re Aluminum Warehousing Antitrust Litig.* (S.D.N.Y.); and *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Bank of Am. Corp.* (S.D.N.Y.). Most recently, O'Mara served as class counsel in the ISDAfix Benchmark action against 14 major banks and broker ICAP plc, obtaining \$504.5 million for plaintiffs.

O'Mara has been responsible for a number of significant rulings, including: *Alaska Elec. Pension Fund v. Bank of Am. Corp.*, 175 F. Supp. 3d 44 (S.D.N.Y. 2016); *Bennett v. Sprint Nextel Corp.*, 298 F.R.D. 498 (D. Kan. 2014); *In re MGM Mirage Sec. Litig.*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 139356 (D. Nev. 2013); *In re Constar Int'l, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16966 (E.D. Pa. 2008), *aff'd*, 585 F.3d 774 (3d Cir. 2009); *In re Direct Gen. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 56128 (M.D. Tenn. 2006); and *In re Dura Pharm., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 452 F. Supp. 2d 1005 (S.D. Cal. 2006). Prior to joining the Firm, he served as law clerk to the Honorable Jerome M. Polaha of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

Education

B.A., University of Kansas, 1997; J.D., DePaul University, College of Law, 2002

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, 2016-2019; Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice, American Antitrust Institute, 2018; CALI Excellence Award in Securities Regulation, DePaul University, College of Law

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 has recently 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 Employees' Retirement 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 Securities and 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. 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*, 2018-2019; 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.*, No. 1:00-CV-2838 (\$137.5 million recovery); *In re Fleming Cos. Inc. Sec. & Derivative Litig.*, No. 5-03-MD-1530 (\$95 million recovered); *In re Boeing Sec. Litig.*, No. C-97-1715Z (\$92 million recovery); *In re Louisiana-Pacific Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. C-95-707 (\$65 million recovery); *Haw. Structural Ironworkers Pension Trust Fund v. Calpine Corp.*, No. 1-04-CV-021465 (\$43 million recovery); *In re Advanced Micro Devices Sec. Litig.*, No. C-93-20662 (\$34 million recovery); and *Gohler v. Wood*, No. 92-C-181 (\$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 \$100 million for investors, including: *Garden City Emps.' Ret. Sys. v. Psychiatric Sols., Inc.* (\$65 million recovery); *In re PMI Grp., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$31.25 million recovery); *Cunha v. Hansen Natural Corp.* (\$16.25 million recovery); *In re Accuray Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$13.5 million recovery); and *Twinde v. Threshold Pharm., Inc.* (\$10 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

Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2019; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016-2018; Top 40 Under 40, *Daily Journal*, 2017; Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2013-2017

Theodore J. Pinta | Partner

Ted Pinta is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office. Pinta 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. Pinta was also on the trial team in *Knapp v. Gomez*, which resulted in a plaintiff's verdict. Pinta 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. Additionally, Pinta 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

Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2019; Super Lawyer, 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

Willow E. Radcliffe | Partner

Willow Radcliffe is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office and concentrates her practice on securities class action litigation in federal court. Radcliffe has been significantly involved in the prosecution of numerous securities fraud claims, including actions filed against Flowserve, NorthWestern and Ashworth, and 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

J.D., *Cum Laude*, Seton Hall University School of Law, 1998; Most Outstanding Clinician Award; Constitutional Law Scholar Award

Mark S. Reich | Partner

Mark Reich is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. Reich focuses his practice on challenging unfair mergers and acquisitions in courts throughout the country. Reich's notable cases include: *In re Aramark Corp. S'holders Litig.*, where he achieved a \$222 million increase in consideration paid to shareholders of Aramark and a substantial reduction to management's voting power – from 37% to 3.5% – in connection with the approval of the going-private transaction; *In re Delphi Fin. Grp. S'holders Litig.*, resulting in a \$49 million post-merger settlement for Class A Delphi shareholders; and *In re TD Banknorth S'holders Litig.*, where Reich played a significant role in raising the inadequacy of the \$3 million initial settlement, which the court rejected as wholly inadequate, and later resulted in a vastly increased \$50 million recovery.

Reich has also played a central role in other shareholder related litigation. His cases include *In re Gen. Elec. Co. ERISA Litig.*, resulting in structural changes to company's 401(k) plan valued at over \$100 million, benefiting current and future plan participants, and *In re Doral Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, obtaining a \$129 million recovery for shareholders in a securities fraud litigation.

Education

B.A., Queens College, 1997; J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 2000

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, 2013-2018; Member, *The Journal of Law and Policy*, Brooklyn Law School; Member, Moot Court Honor Society, Brooklyn Law School

Jack Reise | Partner

Jack Reise is a partner 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. As lead counsel, Reise represented investors in a series of cases involving mutual funds charged with improperly valuing their net assets, which settled for a total of more than \$50 million. Other notable actions include: *In re NewPower Holdings Sec. Litig.* (\$41 million settlement); *In re Red Hat Sec. Litig.* (\$20 million settlement); and *In re AFC Enters., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$17.2 million settlement). Prior to joining the Firm, Reise represented individuals suffering the debilitating effects of asbestos exposure back in the 1950s and 1960s.

Education

B.A., Binghamton University, 1992; J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 1995

Honors / Awards

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

Darren J. Robbins | Partner

Darren Robbins is a founding partner of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP. Over the last two decades, he has served as lead counsel in more than 100 securities class actions and has recovered billions of dollars for injured shareholders. Robbins has obtained significant recoveries in a number of actions arising out of wrongdoing related to the issuance of residential mortgage-backed securities, including the case against Goldman Sachs (\$272 million recovery). Robbins also 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 credit-crisis settlements involving Securities Act claims. Robbins also recently served as lead counsel in *Schuh v. HCA Holdings, Inc.*, which resulted in a \$215 million recovery for shareholders.

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 was able to obtain the cancellation of more than 3.6 million stock options held by the company's former CEO and secure a record \$925 million cash recovery for shareholders. Robbins 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. The case 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

Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2014-2019; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2006-2007, 2009-2019; Benchmark California Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; State Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2010-2019; Super Lawyer, 2013-2019; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2013-2018; Lawyer of the Year, *Best Lawyers®*, 2017; Influential Business Leader, *San Diego Business Journal*, 2017; Litigator of the Year, *Our City San Diego*, 2017; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2011, 2017; Top 50 Lawyers in San Diego, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015; 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. Robbins has been a member of litigation teams responsible for the successful prosecution of many securities class actions, including *Hospira* (\$60 million recovery); *3D Systems* (\$50 million); *CVS Caremark* (\$48 million recovery); *Baxter International* (\$42.5 million recovery); *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); *Imperial Holdings* (\$12 million recovery); *Mannatech* (\$11.5 million recovery); *Newpark Resources* (\$9.24 million recovery); *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). Robbins is currently representing investors in securities fraud litigation against Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc. (D.N.J.).

Education

B.S., University of Florida, 1999; J.D., University of Florida College of Law, 2002

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 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

Henry Rosen | Partner

Henry Rosen is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office, where he is a member of the Hiring Committee and Technology Committee, the latter of which focuses on applications to digitally manage documents produced during litigation and internally generate research files. He has significant experience prosecuting every aspect of securities fraud class actions and has obtained more than \$1 billion on behalf of defrauded investors. Prominent cases include *In re Cardinal Health, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, in which Rosen recovered \$600 million for defrauded shareholders. This \$600 million settlement is the largest recovery ever in a securities fraud class action in the Sixth Circuit, and remains one of the largest settlements in the history of securities fraud litigation. Additional recoveries include: *Jones v. Pfizer Inc.* (\$400 million); *In re First Energy* (\$89.5 million); *In re CIT Grp. Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$75 million); *Stanley v. Safeskin Corp.* (\$55 million); *In re Storage Tech. Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$55 million); and *Rasner v. Sturm* (FirstWorld Communications) (\$25.9 million).

Education

B.A., University of California, San Diego, 1984; J.D., University of Denver, 1988

Honors / Awards

Editor-in-Chief, *University of Denver Law Review*, University of Denver

David A. Rosenfeld | Partner

David Rosenfeld is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. He has focused his practice of law for more than 15 years in the areas of securities litigation and corporate takeover litigation. He has been appointed as 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 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.

Additionally, Rosenfeld 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. Rosenfeld has also achieved remarkable recoveries against companies in the financial industry. In addition to recovering \$70 million for investors in Credit Suisse Group, and having been appointed lead counsel in the securities fraud lawsuit against First BanCorp (which provided shareholders with a \$74.25 million recovery), he recently settled claims against Barclays for \$14 million, or 20% of investors' damages, for statements made about its LIBOR practices.

Education

B.S., Yeshiva University, 1996; J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, 1999

Honors / Awards

Advisory Board Member of *Stafford's Securities Class Action Reporter*; Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016-2019; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018; Super Lawyer, 2014-2018; Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2011-2013

Robert M. Rothman | Partner

Robert Rothman is a partner in the Firm's Melville office. Rothman has extensive experience litigating cases involving investment fraud, consumer fraud and antitrust violations. He also lectures to institutional investors throughout the world. Rothman has served as lead counsel in numerous class actions alleging violations of securities laws, including cases against First Bancorp (\$74.25 million recovery), CVS (\$48 million recovery), Popular, Inc. (\$37.5 million recovery), and iStar Financial, Inc. (\$29 million recovery). He actively 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.

Education

B.A., State University of New York at Binghamton, 1990; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 1993

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, 2011, 2013-2018; 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 Executive and Management Committees, and manages the Firm's New York offices. His 25-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. 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 \$50 million recovery in *TD Banknorth*, a \$48 million recovery in *CVS Caremark*, and a \$34.5 million recovery in *L-3 Communications Holdings*.

Education

B.A., Binghamton University, 1989; J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 1992

Honors / Awards

Leading Lawyer, *Chambers USA*, 2014-2019; National Practice Area Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2019; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2016-2019; Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2013-2019; Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2013, 2017-2019; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2018; Super Lawyer, 2007-2018; 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 principally prosecutes violations of the federal securities laws and breaches of fiduciary duty on behalf of individual and institutional investors. During his tenure at the Firm, Russello has achieved significant results in complex and challenging cases.

Currently, Russello is leading the Firm's efforts in litigating securities claims against several companies in the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court, New York County, in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Cyan, Inc. v. Beaver Cty. Emps.' Ret. Fund*, _ U.S. _, 138 S. Ct. 1061 (2018), which confirmed that state courts have concurrent jurisdiction of claims under the Securities Act of 1933. He is also prosecuting federal securities fraud cases against Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson (known as Ericsson) and former executives and directors of Allied Nevada Gold Corporation, the latter of which was the subject of a favorable decision from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversing dismissal and reinstating the claims in their entirety (*In re Allied Nev. Gold Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 743 F. App'x 887 (9th Cir. 2018) (summary order)).

Recently, Russello led the team responsible for recovering \$50 million in litigation against BHP Billiton, an Australian-based mining company accused of failing to disclose significant safety problems at the Fundão iron-ore dam, in Brazil. Together with Brazilian mining company Vale S.A., BHP owned Samarco Mineração S.A., which operated the mining complex at which the Fundão dam was located. On November 5, 2015, the dam collapsed and unleashed a torrent of mining waste, resulting in the death of 19 people, the destruction of the town of Bento Rodrigues, and the decimation of the surrounding environment. Even today, this event is regarded as the worst environmental disaster in Brazil's history. Russello and a team from Robbins Geller represented two institutional investors and an individual in defeating BHP's motion to dismiss (*In re BHP Billiton Ltd. Sec. Litig.*, 276 F. Supp. 3d 65 (S.D.N.Y. 2017)), and prosecuted and ultimately resolved the case on behalf of two sets of purchasers of American Depositary Shares (ADSs) trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Education

B.A., Gettysburg College, 1998; J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 2001

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, 2014-2018; *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 Securities Litigation*, a settlement that ranks 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

Jessica T. Shinnfield | Partner

Jessica Shinnfield is a partner in the Firm's San Diego office and currently focuses on initiating, investigating and prosecuting new securities fraud class actions. Shinnfield was a member of the litigation teams that obtained significant recoveries for investors in cases such as *AOL Time Warner*, *Cisco Systems*, *Aon* and *Pelco*. 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. These cases are among the first to successfully allege fraud against the rating agencies, whose ratings have traditionally been protected by the First Amendment. She is currently litigating several securities actions, including an action against Omnicare, in which she helped obtain a favorable ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Education

B.A., University of California at Santa Barbara, 2001; J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2004

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2015-2019; 40 & Under Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018; 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); *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

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2016-2018; 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 partner in the Firm's San Diego office and leads its international litigation practice. Over the last 23 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 has been admitted to the Bars of England and Wales (Barrister), Ohio and California, but now practices exclusively in California, as well as in various United States federal district and appellate courts.

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. He litigated, through the rare event of trial, the securities class action against Helionetics Inc. and its executives, where he won a \$15.4 million federal jury verdict. 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 as co-lead counsel in *In re Informix Corp. Sec. Litig.* (N.D. Cal.) and recovering \$131 million for Informix investors; and serving as co-lead counsel in *Schwartz v. TXU Corp.* (N.D. Tex.), where he helped obtain a recovery of over \$149 million for a class of purchasers of TXU securities. Solomon is currently counsel to a number of pension funds serving as lead plaintiffs in cases throughout the United States.

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

Super Lawyer, 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

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 is a partner in the Firm's San Francisco office and a member of the Firm's Management Committee. His practice focuses on securities class actions. Williams was among the lead class counsel for the Firm recovering investor losses in notable cases, including: *In re Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$75 million); *In re Veritas Software Corp. Sec. Litig.* (\$35 million); and *In re Cadence Design Sys. Sec. Litig.* (\$38 million). Williams is also among the Firm's lead attorneys prosecuting shareholder derivative actions, securing tens of millions of dollars in cash recoveries and negotiating the implementation of comprehensive corporate governance enhancements, such as *In re McAfee, Inc. Derivative Litig.*; *In re Marvell Tech. Grp. Ltd. Derivative Litig.*; *In re KLA Tencor S'holder Derivative Litig.*; and *The Home Depot, Inc. Derivative Litig.* Prior to 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 and led white-collar fraud grand jury investigations.

