

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE DIVISION**

MINERVA MARTINEZ, SANDRA SCOTT,
CARL GRAHAM, ANNE PARYS, DAVID
ORTIZ, SEAN CHAMBERS AND TIFFANY
JAMES, individually, and on behalf of a class of
similarly situated individuals,

Plaintiffs,

v.

NISSAN NORTH AMERICA INC., a Delaware
corporation,

Defendant.

Case No.: 3:22-cv-00354

District Judge Eli J. Richardson

Courtroom 5C

**DECLARATION OF MELISSA S. WEINER IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT
AND
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARDS**

I, Melissa S. Weiner, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am counsel for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class. I respectfully submit this declaration in support of the Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards. If called upon as a witness, I could competently testify to the contents of this declaration.

PEARSON WARSHAW, LLP FIRM PROFILE

2. I am a Partner at Pearson Warshaw, LLP¹ ("Pearson Warshaw"), one of the counsel of record for Plaintiffs in the above-captioned action. Pearson Warshaw is an AV-rated civil litigation firm with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Minneapolis. The firm specializes in complex litigation, including state coordination cases and federal multi-district litigation. Its attorneys have extensive experience in antitrust, securities, consumer protection, and unlawful employment practices. Pearson Warshaw has the experience, resources, and expertise to successfully prosecute complex employment and consumer actions. A true and correct copy of the Pearson Warshaw, LLP firm resume containing biographies summarizing my experience and that of other attorneys at Pearson Warshaw is attached as **Exhibit 1**. Also set forth in the firm resume are Pearson Warshaw's recent case profiles.

3. PSW has the experience, resources and ability to adequately represent the Settlement Class in this class action lawsuit. Pearson Warshaw's firm resume reflects that the attorneys in this case have successfully adjudicated some of the largest and most important class action lawsuits in the United States and have obtained approximately three billion dollars in settlements and verdicts in a wide range of cases.

4. For example, Pearson Warshaw served as Co-Lead Counsel in *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 2476 (S.D.N.Y.), an antitrust class action alleging an

¹ Pearson Warshaw, LLP was formerly known as Pearson, Simon & Warshaw, LLP.

anticompetitive conspiracy by the largest international banks and financial institutions in the world to fix the price of credit default swaps. That case resulted in \$1.86 billion in settlements, making it one of the largest civil lawsuit recoveries in history.

5. Pearson Warshaw also served as Co-Lead Counsel on behalf of the Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs in *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1827 (N.D. Cal.). In that case, we helped secure a settlement of over \$400 million for the Class and obtained an \$87 million verdict, before trebling, following a five-week trial against the only remaining defendant in the case, Toshiba Corporation and its related entities.

6. Pearson Warshaw attorneys served as class counsel in *James v. UMG Recordings, Inc.*, Case No. 11-cv-01613-SI (N.D. Cal.) and *In re Warner Music Group Corp. Digital Downloads Litigation*, Case No. 12-cv-0559-RS (N.D. Cal.), nationwide class actions brought on behalf of recording artists and producers who alleged that they were systematically underpaid royalties by the record companies UMG Recordings and Warner Music Group. In groundbreaking class action settlements, PSW helped secure both past relief and future relief in perpetuity for eligible class members who receive royalties from the defendant record companies.

7. Pearson Warshaw also served as counsel in a series of related class action lawsuits arising from the failure of major movie studios to adequately account for and pay home video revenue to profit participants, which resulted in class action settlements in the following cases:

- a. *Colin Higgins Productions, Ltd. v. Universal City Studios, LLC* (L.A. Super. Ct. Case No. BC499180);
- b. *Colin Higgins Productions, LTD. v. Paramount Pictures Corporation* (L.A. Super. Ct. Case No. BC499179);
- c. *Martindale, et al. v. Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc.* (L.A. Super. Ct. Case No.

BC499182); and

- d. *Stanley Donen Films, Inc. v. Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation* (L.A. Super. Ct. Case No. BC499181).

8. In addition to those listed above, Pearson Warshaw has served as lead or co-lead counsel in some of the most advanced and cutting-edge class actions in the country, including: *In re Lithium Ion Batteries Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 2420 (N.D. Cal.); *In re Potash Antitrust Litigation (II)*, MDL No. 1996 (N.D. Ill.); and *In re Carrier IQ Consumer Privacy Litigation*, MDL No. 2330 (N.D. Cal.).

9. Pearson Warshaw also negotiated a related class action settlement providing relief to owners/lessees in *Weckwerth, et al. v. Nissan North America, Inc.*, Case No. 3:18-cv-00588 (M.D. Tenn, Mar. 10, 2020) (finally approving settlement on behalf of millions of Nissan drivers with alleged transmission defects).

10. Along with my co-counsel in this action (Tarek H. Zohdy of Capstone Law APC, Natalie Finkelman Bennett of Miller Shah, LLP, Lawrence Deutsch of Berger Montague, and Norberto Cisneros of Maddox & Cisneros, LLP) (collectively, “Counsel”), I have been responsible for the prosecution of this Action and for the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement. We have vigorously represented the interests of the Settlement Class Members throughout the course of the litigation and settlement negotiations.

INVESTIGATION, FILING OF COMPLAINT, NEGOTIATIONS, AND MEDIATION

11. Before initiating any action, Counsel conducted a thorough investigation of the claims in the Complaint. Specifically, Plaintiffs thoroughly investigated and researched their claims, which allowed Counsel to better evaluate the claims regarding Nissan’s representations and omissions concerning the functioning of the CVTs. Among other tasks, Plaintiffs researched publicly available materials and information provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (“NHTSA”) concerning

consumer complaints about the CVTs and reviewed and researched consumer complaints and discussions of transmission problems in articles and forums online, in addition to various manuals and technical service bulletins discussing the alleged defect. Finally, they conducted research into the various causes of action and other similar automotive actions. Counsel also conducted detailed interviews with Class Members regarding their pre-purchase research, purchasing decisions, and repair histories, reviewed repair invoices and other documents and developed a plan for litigation and settlement based in part on Class Members' reported experiences with their Class Vehicles and with Nissan dealers.