Education

B.A., The State of University of New York at Albany, 1991; J.D., University of Illinois, 1995

Honors / Awards

Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2019; Leading Lawyer in America, *Lawdragon*, 2018-2019; Super Lawyer, 2014-2017; Board Member, California Bar Foundation, 2012-2014

David T. Wissbroecker | Partner

David Wissbroecker is a partner in the Firm’s San Diego and Chicago offices. He focuses his practice on securities class action litigation in the context of mergers and acquisitions, representing both individual shareholders and institutional investors. As part of the litigation team at Robbins Geller, Wissbroecker has helped secure monetary recoveries for shareholders that collectively exceed \$1 billion. Wissbroecker has litigated numerous high profile cases in Delaware and other jurisdictions, including shareholder class actions challenging the acquisitions of Dole, Kinder Morgan, Del Monte Foods, Affiliated Computer Services, Intermix and Rural Metro. His practice has recently expanded to include numerous proxy fraud cases in federal court, along with shareholder document demand litigation in Delaware. Before joining the Firm, Wissbroecker served as a staff attorney for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and then as a law clerk for the Honorable John L. Coffey, Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Education

B.A., Arizona State University, 1998; J.D., University of Illinois College of Law, 2003

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer “Rising Star,” 2015; J.D., *Magna Cum Laude*, University of Illinois College of Law, 2003; B.A., *Cum Laude*, Arizona State University, 1998

Christopher M. Wood | Partner

Christopher Wood is a partner in the Firm’s Nashville office, where his practice focuses on complex securities litigation. He has been a member of 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 Sols., Inc.* (\$65 million recovery); *In re Micron Tech., Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$42 million recovery); and *Winslow v. BancorpSouth, Inc.* (\$29.5 million recovery).

Wood has provided *pro bono* legal services through the San Francisco Bar Association’s Volunteer Legal Services Program, the Ninth Circuit’s Pro Bono Program, Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts, and Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors.

Education

B.A., Vanderbilt University, 2003; J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law, 2006

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer “Rising Star,” 2011-2013, 2015-2018

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 \$1 billion in securities fraud recoveries. Wyman was 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 approximately 70% of classwide damages, which as a percentage of damages significantly exceeds the median class action recovery of 2%-3% of damages. 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. Most recently, Wyman was 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

Top Women Lawyer, *Daily Journal*, 2017; Litigator of the Year, *Our City San Diego*, 2017; Super Lawyer, 2016-2017

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 prior to her role as Of Counsel. As a partner with the Firm, Andracchio led countless 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.

Andracchio was 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. Prior to 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 Bros., Inc.*, *Ross v. Abercrombie & Fitch Co.*, *In re GMH Cmty. Tr. Sec. Litig.*, *In re Vicuron Pharm., Inc. Sec. Litig.* and *In re Navarre Corp. Sec. Litig.* Most recently, her focus is residential mortgage-backed securities litigation on behalf of investors against Wall Street financial institutions.

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

Randi D. Bandman | Of Counsel

Randi Bandman is Of Counsel in the Firm's Boca Raton 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 Capital Partners, LLC*) (\$590.5 million) and *In re WorldCom Sec. Litig.* (\$657 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 is also currently a member of the trial team in *In re Facebook Biometric Information Privacy Litigation*, concerning Facebook's alleged privacy violations through its collection of user's biometric identifiers without informed consent. 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

Lea Malani Bays | Of Counsel

Lea Malani Bays is Of Counsel 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; 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

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 reviews 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, 2016-2018; *Law360* Securities Editorial Advisory Board, 2015-2016; Member, Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission, 2014-present

Bruce Boyens | Of Counsel

Bruce Boyens is Of Counsel to the Firm. A private practitioner in Denver, Colorado since 1990, he specializes in consulting with labor unions on issues relating to labor and environmental law, labor organizing, labor education, union elections, internal union governance and alternative dispute resolutions. Boyens was a Regional Director for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters elections in 1991 and 1995. He developed and taught collective bargaining and labor law courses for the George Meany Center, the United Mine Workers of America, Transportation Workers Local 260, the Kentucky Nurses Association, among others.

In addition, Boyens served as the Western Regional Director and Counsel for the United Mine Workers from 1983-1990, where he was the chief negotiator in over 30 major agreements, and represented the United Mine Workers in all legal matters. From 1973-1977, he served as General Counsel to District 17 of the United Mine Workers Association, and also worked as an underground coal miner during that time.

Education

J.D., University of Kentucky College of Law, 1973; Harvard University, Certificate in Environmental Policy and Management

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 of 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

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

Patrick J. Coughlin | Of Counsel

Patrick Coughlin is Of Counsel to the Firm and is based in the San Diego office. He has been lead counsel for several major securities matters, including one of the earliest and largest class action securities cases to go to trial, *In re Apple Computer Sec. Litig.*, No. C-84-20148 (N.D. Cal.). Most recently, Coughlin was 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.

Coughlin is currently representing merchants in *In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Litig.*, in which a settlement of up to \$6.26 billion was recently preliminarily approved by the Eastern District of New York. Thought to be the largest antitrust class action case in history, the case charges Visa, MasterCard and the country's major banks with violating federal law in the allegedly collusive manner in which rules are set in the industry, including rules requiring payment of ever-increasing interchange fees by merchants. Coughlin was one of the lead attorneys who secured a historic \$25 million recovery on behalf of approximately 7,000 Trump University students in two class actions against President Donald J. Trump, which means individual class members are eligible for upwards of \$35,000 in restitution. He represented the class on a *pro bono* basis.

Additional prominent securities class actions prosecuted by Coughlin include the *Enron* litigation, in which \$7.2 billion was recovered; the *Quest* litigation, in which a \$445 million recovery was obtained; and the *HealthSouth* litigation, in which a \$671 million recovery was obtained. Coughlin has also handled a number of large antitrust cases including the *Currency Conversion* cases in which \$360 million was recovered for consumers and the Private Equity litigation (*Dahl v. Bain Capital Partners, LLC*) in which \$590.5 million was recovered for investors. He also served as class counsel in the ISDAfix Benchmark action against 14 major banks and broker ICAP plc, obtaining \$504.5 million for plaintiffs.

Education

B.S., Santa Clara University, 1977; J.D., Golden Gate University, 1983

Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Plaintiffs' Lawyer Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2019; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2006-2019; Super Lawyer, 2004-2019; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2019; Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice, American Antitrust Institute, 2018; Senior Statesman, *Chambers USA*, 2014-2018; Antitrust Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*, 2015; Top 100 Lawyers, *Daily Journal*, 2008; Leading Lawyers in America, *Lawdragon*, 2006, 2008-2009

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 Int'l, Inc.* 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.

Education

B.A., Fordham University, 1981; J.D., University of Michigan School of Law, 1984

Honors / Awards

Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell; Best Lawyer in America, *Best Lawyers®*, 2015-2019; Super Lawyer, 2010-2019; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2019; Hall of Fame, *Lawdragon*, 2018; Recommended Lawyer, *The Legal 500*, 2016-2018; 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; Director's Award for Superior Performance, United States Attorney's Office; B.A., *Magna Cum Laude*, Fordham University, 1981

L. Thomas Galloway | Of Counsel

Thomas Galloway is Of Counsel in the Firm's Washington D.C. office. He is the founding partner of Galloway & Associates, a law firm that concentrates in the representation of institutional investors – namely, public and multi-employer pension funds.

Galloway has authored several books and articles, including: *The American Response to Revolutionary Change: A Study of Diplomatic Recognition* (AEI Institute 1978); *American's Energy: Reports from the Nation* (Pantheon 1980); Contributor, *Coal Treatise* (Matthew Bender 1981); Contributor, *Mining in Germany, Great Britain, Australia, and the United States* 4 Harv. Envtl. L. Rev. 261 (Spring 1980); *A Miner's Bill of Rights*, 80 W. Va. L. Rev. 397 (1978); and Contributor, *Golden Dreams, Poisoned Streams* (Mineral Policy Center Washington D.C. 1997).

Galloway represents and/or provides consulting services for the following: National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, United Mine Workers of America, Trout Unlimited, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, German Marshal Fund, Northern Cheyenne Indian Tribe, and Council of Energy Resource Tribes.

Education

B.A., Florida State University, 1967; J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1972

Honors / Awards

Articles Editor, *University of Virginia Law Review*, University of Virginia School of Law; *Phi Beta Kappa*, University of Virginia School of Law; Trial Lawyer of the Year in the United States, 2003

John K. Grant | Of Counsel

John Grant is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Francisco office where he devotes his practice to representing investors in securities fraud class actions. Grant has been lead or co-lead counsel in numerous securities actions and recovered tens of millions of dollars for shareholders. His cases include: *In re Micron Tech, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$42 million recovery); *Perera v. Chiron Corp.* (\$40 million recovery); *King v. CBT Grp., PLC* (\$32 million recovery); and *In re Exodus Commc'ns, Inc. Sec. Litig.* (\$5 million recovery).

Education

B.A., Brigham Young University, 1988; J.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1990

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

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 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; Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2013-2019; Super Lawyer, 2007; Oklahoma State University Foundation Board of Trustees, 2013

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, responsible for simplifying cases of complex financial fraud. 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 Practices Litig.* (\$4 billion), *In re Metro. Life Ins. Co. Sales Practices 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, and is also the founder of Hutton Investigative Accounting, a financial forensics and investigation firm. 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

Frank J. Janecek, Jr. | Of Counsel

Frank Janecek is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office and practices in the areas of consumer/antitrust, Proposition 65, taxpayer and tobacco litigation. He served as co-lead counsel, as well as court appointed liaison 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. In conjunction with the Governor of the State of California, the California State Attorney General, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Electricity Oversight Board, a number of other state and local governmental entities and agencies, and California's large, investor-owned electric utilities, plaintiffs secured a global settlement for California consumers, businesses and local governments valued at more than \$1.1 billion. Janecek also chaired several of the litigation committees in California's tobacco litigation, which resulted in the \$25.5 billion recovery for California and its local entities, and also handled a constitutional challenge to the State of California's Smog Impact Fee in *Ramos v. Dep't of Motor Vehicles*, which resulted in more than a million California residents receiving full refunds and interest, totaling \$665 million.

Education

B.S., University of California, Davis, 1987; J.D., Loyola Law School, 1991

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer, 2013-2018

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

"Who's Who" for Securities Lawyers, *Corporate Governance Magazine*, 2015

Ashley M. Kelly | Of Counsel

Ashley Kelly is Of Counsel in the 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

Super Lawyer, "Rising Star," 2016, 2018-2019

Matthew J. Langley | Of Counsel

Matthew Langley is Of Counsel in the Firm's Chicago office. He focuses his practice on securities fraud and other complex civil litigation. Prior to joining Robbins Geller, Langley served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Florida. He tried cases before the United States District Court and argued before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Langley was a member of the Economic Crimes Division and prosecuted cases involving financial fraud, tax fraud, health care fraud, narcotics trafficking and firearm offenses. Before that, Langley was an associate at K&L Gates LLP in Miami from 2011 to 2014 and at Kirkland and Ellis LLP in New York from 2008 to 2011 where he concentrated in complex commercial litigation.

Education

B.A., University of Connecticut, 1997; J.D., Columbia Law School, 2008

Honors / Awards

Super Lawyer "Rising Star," 2013-2014

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 third largest securities recovery ever in the Middle District of Tennessee and 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, 2016-2018

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 the Firm's Washington D.C. office. She is an international lawyer whose practice focuses on securities litigation, arbitration, negotiations, contracts, international trade, real estate transactions and project development. She has represented clients in over 75 countries, 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, international banks, asset managers, foreign governments, multi-national corporations, sovereign wealth funds and high net worth individuals.

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.

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

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

Stephanie Schroder | Of Counsel

Stephanie Schroder is Of Counsel in the Firm's San Diego office and focuses her practice on advising 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 17 years of securities litigation experience.

Schroder has obtained millions of dollars on behalf of defrauded investors. 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 Group S'holder Litig.* and *In re Chiquita S'holder Litig.* Schroder also represented clients that suffered losses from the Madoff fraud in the *Austin Capital* and *Meridian Capital* litigations, which were 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

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 to the Firm and is based 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

Top Lawyer in San Diego, *San Diego Magazine*, 2016-2019; Super Lawyer, 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 for over 20 years as Special Counsel to the Institute for Law and Economic Policy (ILEP), a think tank which develops policy positions on selected issues involving the administration of justice within the American legal system. She has also served as Counsel to the Annenberg Institute of Public Service at the University of Pennsylvania.

In a unique partnership with her mother, attorney Sandra Stein, also Of Counsel to the Firm, the Steins have served as the Firm's and the nation's top asset recovery experts. The Steins focus on minimizing losses suffered by shareholders due to corporate fraud and breaches of fiduciary duty. The Steins also seek to deter future violations of federal and state securities laws by reinforcing the standards of good corporate governance. The Steins work with over 500 institutional investors across the nation and abroad, and their 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 and Bridgestone, to name a few. Many of the cases led by the Steins' clients have accomplished groundbreaking corporate governance achievements, including obtaining shareholder-nominated directors.

Education

B.A., University of Pennsylvania, 1992; J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School, 1995

Sandra Stein | Of Counsel

Sandra Stein is Of Counsel in the Firm's Philadelphia office. She concentrates her practice in securities class action litigation, legislative law and antitrust litigation. In a unique partnership with her daughter, Laura Stein, also Of Counsel to the Firm, the Steins have served as the Firm's and the nation's top asset recovery experts. The Steins focus on minimizing losses suffered by shareholders due to corporate fraud and breaches of fiduciary duty.

Previously, Stein served as Counsel to United States Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. During her service in the United States Senate, Stein was a member of Senator Specter's legal staff and a member of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee staff. She is also the Founder of the Institute for Law and Economic Policy (ILEP), a think tank that develops policy positions on selected issues involving the administration of justice within the American legal system. Stein has also produced numerous public service documentaries for which she was nominated for an Emmy and received an ACE award, cable television's highest award for excellence in programming.

Education

B.S., University of Pennsylvania, 1961; J.D., Temple University School of Law, 1966

Honors / Awards

Nominated for an Emmy and received an ACE award for public service documentaries

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*, 2013-2019; Super Lawyer, 2007-2017; Litigator of the Month, *The National Law Journal*, July 2000; LL.M. Top of Class, Georgetown University Law Center

David C. Walton | Of Counsel

David Walton was a founding partner of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP. For over 20 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

Super Lawyer, 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

Carlton R. Jones | Special Counsel

Carlton Jones is an attorney in the Firm's Atlanta office. As part of the Firm's Intellectual Property Practice, his focus is on patent and other technology-related matters; however, he has experience with nearly every stage of numerous complex litigation cases, including securities, whistleblower, class action, and other intellectual property matters. During his time at Robbins Geller, Jones has litigated patent infringement cases against companies such as Intel, Apple and Halliburton, as well as provided drafting and advisory work on patent sale agreement, licenses and assignments. He regularly evaluates client and potential client portfolios, provides opinions and advice on portfolio strength, licensing and other monetization opportunities, and has extensive experience working with technical experts as well as client engineers and other technical staff. In addition to IP matters, Jones has also worked on other notable complex civil litigation cases, including those resulting in settlements of \$60 million on behalf of Community Health Systems in a derivative suit and \$108 million in a securities class action suit against Orbital ATK. Before joining the Firm, Jones practiced at King & Spalding LLP and gained IP evaluation and licensing experience through an internship with the Centers for Disease Control's Technology Transfer Office. He is a registered Patent Attorney with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Education

B.S., Georgia Institute of Technology, 2006; J.D., Georgia State University College of Law, 2009

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

EXHIBIT B



FIRM RESUME

Johnson Fistel, LLP is committed to delivering comprehensive, creative, and cost-effective solutions to complex legal problems. The trial lawyers at Johnson Fistel have experience and training from some of the biggest firms in the country and have worked on numerous noteworthy cases. We pride ourselves on providing the same level of service large firms offer with the efficiency and personal touch that only a small firm can provide. Whether representing defrauded individuals or publicly-traded corporations, Johnson Fistel has a track record of success.

OUR ATTORNEYS

PARTNERS

FRANK J. JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson is one of the founding partners of Johnson Fistel. Prior to starting his own law firm, Mr. Johnson was a partner in the law firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP, a full-service Am Law 100 law firm with 750 attorneys in 15 offices located around the world. Mr. Johnson has represented some of the largest companies in the country in complex business disputes.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Johnson's practice focuses on complex litigation. Mr. Johnson has extensive experience in all aspects of trial practice, mediation, trial preparation, and non-jury and jury trials in state and federal court. In addition to his general trial practice, Mr. Johnson has both prosecuted and defended a number of cases involving securities fraud in class actions and derivative cases.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Mr. Johnson was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1994. He has an AV rating with Martindale-Hubbell, which indicates very high to preeminent legal ability and very high ethical standards as established by confidential opinions from members of the Bar. He is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- The Supreme Court of the United States of America
- All courts in the State of California
- The United States Courts of Appeals for the Third and Ninth Circuits
- The United States District Courts for the Southern, Central, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California
- The United States Court of Federal Claims
- The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- The United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Mr. Johnson is also a member of the following professional organizations:

- The San Diego County Bar Association
- The Federal Bar Association
- The Litigation Section of the State Bar of California
- SD Regional Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chair Tech Comm. (2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05)
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Member of the Board of Governors (2018-2020)

Mr. Johnson completed the following trial advocacy programs:

- San Diego County District Attorney one-month misdemeanor jury trial program
- Louis M. Welsh American Inn of Court, one-year program
- San Diego Inn of Court College of Advocacy, multi-week trial course
- San Diego Inn of Court College of Advocacy, multi-week evidence course

Following graduation from law school in 1994, Mr. Johnson served as a judicial law clerk for one year for the Honorable John S. Rhoades, a federal trial judge in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

Education and Awards: Mr. Johnson was named a Super Lawyer in Business and Securities Litigation for 2019. Thomson Reuters awards this recognition to the top 5% of attorneys who have obtained a high-level of professional achievement and are highly regarded by their peers. Similarly, in its March 2019 edition, San Diego Magazine recognized Mr. Johnson as one of the Top Lawyers in San Diego. Each year, San Diego Magazine compiles a list, based on peer reviews, of local lawyers who have reached the highest levels of ethical standards and professional excellence. This year, the magazine listed only seven lawyers in Complex Litigation in San Diego and Mr. Johnson was on the list once again. This year is the sixth consecutive year that San Diego Magazine recognized Mr. Johnson for his achievements. Mr. Johnson received his Juris Doctor degree from Washington University School of Law in 1994, where he was in the top 10% of his class while in attendance. In his first year of law

school, Mr. Johnson received the American Jurisprudence Award in Contracts. At both Washington University School of Law and the University of San Diego School of Law (where Mr. Johnson was a visiting student in his third year), Mr. Johnson won first place awards in each school's Moot Court Competition. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance from San Diego State University in 1990, where he graduated second in his class major, with honors and *summa cum laude*.

Community and Volunteer Activities: Mr. Johnson serves on the Board of Governors for the San Diego Chapter of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. And for a number of years, he served as a volunteer at Voices for Children, where he acted as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) meeting several times each month with a foster child and attending court hearings to advocate for the child's best interests.

MICHAEL I. FISTEL, JR.

Mr. Fistel is one of the founding partners of Johnson Fistel. He brings over 15 years of experience specifically dedicated to protecting shareholder rights in a wide variety of cases. Prior to joining as one of the founding partners of Johnson Fistel, he was a partner at an Atlanta-based boutique litigation firm that represented individuals and businesses in shareholder and other complex litigation in federal and state courts throughout the country. In that role, Mr. Fistel served as partner-in-charge of the firm's active case inventory, and obtained millions of dollars on behalf of injured shareholders, consumers, and businesses. Mr. Fistel was also instrumental in securing sweeping corporate governance reforms at numerous publicly-traded companies.

In 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, Mr. Fistel was recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyer—Rising Star by Atlanta Magazine, an honor bestowed on just 2.5% of the attorneys in the State of Georgia. Additionally, Mr. Fistel has an AV rating with Martindale-Hubbell, which indicates very high to preeminent legal ability and very high ethical standards as established by confidential opinions from members of the Bar.

Mr. Fistel has also been invited to speak at the Georgia State University School of Law in the area of corporate governance and shareholder rights. Mr. Fistel has also served as an invited panelist for the Securities and Corporate Litigation Sub-Section of the Atlanta Bar Association.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Fistel devotes his practice to representing individuals, institutions, and businesses in shareholder and other complex litigation. Specifically,

a substantial portion of Mr. Fistel's practice is focused on representing shareholders in securities fraud class action litigation and shareholder derivative litigation. In addition to shareholder litigation, Mr. Fistel also represents aggrieved consumers and businesses in other complex litigation arising out of financial and consumer fraud.

Professional Qualifications: Mr. Fistel was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2001, and is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of Georgia
- The Supreme Court of the United States of America
- The United States Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Fourth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits
- The United States District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia
- The United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Education and Awards: Mr. Fistel attended New England Law in Boston, Massachusetts, earning his Juris Doctor degree in 2001. While at New England Law, Mr. Fistel was repeatedly named to the Dean's List and received the CALI Award for Excellence in Trial Practice and Sports Law. Prior to attending New England Law, Mr. Fistel attended Florida State University as a Florida Undergraduate Scholar, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

Community and Volunteer Activities: Mr. Fistel is an active member of his local Hickory Flat, Georgia community, having served as an Executive Board Member and as Secretary of the Board of Directors of East Cherokee Baseball, a total volunteer youth sports organization where approximately 500 boys and girls ages 3-17 are provided a safe, fun, and educational baseball experience. In addition to his service to the Board of Directors of East Cherokee Baseball, Mr. Fistel has volunteered as a youth baseball coach at the park. Mr. Fistel and his family are members of St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church in Roswell, Georgia.

W. SCOTT HOLLEMAN

Mr. Holleman is a partner at Johnson Fistel. In his mergers and acquisitions (M&A) litigation experience, Mr. Holleman has helped to secure additional monetary consideration for shareholders in multiple cases, and has also helped to bring about substantial modifications to merger agreements. In the shareholder derivative context, he has defended against excessive executive compensation practices at multiple large companies and has helped to instill better corporate governance in various instances. He also worked as an associate for Co-Lead Counsel in the *E*Trade Financial Corp. Securities Litigation*, No. 07-cv-08538 (S.D.N.Y.), which

challenged misrepresentations by E*Trade concerning its mortgage-backed securities and resulted in a \$79 million recovery for injured shareholders.

Mr. Holleman has also represented individuals and companies in antitrust, civil rights, consumer fraud, investment management, regulatory (SEC), and other complex matters. In one case, Mr. Holleman won a jury verdict of actual and punitive damages following a weeklong trial on behalf of a couple who had been sold a faulty insurance-based investment vehicle.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Holleman focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions (M&A) litigation, shareholder derivative matters, and securities fraud class actions. He has prosecuted numerous actions in state and federal courts nationwide and has extensive experience with all phases of litigation, including pre-suit investigations, motion practice, discovery, trials, appeals, and mediation.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Mr. Holleman was admitted to the State Bar of New York in 2008 and the State Bar of California in 2016. He is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of New York
- All courts in the State of California
- The United States District Courts for the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of New York
- The United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Mr. Holleman is also a member of the following New York State Bar Association committees:

- Committee on Securities Litigation and Arbitration
- Committee on Federal Procedures
- Committee on Electronic Discovery

Education: Mr. Holleman received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina in 2003, having studied Political Science and Journalism & Mass Communication. He received his Juris Doctor degree from St. John's University in New York in 2007.

ASSOCIATES

GARAM CHOE

Mr. Choe is an associate at Johnson Fistel. Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Mr. Choe worked at Lowey Dannenberg, P.C. where he represented institutional investors in large-scale antitrust class actions in federal courts. While at Lowey Dannenberg, Mr. Choe assisted in securing multi-million dollar settlements from the largest international banks for their collusive manipulation of interest rates and commodities benchmarks.

While in law school, Mr. Choe was an intern at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, where he worked on enforcement actions against financial firms and their associated persons. Mr. Choe also served as an intern at the New York County District Attorney's Office where he assisted prosecuting cybercrime and identity thefts.

Prior to attending law school, Mr. Choe worked as a corporate investigator at Gryphon Strategies and as a legal assistant at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Choe focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, including securities, shareholder, and antitrust class actions.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Mr. Choe was admitted to the State Bar of New York in January 2017, and is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All trial and appellate courts in the State of New York
- The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Mr. Choe is also a member of the following professional organizations:

- New York State Bar Association
- New York City Bar Association (Antitrust and Trade Regulations Committee)
- New York County Lawyer's Association (Federal Courts Committee)

Education and Awards: Mr. Choe received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College in 2011 and Juris Doctor degree from St. John's University School of Law in 2016. In law school, Mr. Choe was an active member of the Moot Court Honor Society, through which he was a Quarterfinalist in the Irving R. Kaufman Memorial Securities Law Moot Court Competition and the First Place Winner in the Hon. Elaine Jackson Stack Moot Court Competition. He also served as a staff member on the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review and as President of the Corporate & Securities Law

Society. Additionally, Mr. Choe was a recipient of the St. Thomas More Scholarship, a merit-based scholarship covering the full cost of tuition at St. John's Law.

Community and Volunteer Activities: Mr. Choe mentors law school students through St. John's Moot Court Honor Society, American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review, and Practicing Attorneys for Law Students, Inc.

MARY ELLEN CONNER

Ms. Conner is an attorney in the Atlanta office of Johnson Fistel, LLP. Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Ms. Conner practiced law at Jones Day, a full-service law firm with more than 2,500 lawyers and 43 offices around the world, representing Fortune 500 companies in complex commercial and securities litigation. Additionally, Ms. Conner has since served on the faculty of Atlanta's John Marshall Law School teaching Civil Procedure I and II; Legal Research, Writing, and Analysis I; and Legal Communications and Process. She also served as the Faculty Adviser to the Moot Court and co-directed the school's Oral Advocacy Competition.

Areas of Practice: Ms. Conner concentrates her practice on securities litigation and complex commercial disputes, representing businesses and individuals who have been wronged by corporate fraud in shareholder litigation, including direct and derivative actions.

Ms. Conner's extensive experience in securities fraud and fiduciary duty litigation is highlighted by her work in *In re International Textile Group Merger Litigation*, brought by Safety Components International ("SCI") minority shareholders against WL Ross & Co., certain current and former officers and directors of International Textile Group ("ITG"), and others, arising out of the merger of ITG and SCI. Ms. Conner was instrumental in negotiating a favorable settlement for her client.

Ms. Conner has also represented numerous businesses, healthcare providers (including hospitals, physician groups, laboratories, Durable Medical Equipment supply companies, and ambulatory surgery centers), and individuals in government investigations and litigation brought by the Department of Justice and Office of Inspector General for alleged violations of the False Claims Act, federal securities and commodities fraud statutes, and insider trading laws.

Professional Qualifications: Ms. Conner was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2011 and is admitted to practice and in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of Georgia

- The United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Education and Awards: Ms. Conner graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Public Service Scholar with a B.A. in English and Psychology. She received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law with Honors in 2011, where she served on the editorial board for The North Carolina Law Review and received the Gressman-Pollitt Award for Excellence in Oral Advocacy from the Holderness Moot Court. While in law school, Ms. Conner also served as a summer clerk to The Honorable Judge Robert J. Conrad, Jr., Chief Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Ms. Conner was recognized as a member of the General Litigation Department of the Year, awarded by The Daily Report, for the years 2013 and 2014. She also received the Safe Haven Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Representation in 2012.

Publications and Speaking Engagements:

“The ‘Advice-of-Counsel’ Defense: Cautionary Tales for Counsel in False Claims Act Cases,” American Health Lawyers Association.

“Buyers Beware: The Drug Supply Chain Security Act and the False Claims Act,” American Health Lawyers Association Fraud & Abuse, April 2017.

Speaker, “Responding to Governmental Civil Investigative Demands and Government Subpoenas,” Clear Law Institute, February 21, 2017.

Community and Volunteer Activities: Ms. Conner remains active in legal education. She has served as an instructor at Emory University’s School of Law Keissler Eidson Trial Techniques Program and volunteers as an instructor for Empire Mock Trial.

KRISTEN L. O’CONNOR

Ms. O’Connor is an associate at Johnson Fistel and focuses on complex business and commercial litigation. Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, she served as Managing Counsel at clinivation, Inc., where she negotiated clinical trial agreements and provided market clearance submission development and support to global medtech and pharmaceutical industry clients, led budget and contract negotiation with leading clinical research institutions, and drafted client clinical standard operating procedures.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Ms. O'Connor was admitted to the State Bar of California in 2015, and is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of California
- The United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, and Central Districts of California

Ms. O'Connor is also a member of the following professional organizations:

- American Bar Association
- San Diego County Bar Association,
- American Inns of Court—J. Clifford Wallace Chapter
- Lawyers Club of San Diego

Education and Awards: Ms. O'Connor graduated summa cum laude and third in her class from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where she received the CALI Award for Excellence in Legal Writing I, Legal Writing II, Civil Practice, Contracts I, Property II, Entertainment Law Transactions, and Wills and Trusts. She received the Jefferson Medal for Mediation and Negotiation, and was a teaching assistant for Property. She served as an editor for the Thomas Jefferson Law Review, where her work in intellectual property was published. Ms. O'Connor received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from California Lutheran University, where she received academic scholarships. During her senior year, she was a visiting student at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, where she studied Eastern European history and the Czech language. Ms. O'Connor is currently pursuing an LL.M. in Securities and Financial Regulation at Georgetown University Law Center.

CECILIA E. RUTHERFORD

Before joining Johnson Fistel, Ms. Rutherford practiced shareholder derivative litigation with the law firm of Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC in Louisiana. Prior to that, she was a juvenile public defender in New Orleans, Louisiana for two years. Ms. Rutherford also practiced transactional law as a capital markets and structured finance associate with the law firms of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP and Alston & Bird LLP, in New York and North Carolina.

Areas of Practice: Ms. Rutherford practices in complex civil litigation, including securities and consumer fraud class action litigation and shareholder derivative actions. Ms. Rutherford has litigated cases in both state and federal courts and has experience with all aspects of trial practice, including motion practice, discovery, trial preparation, and appeals.

Professional Qualifications: Ms. Rutherford was admitted to the State Bar of California in 2013, and is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of California
- All courts in the State of New York
- All courts in the State of North Carolina
- All courts in the State of Louisiana
- The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- The United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina

Education: Ms. Rutherford received her Juris Doctor degree from Boston University School of Law in 2000, and served on the American Journal of Law & Medicine. During law school, she studied for a term at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, and completed courses focusing on European Union law and international intellectual property. Prior to law school, she was a staff assistant for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington, D.C. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Community and Volunteer Activities: For the past few years, Ms. Rutherford has served as a CASA volunteer with Voices for Children, advocating for the best interests of three children in foster care. She is also a mentor with the Crawford High School Law Academy program, and meets monthly with high school students from underprivileged backgrounds to encourage them to pursue higher education. She also volunteers as a pro bono attorney with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program and Casa Cornelia, handling cases involving guardianship, education rights, and special immigrant juvenile status. Ms. Rutherford also teaches a weekly English class to refugees seeking asylum through Catholic Charities.

CHASE M. STERN

Mr. Stern is an associate at Johnson Fistel and focuses on complex business and commercial litigation. Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Mr. Stern worked at a boutique civil litigation firm in San Diego where his practice included complex business and class action litigation, business tort and contract matters, insurance bad faith disputes, and employment matters. In recent years, Mr. Stern served as trial counsel and prevailed on behalf of a corporate client involving fraud and related tort claims, resulting in a jury award of compensatory and punitive damages. Mr. Stern has also secured multi-million dollar settlements from some of the nation's largest healthcare providers for their concealment of the risks of injury associated with use of medical rehabilitation devices and services as well as from California employers for their systematic underpayment of employee wages.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Stern represents both plaintiffs and defendants and focuses his practice on complex business and commercial litigation, including shareholder derivative claims as well as securities, consumer, and employment class actions.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Mr. Stern was admitted to the State Bar of California in 2013, and is admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of California
- The United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, and Central Districts of California

Mr. Stern is also a member of the following professional organizations:

- American Bar Association
- San Diego County Bar Association
- Consumer Attorneys of San Diego

Mr. Stern is also a certified contract advisor/agent with the National Football League.

Education and Awards: Mr. Stern earned his Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law graduating with honors in 2012. During law school, Mr. Stern received the American Jurisprudence Award in Employee Benefits Law & ERISA. Mr. Stern's passion and dedication to protecting the rights of individuals dates back to his experience as a law clerk in law school for a preeminent class action litigation firm in La Jolla, California. Mr. Stern earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Entrepreneurship & Emerging Enterprises from Syracuse University graduating with honors in 2008.

WILLIAM W. STONE

Mr. Stone has been instrumental in securing significant recoveries and sweeping reforms from numerous publicly-traded companies and other large institutions. Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Mr. Stone practiced complex civil litigation with two Atlanta-based litigation boutique firms, representing individuals and businesses in shareholder and consumer class action litigation and shareholder derivative litigation.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Stone practices complex civil litigation with a focus on securities and consumer fraud class action litigation and shareholder derivative litigation. He has litigated cases in both federal and state courts throughout the country, and has experience with all aspects of trial practice and discovery, including trial preparation and appeals.

Professional Qualifications: Mr. Stone was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2007. He is currently admitted to practice before the following courts:

- The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- The United States District Courts for the Middle and Northern Districts of Georgia
- All courts in the State of Georgia

Education and Awards: Mr. Stone received his Juris Doctor degree from the Georgia State University College of Law in 2007. During law school, he received CALI Awards for Excellence in Trial Practice in Research, Writing, Advocacy, and Criminal Law, interned with a judge, and studied for a term at Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, completing courses focusing on arbitration. Prior to law school, he was a legal assistant for a large law firm in Atlanta during breaks from college. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors from the University of Georgia's Honors Program in Athens, Georgia, where he published an honors thesis on American and European antitrust law.

ADAM J. SUNSTROM

Mr. Sunstrom is an associate in the Atlanta office of Johnson Fistel, LLP. Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Mr. Sunstrom worked for the Georgia Secretary of State as an enforcement attorney, where he conducted investigations and brought enforcement actions against entities and individuals for violations of the Georgia Uniform Securities Act.

During his third year of law school, Mr. Sunstrom interned at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in the Enforcement Division's Complex Financial Instruments Unit, which investigates fraud in connection with sophisticated financial instruments. While at the SEC, Mr. Sunstrom investigated insider trading violations and the manipulation of asset valuations.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Sunstrom focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, including securities class actions and shareholder derivative actions.

Professional Qualifications: Mr. Sunstrom was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in November of 2018 and is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of Georgia

Educations and Awards: In 2018, Mr. Sunstrom graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he served as a Notes Editor on the Georgia Journal of International & Comparative Law and was a member of Mock

Trial finishing as a Quarter-finalist in the J. Melvin England Mock Trial Competition. Mr. Sunstrom graduated summa cum laude from the University of West Georgia in 2015 with degree in Political Science.

Publications:

China: Environmental Protectionist or Economic Protectionism, 46 Ga. J. Int'l & Comp. L. 873 (2018).

PHONG L. TRAN

Mr. Tran is a senior associate at Johnson Fistel. Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Mr. Tran worked at the preeminent plaintiff class action firm of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP and the well-respected boutique litigation firm of Coughlan, Semmer & Lipman, LLP. In addition, he previously served as a prosecutor, first as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of California and then as a Deputy City Attorney with the San Diego City Attorney's Office.

Notable matters in which Mr. Tran served as counsel of record include, among others: *Dahl v. Bain Capital Partners* (D. Mass.) (largest class action antitrust settlement ever in which no civil or criminal government action was taken); *In re Midland National Life Ins. Annuity Sales Practices Litig.* (C.D. Cal.); *Negrete v. Fidelity and Guaranty Life Ins. Co.* (C.D. Cal.); *In re Conseco Ins. Co. Annuity Marketing & Sales Practices Litig.* (N.D. Cal.); *IBEW Local 697 Pension Fund v. Int'l Game Tech.* (D. Nev.); *In re Groupon Marketing and Sales Practices Litig.* (S.D. Cal.); *In re LivingSocial Marketing and Sales Practices Litig.* (D.D.C.); *In re Pacific Biosciences Sec. Litig.* (Cal. Super. Ct., San Mateo Cnty.); and *Matin v. Nestlé Purina PetCare Co.* (D. Ill.).

Areas of Practice: Mr. Tran focuses his practice on complex securities, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and consumer class action litigation. He has litigated numerous class actions in state and federal courts around the country, and has helped recover hundreds of millions of dollars for injured investors and consumers.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Mr. Tran was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1999, and is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of California
- The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- The United States District Courts for the Southern, Central, and Northern Districts of California

- The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

Mr. Tran is also a member of the following professional organizations:

- American Bar Association
- San Diego County Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- American Inns of Court—Louis M. Welsh Chapter
- Consumer Attorneys of California
- Lawyers Club of San Diego
- Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego

Education: Mr. Tran earned his Juris Doctor degree from the UCLA School of Law. During law school, Mr. Tran served as a judicial extern for United States District Court Judge Richard A. Paez, who now sits on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Tran graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of San Diego with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Business Economics.

SPECIAL COUNSEL & TRIAL ATTORNEY

TIFFANY R. JOHNSON

Mrs. Johnson has years of trial experience as both a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California and a Judge Advocate General in the United States Navy. She now focuses her practice on complex business litigation and civil rights matters. She also has experience representing clients in family law matters.

Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Mrs. Johnson was a Deputy Attorney General for the State of California for over twelve years where she primarily litigated civil rights cases through trial. In addition, Mrs. Johnson served as a Judge Advocate General in the United States Navy for close to ten years where she achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander. While in the Navy, Mrs. Johnson represented hundreds of sailors and marines in criminal proceedings through verdict, administrative boards, and disability hearings.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Mrs. Johnson was admitted to the bar for the State of Minnesota in May of 2000, and to the bar of the State of California in 2005. Additionally, Mrs. Johnson is admitted to practice in the following courts:

- All courts in State of California
- All courts in State of Minnesota

- The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- The United States District Court for the Southern, Central, Eastern, and Northern Districts of California

Education: Mrs. Johnson received her Juris Doctor degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2000. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1996.

OF COUNSEL

BRETT M. MIDDLETON

Mr. Middleton has two decades of significant securities, corporate, and business litigation experience in which he has recouped billions of dollars in cash and shareholder value on behalf of institutional and individual shareholders. For his professional achievements, Mr. Middleton has received multiple industry and national recognitions, including “Recommended Lawyer in M&A Related Shareholder Litigation” by *Legal 500 USA Guide*, a “San Diego Super Lawyer” by *Super Lawyers*, and one of the “Best of the Bar” by the *San Diego Business Journal*.

Prior to joining Johnson Fistel, Mr. Middleton worked for over fourteen years at the plaintiff class action law firm of Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP where he was instrumental in the prosecution of securities fraud class actions, shareholder derivative actions, and mergers and acquisitions actions on behalf of institutions and individuals.

Mr. Middleton has served in prior litigation as lead or co-lead counsel in a wide variety of high-profile securities fraud class actions, including: *Lehman Brothers Securities Litigation* (S.D.N.Y.) (recovered \$615 million for investors from multiple defendants arising from the alleged accounting fraud that prolonged the historic bankruptcy); *Lumber Liquidators Securities Litigation* (E.D. Va.) (obtained over \$40 million in cash and common stock for class members arising from alleged scheme to inflate margins by importing cheap and illegal flooring products as exposed by the CBS news show *60 Minutes*); *Clarent Corp. Securities Litigation* (N.D. Cal.) (after a four-week jury trial, obtained rare jury verdict in favor of plaintiffs and against the former CEO); *Williams Securities Litigation* (N.D. Okla.) (\$311 million combined settlement for alleged accounting fraud, which was the largest settlement at the time without a company restatement); *Accredo Health Securities Litigation* (W.D. Tenn.) (\$33 million for investors arising from accounting fraud claims); and *Accredited*

Home Lenders Securities Litigation (S.D. Cal.) (\$22 million recovered for investors for fraud claims relating to mortgage lending practices).

He also has extensive experience representing individual and institutional shareholders in derivative litigation seeking to improve corporate governance practices and enforce the fiduciary obligations of corporate boards and officers. Among others, he prosecuted shareholder derivative actions on behalf of Activision, Apollo, News Corporation, and the Ryland Group. Moreover, Mr. Middleton has contributed significantly to efforts to challenge the improper use of defensive measures and deal protections for management's benefit in mergers and acquisitions, including deal litigation actions involving Alberto-Culver and Unilever, Caremark and CVS, Emulex and Broadcom, Long Drugs and CVS, Medco and Express Scripts, Ticketmaster and Live Nation, and Yahoo! and Microsoft.

Areas of Practice: Mr. Middleton is involved in several of the firm's litigation practice areas, focusing specifically on representing individuals, businesses, and institutions in shareholder and other complex litigation. Specifically, a substantial portion of Mr. Middleton's practice is focused on representing shareholders in securities fraud class action litigation, shareholder derivative litigation, and antitrust actions. He also handles other class and direct litigation arising out of financial and consumer fraud.

Professional Qualifications and Associations: Mr. Middleton was admitted to the State Bar of California on December 8, 1998 and is admitted in good standing with all courts in the State of California. He is also admitted in good standing with the United States District Courts for the Central, Northern, and Southern Districts of California.

Mr. Middleton is a member of the following professional associations:

- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- California Lawyers Association, Litigation and Business Law
- North County Bar Association
- San Diego County Bar Association
- UCLA Alumni Association, San Diego Network
- University of San Diego School of Law Alumni Association

Education: Mr. Middleton earned his Juris Doctor Degree from the University of San Diego School of Law on May 23, 1998. He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles on June 18, 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

RICHARD A. NERVIG

Mr. Nervig is a tenacious litigator with practical securities industry experience obtained from working as both a Dean Witter stockbroker prior to attending law school and as a compliance attorney after graduation. Mr. Nervig has successfully recovered in excess of \$20 million dollars on behalf of his clients.

Areas of Practice: For over 23 years, Mr. Nervig's practice has focused primarily upon the representation of investors in securities litigation matters in FINRA arbitration proceedings, as well as matters in both state and federal court. Mr. Nervig is experienced handling all manner of securities sales practice claims ranging from suitability violations, churning, unauthorized trading, and fraud. Mr. Nervig is particularly adept at pursuing secondary liability claims arising from Ponzi schemes, unregistered securities sales, and anti-money laundering violations. Mr. Nervig also routinely represents creditors in bankruptcy adversary proceedings involving securities violation discharge avoidance matters pursuant to §523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Professional Qualifications and Activities: Mr. Nervig is currently admitted in good standing with the following courts:

- All courts in the State of Arizona (1997)
- All courts in the State of California (2003)
- All courts in the State of Colorado (1993)
- The United States District Court for the District of Arizona
- The United States District Courts for the Southern and Central Districts of California
- The United States District Court for the District of Colorado
- The United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Mr. Nervig is also a member of the following organizations:

- American Bar Association (Member Sections of Business Law and Litigation)
- Denver Bar Association
- San Diego County Bar Association
- San Diego North County Bar Association
- Southwest Riverside County Bar Association
- Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association
- Arbitrator, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and San Diego County Bar Association Fee Arbitration Committee
- Former Member New York Stock Exchange and National Association of Securities Dealers

Education: Mr. Nervig received his Juris Doctor degree from the Claude W. Petit College of Law at Ohio Northern University in 1992. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988 from the Metropolitan State University of Denver.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Johnson Fistel aggressively pursues complex litigation matters for both plaintiffs and defendants on an hourly or contingency fee basis depending upon the circumstances of the matter. Below are just a few of the cases the firm has undertaken. To respect the privacy of some of the firm's clients who prefer we do not mention their names involved in litigation, their matters are described below without identifying the parties' names.

Business and Commercial Litigation

- *International Real Estate PLC v. Oaktree Capital Management, LLC*, Case No. BC 324973 (Cal. Super. Ct. Los Angeles Cnty.). International Real Estate (a public company with shares listed on the London Stock Exchange) retained Johnson & Fistel to pursue claims for breach of fiduciary duty against former directors of a joint venture company. That case involved alleged damages of approximately \$20 million, and after years of aggressive litigation and a mediation, ultimately settled on favorable terms to International Real Estate. *See* testimonial from the firm's client below.
- *Doe Shipping Company v. John Doe* (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.). A national shipping company retained Johnson Fistel after a former employee left the company with customer lists, other employees, and other confidential information. Johnson Fistel filed a complaint alleging claims for fraud, breach of contract, and misappropriation of trade secrets, among others. After a series of depositions and the threat of putting the defendants out of business, Johnson Fistel assisted the company in obtaining a resolution that restricted the former employee from doing business with certain of the company's clients, protected the company's trade secrets, and provided for a significant monetary payment to the company.
- *Liebsohn, et al. v. Augme Technologies, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 13-2-40007-3 SEA (Wash. Super. Ct. King Cnty.). Johnson Fistel represented a group of 47 high net worth investors who were defrauded into trading their stock in a privately-held company for stock in a publicly-traded company. After defeating several motions to dismiss and a petition for discretionary review by the Washington Court of Appeals, Johnson Fistel obtained a highly-favorable confidential settlement from the defendants' insurance carrier on February 2, 2016.

- *John Doe v. Doe Hedge Fund* (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.). Johnson Fistel defended one of the world's most successful hedge funds and its manager against meritless claims of fraud. After aggressively defending the matter, the plaintiff accepted a nuisance value settlement that was less than the cost of defense.

Trials & Arbitrations

- *Healthy Life Marketing, LLC, et al. v. Jaime Brenkus' Sound Body, Inc.*, Case No. GIC822927 (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.). On behalf of a marketing firm, Johnson Fistel pursued claims for breach of contract and fraud against the manufacturer of a weight loss product. After a week-long jury trial, the jury returned a seven-figure verdict in favor of J Johnson Fistel's client, including actual and punitive damages. *See* testimonial from the firm's client below.
- *DCI Solutions v. Urban Outfitters*, (S.D. Cal). Johnson Fistel represented a small local consulting firm in a case against one of the nation's largest clothing retailers in a matter that would have forced the company into bankruptcy if it lost. Following a week-long trial in federal court, the jury returned a verdict rejecting the retailer's \$1.5 million damage claim in its entirety. Johnson Fistel also prevailed on all of Urban Outfitter's post-trial motions.
- *Timeshare Resale Alliance v. Fleming, et al.*, (San Diego Cnty. Arbitration). Johnson Fistel successfully defended a real-estate broker accused of stealing her former employer's alleged trade secrets. Following a week-long arbitration, the arbitrator issued an order completely exonerating Johnson Fistel's client.
- *Mary Joe v. Jane Doe* (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.). Johnson Fistel represented the minority shareholder of a small family corporation to pursue claims against the other shareholders who wasted millions of dollars of corporate assets by using those assets to pay for their personal expenses. The client retained Johnson Fistel to substitute into the case just two months before trial. On day four of a five-day trial, defendants agreed to settle the case.

Shareholder Derivative Actions

- *In re Motorola, Inc. Derivative Litigation*, Case No. 07CH23297 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Cook County). Johnson Fistel was appointed Co-Lead Counsel in a shareholder derivative action filed against current and former officers and directors of Motorola, Inc. The derivative claims charged certain officers with making misrepresentations about the company's financial statements and prospects of success in order to artificially inflate the company's stock price while they personally sold shares and while causing the company to simultaneously purchase shares on the open market. After six years of hard-fought litigation, the action settled on terms that required the implementation of significant corporate therapeutic changes throughout the company—changes that were valued by one expert at over \$1 billion.
- *In re Powerwave Technologies, Inc.*, Case No. 13-10134 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del.). On behalf of a shareholder client, Johnson Fistel filed a shareholder derivative action in a California Superior Court alleging that certain of Powerwave's officers and directors had affirmatively engaged in improper accounting to conceal the company's true financial condition. Shortly after filing this action, Powerwave filed for bankruptcy and the United States Bankruptcy Court appointed a Chapter 7 Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court appointed Johnson Fistel as special counsel to represent the Trustee to prosecute these claims as assets of the estate. After nearly two years of litigation, Johnson Fistel secured a settlement that included payment of \$5.5 million for the benefit of the estate in bankruptcy.
- *Rubin v. Reinhard*, Case No. 37-2008-00091039-CU-NP-CTL (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.). Johnson Fistel was sole Lead Counsel in this derivative lawsuit. After the company filed a petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Trustee retained Johnson Fistel as special litigation counsel to prosecute claims for breach of fiduciary duty against certain officers and directors. After several years of hard-fought litigation, the Estate in Bankruptcy settled recovering \$3 million. In approving the settlement, the Bankruptcy Court judge remarked: "The Court thanks [Johnson Fistel] for its outstanding work on behalf of the Chapter 7 Trustee and the Estate."

- *In re Southern Company Shareholder Derivative Litigation*, No. 1:17-cv-00725-MHC (N.D. Ga.). On behalf of a shareholder client, Johnson Fistel filed a shareholder derivative action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia against certain of The Southern Company's current and former officers and directors for breaches of fiduciary duties, unjust enrichment, and corporate waste. The Court appointed Johnson Fistel as Lead Counsel in the pending action.
- *In re HD Supply Holdings, Inc. Derivative Litigation*, Lead Case No. 1:17-cv-02977-MLB (N.D. Ga.). Johnson Fistel was recently appointed Co-Lead Counsel in a stockholder derivative action brought on behalf of HD Supply alleging, among other things, that certain executives and directors of HD Supply violated federal and state law by making false and misleading statements to investors, thereby artificially inflating the stock price. The complaint filed in the action also alleges that while the price of HD Supply stock was artificially inflated, certain corporate insiders engaged in unlawful insider trading of their personally-held HD Supply stock holdings. Plaintiffs seek damages and disgorgement from the alleged wrongdoers on the company's behalf, as well as corporate governance reforms to prevent the recurrence of similar misconduct in the future.
- *Whitten v. Clarke, et al.*, Case No. 1:17-cv-02585-LMM (N.D. Ga.). Johnson Fistel was recently appointed Lead Counsel in a stockholder derivative action brought on behalf of FleetCor Technologies, Inc. alleging, among other things, that certain executives and directors of FleetCor violated federal and state law by making false and misleading statements to investors, thereby artificially inflating the stock price. The complaint filed in the action also alleges that while the price of FleetCor stock was artificially inflated, certain corporate insiders engaged in unlawful insider trading, unloading approximately \$108 million worth of their personally-held FleetCor stock holdings. Plaintiff seeks damages and disgorgement from the alleged wrongdoers on the Company's behalf, as well as corporate governance reforms to prevent the recurrence of similar misconduct in the future.

- *In re CoreCivic, Inc. Shareholder Derivative Litigation*, Lead Case No. 3:16-cv-03040 (M.D. Tenn.). Johnson Fistel was recently appointed Co-Lead Counsel in a shareholder derivative action brought on behalf of CoreCivic, Inc. alleging, among other things, that certain officers and directors of CoreCivic violated federal and state law by making false and misleading statements to investors concerning CoreCivic's history of quality, savings, and compliance at Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities, causing its common stock to be traded at artificially inflated levels. On CoreCivic's behalf, Plaintiff seeks damages and disgorgement from the alleged wrongdoers.

Corporate Takeover Litigation

- *Azar v. Blount International, Inc.*, No. 3:16-CV-00483-SI (D. Or.). Johnson Fistel was appointed as Co-Lead Counsel in a case arising out of the 2016 acquisition of Blount International Inc. by a group comprised of a private equity firm, Blount's largest stockholder, and two Blount insiders. The plaintiffs allege, among other things, that the proxy statement Blount disseminated in connection with the deal failed to disclose a set of financial projections that best reflected Blount's long-term prospects and, instead, disclosed only later, artificially reduced projections. The plaintiffs allege that misleading proxy statement tainted the stockholder approval of the merger, and they are seeking an unspecified amount of monetary damages. This matter is pending.

Securities Class Actions

- *Desrocher v. Covisint Corporation, et al.*, Case No. 1:14-CV-03878-AKH (S.D.N.Y.). In a case alleging violations of §§11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933, the Court appointed Johnson Fistel Co-Lead Counsel and certified the firm as Co-Lead Class Counsel. The class action complaint alleged that there were misrepresentations or omissions in documents filed with the SEC in connection with the company's IPO. Under the settlement, defendants agreed to create an \$8 million common fund to compensate Covisint stockholders who were harmed by the alleged misrepresentations or omissions, which amount represented a substantial percentage of the maximum potential recovery. The Court approved the settlement in its entirety on December 13, 2016.
- *Gerneth v. Chiasma, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:16-cv-11082-DJC (D. Mass.). In a securities class action case alleging violations of §§11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 and §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act

of 1934, Johnson Fistel's client was appointed Lead Plaintiff and the firm was appointed Co-Lead Counsel under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The complaint filed in the action alleges that defendants made false and misleading statements in connection with the Company's IPO and following the IPO regarding the Company's business and the prospects for approval of a pharmaceutical drug. As a result of these false and misleading statements, Chiasma stock traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. This matter is currently pending.

- *In re Flowers Foods, Inc. Securities Litigation*, No. 7:16-cv-0022-WLS (M.D. Ga.). In a securities class action case alleging violations of §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Johnson Fistel's client was appointed Lead Plaintiff and the firm was appointed Co-Lead Counsel under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The complaint filed in the action alleges that defendants made false and misleading statements in connection with the Company's labor strategy. As a result of these false and misleading statements, Flowers Foods stock traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. This matter is currently pending.
- *Henstein v. Cempra, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:16-cv-01303-TDS-JEP (M.D.N.C.). In a securities class action case alleging violations of §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Johnson Fistel's client was appointed as Co-Lead Plaintiff and the firm was appointed Co-Lead Counsel under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The complaint filed in the action alleges that defendants made false and misleading statements in connection with the safety of the Company's new drug candidate, solithromycin. As a result of these false and misleading statements, Cempra stock traded at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period. This matter is currently pending.

Consumer Class Actions

- *Baker v. Visa International Corp.*, Case No. 06cv0376 (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.). Johnson Fistel was appointed Co-Lead Counsel for this nationwide consumer class action that was filed in 2006 against Visa International Corp. for wrongfully assessing undisclosed fees on consumers by manipulating the currency conversion rates when consumers used their Visa Card for purchases in other countries. This matter was removed to federal court, and transferred by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York to be coordinated with the *In re Currency Conversion Fee*

Antitrust Litigation. The Court approved a settlement that provided for \$336 million for the class members. While the *Baker* case was not the driving force leading to the \$336 million for the class members, it was coordinated with that matter and the firm played a material role in the ultimate settlement.

NOTEWORTHY SUCCESS STORIES

Johnson Fistel aggressively pursues complex litigation matters for both hourly paying clients and for contingency fee clients. While not an exhaustive list, below are a few of the cases for which the firm has achieved noteworthy successful results for its clients.

A Happy Client Following Trial

On behalf of a marketing firm, Johnson Fistel pursued claims for breach of contract and fraud against the manufacturer of a weight loss product. After a week-long jury trial, the jury returned a seven-figure verdict in favor of Johnson Fistel's client, including actual and punitive damages. See testimonial from the firm's client. *Healthy Life Marketing, LLC, et al. v. Jaime Brenkus' Sound Body, Inc.*, Case No. GIC822927 (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.).

Record Setting Class Action Settlement in Washington

In what is believed to be the largest recovery ever obtained in a class action challenging the price of a merger or acquisition of a public company in a Washington court, on January 20, 2017, the court approved a \$12.75 million settlement for the benefit of former Flow shareholders. Specifically, the case challenged the fairness of the price shareholders received from the 2014 acquisition of Flow by American Industrial Partners. Johnson Fistel served as court-appointed Co-Lead Class Counsel.

After three years of hard-fought litigation, which included 26 depositions taken throughout the country, defeating defendants' motions to dismiss, defeating defendants' motion for summary judgment, and obtaining an order certifying the class, the parties reached an agreement to settle the case just before trial. "I am proud to be part of a settlement that achieved what is now a rarity, more money for the shareholders in a merger case," said Frank Johnson, one of the founding partners of Johnson Fistel. Cornerstone Research recently published a report regarding M&A shareholder suits in 2015 and the first half of 2016, reporting that amongst the hundreds of merger-related lawsuits identified, only six of those cases resulted in any

monetary recovery for shareholders. The report concluded that in merger-related litigation, “monetary consideration paid to shareholders has remained relatively rare.”

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Holleman were the attorneys at the firm responsible for helping obtain this settlement for shareholders. *Englehart v. Brown*, Case No. 13-2-33726-6-KNT (Wash. Super. Ct. King Cnty.).

One of the Largest Recoveries in a Derivative Case in Tennessee

Johnson Fistel was appointed sole Lead Counsel in this shareholder derivative action against certain current and former officers and directors of HCA Holdings, Inc., the largest private hospital chain in the country. The derivative claims related to similar facts that resulted in the company paying \$215 million to settle a class action lawsuit filed by shareholders who alleged the company used false and misleading information to sell stock during its 2011 initial public offering.

The parties litigated the action for more than four years and attended multiple mediations, after which Johnson Fistel secured an extremely favorable settlement for HCA and its shareholders, including a payment of \$19 million to HCA (believed to be among the largest recoveries in a derivative case in the State of Tennessee), the appointment of a new independent director, and implementation of significant corporate therapeutics. *Bagot v. Bracken, et al.*, Case No. 11C5133 (Tenn. Cir. Ct., 6th Cir.).

Helped Secure \$24 million for the Company

Johnson Fistel was initially appointed Co-Lead Counsel in state court in one of the highest-profile cases in the country challenging the award of backdated stock options by executive officers of Brocade. For years, Brocade’s insiders engaged in a secret stock option backdating scheme designed to reward executives and recruit engineers with stock options priced below their fair market value as of the date of the grants. The U.S. Government pursued and ultimately won criminal convictions against the responsible executives.

On behalf of its client, Johnson Fistel helped prevent an inadequate settlement of a related federal action from being approved, which would have released the officers, directors, and agents of the company responsible for the criminal backdating scheme resulting in no money to the company and only a payment of attorney’s fees for the lawyers. Brocade then formed a Special Litigation Committee and retained Johnson Fistel as co-counsel to Brocade to help litigate claims against ten former officers and directors of the company. After years of litigation, over \$24 million was recovered for Brocade. *In re Brocade Communications, Systems, Inc. Derivative Litigation*, Case No. 1:05cv41683 (Cal. Super. Ct. Santa Clara Cnty.).

Helped Secure \$29 Million for Shareholders

Johnson Fistel was appointed Co-Lead Counsel in a derivative lawsuit that involved claims against the officers and directors of Titan Corporation for breach of fiduciary duty. During the pendency of the litigation, Titan announced that it would be acquired, threatening to cause the shareholders in the derivative action to lose standing. Johnson Fistel then coordinated with counsel in a related derivative action pending in Delaware to negotiate a settlement that resulted in \$29 million in increased consideration to Titan's shareholders in the all-cash merger acquisition. *In re the Titan Corp. Derivative Litigation*, Case No. GIC 832018 (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego Cnty.).

Settlements Requiring Stricter Company Controls

- *In re MannKind Corporation Derivative Litigation*, Lead Case No. 11-cv-05003-GAF-SSx (C.D. Cal.). Johnson Fistel was appointed sole Lead Counsel in this shareholder derivative action filed against current and former officers and directors of MannKind, alleging that the defendants had misled shareholders about the FDA approval process for MannKind's core product. After more than two years of litigation and a mediation, this matter settled on terms that required the implementation of significant corporate therapeutic changes, including the creation of a new Board-level Disclosure & Controls Committee and significant enhancements to financial reporting requirements.
- *Singh v. Hsu*, Case No. 1-13-cv-243247 (Cal. Super. Ct. Santa Clara Cnty.). Johnson Fistel was appointed sole Lead Counsel in this shareholder derivative action against certain current and former officers and directors of Impax Laboratories, Inc. for allegedly failing to correct systemic problems at the company's manufacturing centers and for misleading shareholders about FDA sanctions related to these problems. After two years of litigation and a mediation, the matter settled on terms requiring the implementation of company-wide corporate governance reforms, significantly enhancing reporting and oversight at the Board, officer, and employee level.
- *In re Heelys Inc. Derivative Litigation*, Case No. 07-CV-1682 (N.D. Tex.). Johnson Fistel's predecessor firm was appointed Co-Lead Counsel in this shareholder derivative action filed against current and former officers and directors of Heelys Inc. After prevailing on defendants' motion to dismiss, and more than a year of litigation including multiple mediations, this matter settled on terms that required the implementation of significant corporate therapeutic changes that benefitted the company and its shareholders for years to come.

TESTIMONIALS

“There’s no question in my mind that this settlement is in the best interest of this Estate. So I’m prepared to approve it. . . . But I want to compliment Mr. Johnson, and I want to compliment on the successful recovery for the Estate. The creditors thank you, and I thank you.” *In re Artes Medical, Inc.*, (Bankr. S.D. Cal., Case No. 08-12317-LT7) (approving a \$3 million settlement recovered for the estate of a bankrupt public company after the Chapter 7 Trustee retained Johnson Fistel to pursue claims for breach of fiduciary against the directors). In approving the final award of attorneys’ fees, Judge Taylor further stated: “The Court thanks [Johnson Fistel] for its outstanding work on behalf of the Chapter 7 Trustee and the Estate.”

The Honorable Laura S. Taylor
United States Bankruptcy Court Judge
Southern District of California

“The quality of representation by the Derivative Plaintiffs’ Counsel was witnessed first hand by this Court through their articulate, high quality, and successful pleadings. Moreover, as shown by their excellent efforts in this case, Derivative Plaintiffs’ Counsel are dedicated to vindicating the rights of shareholders.” *In re Heelys, Inc. Derivative Litigation*, Case No. 3:07-CV-1682 (N.D. Tex.) (granting final approval of a settlement agreement that required the company to implement sweeping improvements to its governance).

The Honorable Ed Kinkeade
United States District Court Judge
Northern District of Texas

Johnson Fistel’s predecessor firm, Johnson & Weaver (“J&W”), has “demonstrated that they are qualified and experienced and are capable of acting as lead counsel.” “The Court is favorably impressed by J&W’s presentation and knowledge” and “J&W’s experience litigating shareholder derivative actions gives it a certain amount of pre-existing expertise.” *In re Oclaro, Inc. Derivative Litigation*, Case No. C-11-3176 EMC (N.D. Cal.) (appointing J&W, Lead Counsel in a complex shareholder derivative litigation in which three separate lawsuits were filed).

The Honorable Edward M. Chen
United States District Court Judge
Northern District of California

“As chairman of the board of a public company, my company was represented by Mr. Johnson to pursue claims for breach of fiduciary duty for millions of dollars against former directors of a company formed in England. I have retained law firms throughout the world and found Mr. Johnson’s services to be superb. He was very responsive and grasped complex corporate matters involving international real estate transactions. His firm aggressively litigated my company’s claims against several defendants who were represented by one of the largest law firms in the world. This case was very complex and complicated and involved three jurisdictions (U.S., Europe, and Sweden). Mr. Johnson’s firm played an instrumental role in bringing the whole case to a successful settlement out of court. We ultimately reached a resolution short of trial with which I was very pleased.”

Rolf L. Nordström
Chairman of the Board
International Real Estate PLC

“While I was the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for a publicly traded company, I consulted Frank Johnson on various legal issues. As CFO I was responsible for SEC reporting requirements and compliance with GAAP. In addition, I successfully completed the public offering of the company’s stock which was a consistent top performer on the NASDAQ from 1998 to 1999. During the ten years I’ve known him, I’ve been very impressed with Mr. Johnson’s integrity, business acumen, and understanding of complex securities issues. Based upon these factors, I retained Mr. Johnson to represent me in matters where it appeared that a public company’s officers or directors engaged in fraudulent conduct to the detriment of the company’s shareholders (of which I was one). As a former CFO for a public company and as a shareholder, I can say with confidence that this firm has proven to be aggressive and astute in identifying claims for fraudulent conduct in connection with the sale of publicly traded securities.”

James Baker
Chief Cost Reduction Officer
DCI Solutions

“While I was assistant general counsel for GNC Corporation, a publicly traded company at the time, I had the good fortune of working with Frank Johnson as GNC’s lawyer. While he was at Sheppard Mullin, he successfully defended GNC in several matters, including a consumer class action and various business litigation matters. I have since left GNC Corporation and am now a partner at one of the largest law firms in the country. I have worked with Mr. Johnson on various matters, including a jury trial in San Diego, California. Mr. Johnson proved to be an exceptional trial lawyer who assisted my firm in obtaining an outstanding verdict in our client's favor. I have

recommended his services without reservation to both clients and lawyers who need highly skilled and effective representation.”

Gerald J. Stubenhofer, Esq.
Partner
McGuire Woods LLP

“In 2004, Axeus, Inc. was using Sheppard Mullin, a large law firm, for nearly all of its legal matters. When Frank Johnson, who was then a partner at Sheppard Mullin, announced that he was departing to start his own law firm, I did not hesitate in my decision to send all of Axeus’s litigation work to Mr. Johnson. At the time, Axeus was embroiled in a huge legal battle involving more than 20,000 pages of evidence and millions of dollars. Mr. Johnson helped Axeus successfully resolve that matter and has since handled several litigation matters for Axeus, all with outstanding results. I have worked with many different law firms over the years and I can say with confidence that Mr. Johnson is one of the best lawyers I’ve worked with. He understands what is important to his clients: excellent legal work and value. While other firms may be less expensive, Johnson Fistel provides value for its fees.”

Sean H. Mallean
President & CEO
Axeus, Inc.

“Frank Johnson was Awesome! He was professional, organized and as evidenced by juror testimonials following a one-week jury trial.... extremely effective. On claims for breach of contract and fraud, the firm helped me win a 7 figure verdict for me and my company and I will forever be grateful. You never realize how important it is to have a good attorney until you need one!”

Ronald T. Fricke
President
Healthy Life Marketing, LLC

“I am the owner of Natural Energy, which was established in 1977 and is the largest solar energy company in the western United States. Although we have an exceptional reputation, as with any large company, legal disputes are sometimes inevitable. After using a number of law firms, for the past several years Natural Energy has used Frank Johnson’s law firm for all of its business litigation matters, from general business disputes to successfully getting a baseless class action dismissed. Mr. Johnson is aggressive, has a strong work ethic and, of utmost importance to me, has unquestionable integrity. I have the utmost faith and confidence in Mr. Johnson.”

Ted Mount
Owner
Natural Energy

“I first retained Johnson Fistel when my husband and I became concerned with what I thought looked like wrongful conduct by executive management at one of the publicly traded companies in which we had invested. Mr. Johnson always clearly communicated his strategy and the underlying legal reasons why it needed to be done that particular way. Most importantly, he always responded to any questions or concerns in a timely manner and consistently updated us without overwhelming us with complicated details. We were very happy with the outcome of the securities case. When I needed a lawyer again to help me with employment matters, I retained the firm again. They demonstrated that they were well informed and helped me get a settlement with which I was very pleased. I highly recommend Johnson Fistel and I would not hesitate to use them again.”

Jean Marie Cinotto
Private Investor

EXHIBIT C

E-FILED

Jan 16, 2015 4:19 PM

David H. Yamasaki

Chief Executive Officer/Clerk

Superior Court of CA, County of Santa Clara

Case #1-12-CV-23227 Filing #03-00092

By R. Walker, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

BRENT T. ROBINSON, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

AUDIENCE, INC.,
PETER B. SANTOS,
MOHAN S. GYANI,
KEVIN S. PALATNIK,
FOREST BASKETT,
MARVIN D. BURKETT,
BARRY L. COX,
RICH GERUSON,
GEORGE A. PAVLOV,
J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES LLC,
CREDIT SUISSE SECURITIES (USA) LLC,
DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC.,
PACIFIC CREST SECURITIES LLC, and
DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 1-12-CV-23227

**ORDER AFTER HEARING ON
JANUARY 16, 2015**

**(1) Motion by Plaintiff Brent T.
Robinson for Class Certification; (2)
Motion by Non-Party Apple Inc. to
Seal Certain Documents**

Dept.: 1 (Complex Civil)

Judge: Hon. Peter H. Kirwan

The above-entitled matter came on regularly for hearing on Friday, January 16, 2015 at
9:00 a.m. in Department 1 (Complex Civil Litigation), the Honorable Peter H. Kirwan

Robinson v. Audience, Inc., et al.

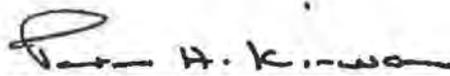
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, Case No. 1-12-CV-23227

Order After Hearing on January 16, 2015 [Motion by Plaintiff Brent T. Robinson for Class Certification; (2) Motion by Non-Party Apple Inc. to Seal Certain Documents]

1 presiding. The appearances are as stated in the record. The Court, having reviewed and
2 considered the written submission of all parties, having heard and considered the oral argument
3 of counsel, and being fully advised, orders that Exhibit A attached to and incorporated herein is
4 the Order of the Court.

5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6
7 Dated: 1/16/15



Honorable Peter H. Kirwan
Judge of the Superior Court

EXHIBIT A

Calendar line 4

- 00000 -

Case Name: Robinson, et al. vs. Audience, Inc., et al.

Case No.: 1-12-CV-232227

This is a putative securities class action by the shareholders of defendant Audience, Inc. ("Audience") arising out Audience's May 9, 2012 initial public offering ("IPO"). Plaintiffs Brent T. Robinson, Boyd Deel, Dorothy Kasian, and Daren Nowak ("Plaintiffs") allege that Audience's prospectus and registration statement contained false and misleading statements in violation of sections 11 and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77k, 77l(a)(2) and 77o (the "Securities Act"). Plaintiffs sue Audience and various officers and directors of Audience.¹

In the operative First Amended Complaint ("FAC"), Plaintiffs allege that Audience provides voice and audio solutions in mobile devices, and Audience is heavily reliant on its relationship with non-party Apple Inc. ("Apple"), which represented 82% and 75% of Audience's revenue in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, respectively.² Plaintiffs allege that Audience's May 9, 2012 Registration Statement represented that "[t]hrough close, long-term relationships with [original equipment manufacturers or "OEMs"], we gain both a unique understanding of their product roadmaps and an ability to influence design decisions" and Audience touted its processors as having been incorporated in mobile device models sold by leading OEMs such as Apple.³ The Registration Statement further stated that Audience "work[s] closely with OEMs throughout their design processes, using our proprietary AuViD graphical design tools to integrate our solutions into their mobile devices, which enables us to improve design efficiency, increase productivity and establish differentiated design relationships with OEMs."⁴ The Registration Statement further discussed the August 6, 2008 agreement with Apple for Audience to "develop, supply and support a custom version of one of our processors and related software to Foxconn and Protek for use in certain mobile phones" and "an additional license agreement with [Apple] in 2010 relating to a new generation of our processor IP[.]"⁵

The FAC alleges that 6,060,707 shares of Audience common stock were sold to the public at \$17 per share during the IPO, but after the market closed on September 6, 2012, Audience issued a press release announcing that it was unlikely that Apple, its key client, would use

¹ The named individual defendants are Peter B. Santos, Mohan S. Gyani ("Gyani"), Kevin S. Palatnik, Forest Baskett ("Baskett"), Marvin D. Burkett ("Burkett"), Barry L. Cox ("Cox"), Rich Geruson ("Geruson"), and George A. Pavlov ("Pavlov"). Plaintiffs also sued several underwriters for Audience's IPO, including J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., and Pacific Crest Securities LLC. On April 3, 2013, the Court entered an order dismissing without prejudice the "Outside Directors" Gyani, Baskett, Burkett, Cox, Geruson, and Pavlov, as well as the Underwriter defendants.

² First Amended Compl. ("FAC") ¶¶ 3, 30.

³ FAC ¶ 40.

⁴ FAC ¶ 40.

⁵ FAC ¶ 40.

Audience's earSmart voice isolation/noise cancellation technology in Apple's much anticipated iPhone 5, which was expected to launch in mid-to-late September 2012.⁶

Plaintiffs allege that the Registration Statement was misleading because it failed disclose that: (1) Audience's relationship with Apple was not as close as indicated by its statements in the IPO Prospectus, and Audience did not have a unique understanding of Apple's products; and (2) as demonstrated by the advanced technology required and the alterations to hardware and software necessary for the improved audio capabilities of the iPhone 5, together with the short lead-time between the IPO and the leaking of information revealing significant changes in the relationship with Apple, Apple had decided to replace Audience's earSmart technology in the iPhone 5 and had decided to handle the function in-house, integrating its own voice isolation/noise cancellation technology into its mobile devices.⁷

The First Amended Complaint ("FAC") asserts two causes of action for: (1) violation of Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 (against all Defendants); and (2) violation of Section 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 (against Audience and the remaining Individual Defendants [collectively the "Audience Defendants"]).

Plaintiffs now move for class certification.

Apple moves to seal portions of Defendants' opposition to the certification motion.

Motion for Class Certification

Plaintiffs move to certify the following class: "All persons or entities who acquired Audience common stock pursuant and/or traceable to the false and misleading Registration Statement and Prospectus (Registration No. 333-179016) issued in connection with the Company's May 9, 2012 IPO (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are defendants and their families, the officers, directors and affiliates of the defendants, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which defendants have or had a controlling interest." Plaintiffs propose Robinson and Kasian as Class representatives.⁸

Plaintiffs argue the proposed class of investors who acquired Audience securities in the IPO is clearly and narrowly defined and readily ascertainable from company and trading records. Plaintiffs argue the proposed Class is sufficiently numerous, as there are estimated to be hundreds, if not thousands of investors in Audience, and there were over six million shares sold in the IPO. Plaintiffs argue that the questions of law and fact that are common to the Class and predominate over individual issues are: the elements required to show violations of §§ 11 and 15 of the 1933 Act; the existence of any due diligence defense; the application of strict liability; whether the proposed Class members meet the standing requirements of § 11 of the 1933 Act; whether statements made by defendants to the investing public in the Registration Statement and Prospectus misrepresented material facts about the business and prospects of Audience; and to what extent the members of the Class have sustained damages and the proper measure of damages. Plaintiffs contend that both factually and legally, the claims of all

⁶ FAC ¶¶ 4-5.

⁷ FAC ¶ 49.

⁸ On October 9, 2014, Plaintiffs filed a Notice of Suggestion of Death of plaintiff Boyd Deel.

putative Class members share the common issue of whether the Registration Statement and Prospectus was misleading and failed to properly inform investors. Plaintiffs argue that the claims of Robinson and Kasian are typical of the claims and status of the proposed Class because like every other member of the Class, Robinson and Kasian acquired over-valued shares of Audience common stock. Plaintiffs argue Robinson and Kasian are adequate representatives because they do not possess any interests in conflict with the other Class members, and their counsel, Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP ("Robbins Geller") is experienced in federal and state securities litigation.⁹ Finally, Plaintiffs argue that a class action is procedurally superior to multiple individual actions because it would serve the interests of judicial economy and consistent rulings and would allow individuals who have not suffered large losses from defendants' conduct to recover.

In opposition, Audience, Santos and Palatnik (collectively "Defendants") argue certification should be denied because Plaintiffs fail to establish that they can adequately protect the interests of the Class. Defendants contend that Robinson and Kasian lack the understanding and knowledge of issues in the litigation to adequately represent the Class, and it is Robbins Geller, not Robinson and Kasian, who is actually in control of the litigation.¹⁰

Analysis: California Code of Civil Procedure section 382 authorizes class actions "when the question is one of a common or general interest, of many persons, or when the parties are numerous, and it is impracticable to bring them all before the court, one or more may sue or defend for the benefit of all."

The party seeking certification has the burden to establish the existence of both an ascertainable class and a well-defined community of interest among class members. [Citations.] The "community of interest" requirement embodies three factors: (1) predominant common questions of law or fact; (2) class representatives with claims or defenses typical of the class; and (3) class representatives who can adequately represent the class. [Citation.]

⁹ In support, Plaintiffs submit declarations from Robinson and Kasian (Exhs. D and E to Decl. John K. Grant ISO Pltfs' Mot. for Class Cert), and the firm resumes of Robbins Geller, Holzer & Holzer LLC, and Robbins Arroyo LLP (Grant Exhs. F-H).

¹⁰ In the "Factual Background" portion of their opposition brief, Defendants argue that at the time of the IPO, Audience did not know, nor could it have known, Apple's plans with respect to the iPhone 5. Defendants also argue that Audience adequately disclosed the risks related to its relationship with Apple in the Registration Statement. However, these arguments go to the merits of Plaintiffs' claims, and generally, the certification question does not ask whether an action is legally or factually meritorious. (See *Sav-On Drug Stores, Inc. v. Superior Court* (2004) 34 Cal.4th 219, 326.) Other than citing a federal case for the position that class certification at the trial level "frequently overlaps with the merits[.]" (Defs' Opp. at p. 10:6-7, citing *Katz v. China Century Dragon media* (C.D. Cal. 2012) 287 F.R.D. 575, 582), Defendants do not actually contend that the merits of Plaintiffs' claims here are so "enmeshed" with the class action requirements that a "peek" into the merits is necessary at this time. (See *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Superior Court* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1023-1024.) None of the details regarding Apple and Audience included in the "Factual Background" section of Defendants' opposition brief are cited in Defendants' arguments challenging the motion for class certification.

The certification question is “essentially a procedural one that does not ask whether an action is legally or factually meritorious.” [Citation.] A trial court ruling on a certification motion determines “whether ... the issues which may be jointly tried, when compared with those requiring separate adjudication, are so numerous or substantial that the maintenance of a class action would be advantageous to the judicial process and to the litigants.” [Citations.]

(*Sav-On, Inc. v. Superior Court* (2004) 34 Cal.4th 319, 326.)

Defendants do not challenge the requirements of ascertainability, typicality, or the predominance of common questions of law and fact. Regarding ascertainability, the proposed Class definition is sufficiently “precise, objective and presently ascertainable” so as to “give adequate notice to class members or to determine after the litigation has concluded who is barred from relitigating.” (*Global Minerals & Metal Corp. v. Superior Court* (2003) 113 Cal.App.4th 836, 858.) Class members can be readily identified through Audience’s stock records without unreasonable time and expense. (See *Rose v. City of Hayward* (1981) 126 Cal.App.3d 926, 932.)

Regarding numerosity, “[a] class action is proper when the parties are numerous and it is impracticable to bring them all before the court. This requirement has been satisfied where the class numbers were as few as 200 [citations], or as many as several thousand [citation] if the members are scattered throughout the state. [Citation.]” (*Miller v. Woods* (1983) 148 Cal.App.3d 862, 873.) Here, given the evidence of trading volume between May 10, 2012 and September 6, 2012 and the number of shares offered at Audience’s IPO (6,060,707 common shares),¹¹ it is very likely that there are many individual Class members so as to make joinder impracticable.

In order to demonstrate that questions of law or fact common to the class predominate over questions affecting the individual members, “each member must not be required to individually litigate numerous and substantial questions to determine his [or her] right to recover following the class judgment; and the issues which may be jointly tried, when compared with those requiring separate adjudication, must be sufficiently numerous and substantial to make the class action advantageous to the judicial process and to the litigants.” (*Washington Mut. Bank FA v. Superior Court (Briseno)* (2001) 24 Cal.4th 906, 913-914 [internal citations and quotation marks omitted].) Here, given that Plaintiffs seek to represent a similarly-situated group of individuals who purchased Audience shares pursuant and/or traceable to the same Registration Statement and Prospectus, it is likely that common issues of law and fact will predominate and that the claims against Defendants will be proven with common evidence. Whether the Registration Statement and Prospectus contained false and misleading statements is an issue that will be common to all members of the putative Class.

The typicality requirement requires that Plaintiffs have “the same or similar injury” as the members of the putative class (see *Seastrom v. Neways, Inc.* (2007) 149 Cal.App.4th 1496, 1502) and have the motive to litigate on behalf of all putative class members (see *Classen v. Weller* (1983) 145 Cal.App.3d 27, 45). Here, Plaintiffs have the same general injury as the proposed Class. Whether Plaintiffs have the proper motivation to litigate on behalf of the

¹¹ See Exhs. B and C to Decl. John K. Grant ISO Pltfs’ Mot. for Class Cert.

proposed Class dovetails with Defendants' arguments regarding Plaintiffs' adequacy as class representatives.

Defendants challenge Robinson's and Kasian's adequacy as class representatives by pointing to their lack of knowledge of certain details in the case, and accusing them of ceding control of the litigation to class counsel, Robbins Geller. "Adequacy of representation depends on whether the plaintiff's attorney is qualified to conduct the proposed litigation and the plaintiff's interests are not antagonistic to the interests of the class. [Citations.]" (*McGhee v. Bank of America* (1976) 60 Cal.App.3d 442, 450.) "The plaintiffs seeking certification have the burden to show that they can adequately represent the class by vigorously and tenaciously protecting the class members' interests. [Citations.] As part of this analysis, the trial court assesses the competency of class counsel, if the firm is representing the class as a whole and not simply the interests of the named representative plaintiffs [citations], and if the named plaintiffs have lent their names to litigation that is controlled by class counsel. [Citation.] A person's class representative status may be defeated if there is a serious conflict among the members of the class that 'goes to the very subject matter of the litigation' [Citations.]" (*Sharp v. Next Entm't, Inc.* (2008) 163 Cal.App.4th 410, 432-433.)

Defendants do not claim that Robinson and Kasian have a serious conflict with the putative Class that goes to the very subject matter of the litigation. Nor do Defendants challenge the competency of Robbins Geller to act as Class counsel. Rather, Defendants criticize Robinson and Kasian as not sufficiently diligent or informed, and Defendants rely on a number of federal authorities for the position that in a securities class action under the federal securities laws, the standard of adequacy for class representatives is raised.¹²

Specifically Defendants cite *In re Kosmos Energy Ltd. Sec. Litig.* (N.D. Tex. 2014) 299 F.R.D. 133 and the Fifth Circuit's decision in *Berger v. Compaq Computer Corp.* (5th Cir. 2001) 257 F.3d 475 ("*Berger I*") for the position that the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PSLRA"), which amended the 1933 Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, raised the "standard adequacy threshold" of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(4).¹³ The *Kosmos* and *Berger I* courts held that because the PSLRA was enacted to curb abusive, lawyer-driven private securities fraud suits, "courts deciding class certification motions in securities cases must take into account 'Congress's emphatic command' in the PSLRA and ensure that class representatives are informed, able individuals who are themselves—and not the lawyers—actually directing the litigation." (*Kosmos, supra*, 299 F.R.D. at pp. 140-141.) "[P]laintiffs seeking certification must produce actual, credible evidence that the proposed class representatives are informed, able individuals, who are themselves—not the lawyers—actually directing the litigation." (*Kosmos, supra*, 299 F.R.D. at p. 145, footnote omitted.)

To assess a plaintiff's adequacy, the *Kosmos* court instructed that "courts often consider the proposed representative's personal attributes, including evidence of the representative's character, honesty, and conscientiousness. The representative's familiarity with the case is also

¹² Defendants also cite *Howard Gunty Profit Sharing Plan v. Greenwood* (2002) 2002 Cal.App.Unpub. LEXIS 8732 and *Gatan v. Alarm One, Inc.* (2007) 2007 Cal. App. Unpub. LEXIS 7095 in response to Plaintiffs' reliance on the published *McGhee* decision. However, these cases are unpublished and "must not be cited" by Defendants. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.1115(a).) The exceptions for citing an unpublished appellate opinion do not apply here. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.1115(b).)

¹³ Under FRCP 23(a)(4), "[o]ne or more members of a class may sue or be sued as representative parties on behalf of all members only if...the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class."

important. Certification may be denied where the representative lacks knowledge or a basic understanding of 'what the suit is about.' Likewise, evidence of the representative's willingness or ability to participate in the litigation is relevant. When it appears that the potential representatives are 'simply lending their names to a suit controlled entirely by the class attorney,' or where the representative is too 'closely affiliated with class counsel,' courts may find them to be inadequate. Failing to appear at the class certification hearing has also been considered a negative factor in the adequacy assessment." (*Kosmos, supra*, 299 F.R.D. at p. 145, footnotes omitted.)

Notably, *Kosmos* and *Berger I* pertain to the adequacy standard under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. However, "[r]ule 23 does not control in California. 'As a general rule, California courts are not bound by the federal rules of procedure but may look to them and to the federal cases interpreting them for guidance or where California precedent is lacking. [Citations.] California courts have never adopted Rule 23 as "a procedural strait jacket. To the contrary, trial courts [are] urged to exercise pragmatism and flexibility in dealing with class actions." [Citations.]' [Citations.] California courts follow the federal rules for class action only in the absence of controlling state authority and only 'look to Rule 23 for guidance where California precedent is lacking.' [Citations.]" (*Laffitte v. Robert Half Internat. Inc.* (2014) 231 Cal.App.4th 860, 872-873, footnote omitted.)

One could argue that *Kosmos* and *Berger I* provide persuasive authority on an issue where California law is lacking – namely, the effect of the PSLRA on the adequacy standards for representatives in California class actions. However, as Plaintiffs point out, the persuasiveness and utility of *Kosmos* and *Berger I* in this regard are questionable. After *Berger I*, in an order denying a petition for panel rehearing, the same three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit clarified that *Berger I* did not "change[] the law of this circuit regarding the standard for conducting a rule 23(a)(4) adequacy inquiry" or "create[] an additional requirement under rule 23(a)(4) that, after completing the process of selecting the lead plaintiff and lead counsel, a court may grant class certification only if the putative class representative possesses a certain level of experience, expertise, wealth or intellect, or a level of knowledge and understanding of the issues, beyond that required by our long-established standards for rule 23 adequacy of class representatives." (*Berger v. Compaq Computer Corp.* (5th Cir. 2002) 279 F.3d 313 ("*Berger II*").) Likewise, the Ninth Circuit in *In re Cavanaugh* (9th Cir. 2002) 306 F.3d 726 held that the PSLRA "did not change the standard for adequacy, and that the adequacy inquiry remains the same in determining the lead plaintiff in securities cases as in determining the class representative in other cases brought under Rule 23." (*Cavanaugh, supra*, 306 F.3d at p. 736.) Regarding *Berger I*, the Ninth Circuit held, "we cannot agree that the Reform Act was meant to 'raise the standard adequacy threshold,' or to authorize the district court to select as lead plaintiff 'the most sophisticated investor available.'" (*Id.* at p. 738.)

In *In re Theragenics Corp. Sec. Litig.* (N.D. Ga. 2002) 205 F.R.D. 687, 696, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia refused to follow *Berger I* and instead followed the "well established" legal standard for adequacy in the Eleventh Circuit, which "involves inquiry into questions of whether Plaintiffs' counsel are qualified, experienced and generally able to conduct the litigation. [Citation.] 'Adequate class representation generally does not require that the named plaintiffs demonstrate to any particular degree that they will individually pursue with vigor the legal claims of the class.' [Citation.] . . . The fact that the proposed Class Representatives are allowing their counsel to prosecute the case demonstrates the exercise of good judgment and not abdication of their obligations as class representatives. [Citation.]"

Thus, to the extent *Berger I* suggests there is a higher adequacy threshold for post-PSLRA securities class actions that requires a certain level of sophistication and active participation for class representatives, that suggestion was expressly walked back by *Berger II* and has been rejected by numerous other courts (e.g., *Cavanaugh, supra*, 306 F.3d 726; *In re Theragenics, supra*, 205 F.R.D. 687; *McNamara v. Bre-X Minerals, Ltd.* (E.D. Tex. Mar. 31, 2013) 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25641, at *33-34.) Thus, the Court does not consider *Kosmos* and *Berger I* to be persuasive authority on how to apply the adequacy threshold under California law. If anything, *Berger I* did not result in any change in the law on adequacy standards and merely highlighted the protections of the PSLRA to curb lawyer-driven securities lawsuits.

Notably, there is no suggestion in the instant case that Robinson and Kasian are “professional plaintiffs.” (See *Howard Guntz Profit Sharing Plan v. Superior Court* (2001) 88 Cal.App.4th 572, 575, fn. 2: “The term professional plaintiff generally is used to refer to a plaintiff who is either a frequent filer . . . or a “hired gun” (one who allows an attorney to sue in his name in exchange for a fee), or both.” [Citation.]”) While Robinson’s and Kasian’s moving declarations are conclusory and boilerplate, the supplemental evidence submitted with Plaintiffs’ reply papers establishes that they are not professional plaintiffs as that term is defined in *Howard Guntz*, and they are not motivated by any improper purpose.¹⁴ Robinson testified that he contacted an attorney after he lost investment money with Audience, and that he felt misled because he believed Audience’s technology would be incorporated in the iPhone 5.¹⁵ Kasian likewise testified that she felt angry and misled by Audience regarding the iPhone 5, and after seeing a news report, she emailed a law firm and indicated her willingness to participate in the class action.¹⁶ Both Robinson and Kasian understand what the case is about, the alleged basis for liability against Defendants under sections 11, 12(a)(2) and 15 of the 1933 Act, and that they are representing a class of similarly-situated shareholders.¹⁷ They have communicated with counsel on numerous occasions and shown their willingness to assist in the case, e.g., depositions and discovery.¹⁸

Defendants criticize Robinson and Kasian for not knowing particular details about the procedural background of the case and relying on counsel to draft pleadings, but there is no requirement under California law that class representatives actively manage or participate in the litigation, and as discussed above, any suggestion that this is the standard in federal securities class actions is questionable. Defendants cite no authority requiring a class representative’s physical appearance at a mediation session to support his or her adequacy. Defendants argue that Robinson and Kasian did not perform due diligence in selecting counsel, yet Defendants cite no authority requiring such due diligence to demonstrate adequacy, nor do Defendants even challenge the competency of Robbins Geller or Robinson’s and Kasian’s chosen counsel. Defendants argue that Robinson’s and Kasian’s unfamiliarity with the Registration Statement evidences their inadequacy and abdication of responsibilities to counsel, but the Court finds that the evidence as a whole demonstrates Robinson and Kasian

¹⁴ See Exhs. A and B to Suppl. Decl. John K. Grant ISO Pltfs’ Reply.

¹⁵ See Suppl. Grant Exh. A at pp. 5920-22, 60:10-11, 63:11-15.

¹⁶ See Suppl. Grant Exh. B at pp. 80:18-23, 81:2-22.

¹⁷ See Suppl. Grant Exh. A at pp. 61:22-62:17, 63:11-15, 73:12-74:22, 77:2-10, 78:16-79:15, 82:20-83:10, 84:3-7; Suppl. Grant Exh. B at pp. 28:11-15, 80:18-23, 89:5-90:16, 92:25-93:4.

¹⁸ See Privilege Logs, Decl. Jessica Valenzuela ISO Defs’ Opp., Exhs. 5, 12; Suppl. Grant Exh. A at p. 71:19-25; Suppl. Grant Exh. B at 6:22-25.

are adequate class representatives who are well-positioned to represent the rights and interests of the proposed Class and have already done more than merely lending their names to the litigation.

For all of these reasons, the motion for class certification is **GRANTED**.

Motion to Seal

On December 12, 2014, Defendants filed their opposition brief to the motion for class certification conditionally under seal with a redacted public version. On December 22, 2014, Apple filed a motion to seal portions of Defendants' opposition brief. In particular, Apple moves to seal fifteen sentences that appear in the "Factual Background" of Defendants' brief pertaining to Audience's supplier agreement with Apple and related events prior to the Audience IPO. Apple argues the redacted portions contain highly sensitive communications and insights into Apple's operations, including detailed information concerning the timing of various development milestones for the iPhone 5, specific technical issues that were affecting such timing, Apple's procurement procedures, and Apple's intentions regarding the selection of technology to be included in the iPhone 5. Apple further argues the information is protected from disclosure by contract between Apple and Audience under the terms of the Master Development and Supply Agreement, and it has been designated "Highly Confidential Information – Attorneys' Eyes Only" pursuant to the Protective Order in this action.

Apple argues that contractual obligations not to disclose information constitute an overriding interest sufficient to support a court order to seal records. Apple further argues that the public has no overriding right of access to the subject information because it is not relevant to trial proceedings or the substance of Defendants' opposition. Apple argues that it will be prejudiced if the subject information is made public because it gains much value from maintaining secrecy in all of its areas of its business, including anticipation in the public marketplace concerning the approaching release of new products. Apple argues the proposed sealing is narrowly tailored to redact only information that falls under the Protective Order and the redactions represent the bare minimum amount of information necessary to protect Apple's business and competitive interests. The motion is supported by the declarations of Apple's counsel William S. Freeman, and Apple's Procurement Director Timothy A. Butzow.

The motion is opposed by Plaintiffs, who argue that the fifteen sentences sought to be sealed contain information that is already available in the public, or consists of common industry practices regarding deliverables and product releases.

Analysis: "Unless confidentiality is required by law, court records are presumed to be open." (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.550(c).) "A record must not be filed under seal without a court order. The court must not permit a record to be filed under seal based solely on the agreement or stipulation of the parties." (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.551(a).) "The court may order that a record be filed under seal only if it expressly finds facts that establish: [¶] (1) There exists an overriding interest that overcomes the right of public access to the record; [¶] (2) The overriding interest supports sealing the record; [¶] (3) A substantial probability exists that the overriding interest will be prejudiced if the record is not sealed; [¶] (4) The proposed sealing is narrowly tailored; and [¶] (5) No less restrictive means exist to achieve the overriding interest." (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.550(d).) Where some material within a document warrants sealing, but other material does not, the document should be edited or redacted if possible, to

accommodate the moving party's overriding interest and the strong presumption in favor of public access. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.550(d)(4), (5).) 'In such a case, the moving party should take a line-by-line approach to the information in the document, rather than framing the issue to the court on an all-or-nothing basis. (*In re Providian Credit Card Cases* (2002) 96 Cal.App.4th 292, 309.)

Apple's counsel states in his declaration that Apple and Audience entered into a Master Development and Supply Agreement effective August 6, 2008 that required Audience to "take steps to 'protect the Confidential Information of [Apple], using at least the same degree of care that it uses to protect its own confidential and proprietary information of similar importance.'"¹⁹ Mr. Freeman further states that "documents relating to the commercial relationship between Audience and Apple concerning the potential inclusion of Apple's iPhone 5 of Audience's technology...contain information that is highly confidential to Apple[.]"²⁰ Mr. Freeman further states that the subject statements in Defendants' opposition to certification "are directly derived from, and related to, documents that Audience designated as 'Highly Confidential Information – Attorneys' Eyes Only' when it originally produced them."²¹

A binding contractual agreement not to disclose information may constitute "a potential overriding interest" if prejudice to that interest is substantially probable. (See *Universal City Studios, Inc. v. Superior Court* (2003) 110 Cal.App.4th 1273, 1282-1283.) Furthermore, financial information involving confidential matters relating to the business operations of a party may be sealed where public revelation of the information would interfere with the party's ability to effectively compete in the marketplace and there is a substantial probability that their revelation would prejudice the foregoing legitimate interests of the party. (*Id.* at pp. 1285-1286; see also *Overstock.com, Inc. v. Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.* (2014) 231 Cal.App.4th 471, 503-506 [discussing sealing of financial information to protect privacy interests].)

Even if Apple demonstrates a potential overriding interest in the contractual confidentiality of statements derived from confidential documents Apple produced in discovery, Apple fails to demonstrate a substantial probability of prejudice from disclosure. The Butzow declaration is too conclusory to demonstrate a substantial probability of prejudice from public disclosure of the particular sentences at issue, and as Plaintiffs point out, some of the information stated in the opposition brief is already publicly available, either through statements made by Audience's CEO, or in Audience's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Some of the sentences Apple seeks to seal are devoid of any particular details to support an inference that Apple would very likely be prejudiced by public disclosure.

Apple argues that because the subject information is not relevant to the substance of Defendants' opposition to certification, the public does not have an unqualified right of access to the information. While the Court agrees that details regarding Apple's and Audience's communications are not relevant to issues raised in opposition to the certification motion, it cannot be said that this information is "tangentially related to the litigation" for purposes of assessing the public's right of access to court records. (See *Oyie v. Fox* (2012) 211 Cal.App.4th 1036, 1070, emphasis added.) Instead, details regarding the communications

¹⁹ Decl. Freeman ¶ 2.

²⁰ Decl. Freeman ¶ 4.

²¹ Decl. Freeman ¶ 5.

between Audience and Apple prior to the Audience IPO may prove relevant to the core merits issues in this litigation, including Audience's defenses.

Under these circumstances, the Court feels it is appropriate to simply **STRIKE** the fifteen sentences at issue from the record as irrelevant *to the certification motion*. (See *Overstock.com, supra*, 231 Cal.App.4th at pp. 499-500, fn. 18, 508-510.) This of course is not a final order on the sealing controversy regarding Apple and Audience's communications, but simply a practical way to avoid an unnecessary sealing proceeding at this time.

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL AND EMAIL

I, the undersigned, declare:

1. That declarant is and was, at all times herein mentioned, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of San Diego, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to or interested party in the within action; that declarant's business address is 655 West Broadway, Suite 1900, San Diego, California 92101.

2. That on May 9, 2019, declarant served the **JOINT DECLARATION OF JAMES I. JACONETTE AND PHONG L. TRAN IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**, by depositing a true copy thereof in a United States mailbox at San Diego, California in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the parties listed on the attached Service List.

3. That there is a regular communication by mail between the place of mailing and the places so addressed.

4. This document was also served via email to the parties on the attached Service List.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on May 9, 2019, at San Diego, California.



JACLYN STARK

SERVICE LIST

Switzer v. W.R. Hambrecht & Co., LLC, Lead Case No. CGC-18-564904 (Super. Ct., S.F. Cty.)
(Consolidated with No. CGC-18-565324)

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