12. Furthermore, Plaintiffs obtained and reviewed discovery from Nissan that included spreadsheets with thousands of rows of data, including warranty data, as well as sales data, information about the transmissions in the Class Vehicles and the costs of the necessary repairs for the alleged CVT Failures. Finally, prior to filing and over the course of litigation, Counsel responded to drivers of CVT-equipped Nissan Vehicles who contacted Counsel to report problems with their CVTs. Counsel also conducted detailed interviews with Settlement Class Members regarding their pre-purchase research, purchasing decisions, and repair histories, reviewed repair invoices and other documents and developed a plan for litigation and settlement based in part on Settlement Class Members' reported experiences with their Class Vehicles and with Nissan dealers.

13. This class action lawsuit was originally filed on December 29, 2021, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California (No. 3:21-cv-02146-L-DEB). After meeting and conferring with Nissan's counsel regarding Nissan's current state of incorporation, the initial lawsuit was dismissed without prejudice and refiled in the instant jurisdiction.

14. In April 2022, the Parties' counsel traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to conduct an in-person mediation before Mr. Hunter R. Hughes III, Esq., an experienced mediator, who also mediated the *Weckwerth* matter. In preparation for this mediation, Counsel conducted additional research regarding the

scope of the alleged defect, the contours of the prospective classes, and research into the claims of the putative class representatives and class members alike. The mediation was successful in reaching an agreement on the substance of the Settlement and a term sheet was signed as an interim step soon thereafter. Any terms relating to the Plaintiffs' application for attorneys' fees, costs, and service awards were separately discussed once the principal terms for the Class were agreed upon.

15. With the case settled in principle, following the mediation, via telephone and email, the parties continued to engage in settlement discussions to resolve the fine details of the Settlement Agreement, the release(s), and claims administration. In July 2022, the Parties were able to document the formal terms of their Settlement to resolve the litigation. All of the terms of the Settlement were (1) the result of extensive good faith and hard-fought negotiations between knowledgeable and skilled counsel; (2) entered into after extensive factual investigation and legal analysis; and (3) in the opinion of experienced class counsel, fair, reasonable, and adequate. Counsel believes the Settlement Agreement is in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members and should be approved by the Court.

16. Class Counsel also prepared the Motion for Final Approval of the Class Action Settlement and the Motion for Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Class Representative Service Awards, and they may file a supplemental brief responding to objections, if any. Based on their work in connection with the prior settlements (described above), Class Counsel expects that they will expend hundreds, if not thousands, of hours after the filing of this Motion delivering services to Class Members, including counseling class members about their claims and resolving any contested claims issues with Nissan's counsel.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RECOGNITION OF THE DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH LITIGATION

17. The Settlement is an excellent result as it provides the Class with meaningful monetary

relief. The Parties did not negotiate attorneys' fees or expenses until the Parties had reached an agreement on Class relief.

18. Plaintiffs remain convinced their case has merit but recognize the substantial risk that comes along with continued litigation. Based on extensive investigation and confirmatory discovery, Plaintiffs believe they could obtain class certification, defeat all dispositive motions filed by Defendant, and proceed to trial on the merits.

19. Nonetheless, all complex class actions are uncertain in terms of ultimate outcome, difficulties of proof, and duration, and this Action is no different. There is always the possibility that Plaintiffs may not prevail if the Action continues. Plaintiffs and Counsel recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to prosecute the claims through trial and appeal. They have taken into account the uncertain outcome and risk of litigation, as well as difficulties and undue delay inherent in such litigation. Further litigation would be costly, complex, and time consuming. Such litigation could include dispositive motions, contested class certification proceedings and appeals, costly merits and class certification expert reports and discovery, and trial. Each step towards trial would likely be subject to Defendant's vigorous opposition and appeal. Further litigation presents no guarantee for recovery, let alone a recovery greater than that provided by the Settlement. The parties would likely spend significant time and resources on damage calculations. Furthermore, both parties would spend significant additional resources in expert discovery producing competing damage analyses. The costs and risks associated with continuing to litigate the Action would require extensive resources and court time. Counsel believe the Settlement confers substantial benefits upon the Settlement Class Members and have determined the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and in the best interests of the Settlement Class.

20. All of the terms of the Settlement are the result of extensive, adversarial, and arms'-length negotiations between experienced counsel for both sides.

**COUNSEL AND PLAINTIFFS HAVE INVESTED SIGNIFICANT TIME IN THE PROSECUTION IN THIS ACTION
AND ARE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLASS**

21. Throughout the course of investigation, pleadings, mediation, and filing of the Settlement Agreement with the Court, Counsel have devoted significant time and resources to the investigation, development, and resolution of the Action.

22. Counsel are not representing clients with interests at odds with the interests of the Settlement Class Members.

23. Counsel have vigorously and competently represented the Settlement Class Members' interests in this action and will continue to fulfill their duties to the class.

24. Each of the Class Representatives has given their time and accepted their responsibilities, participating actively in this litigation as required and in a manner beneficial to the Class generally.

PEARSON WARSHAW'S ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS

25. I have reviewed a summary of Pearson Warshaw's billing records for this action, which are maintained during the regular course of business and billed contemporaneously. Pearson Warshaw's bill for attorneys' fees is summarized in the chart below.

Attorney	Title	Rate	Hours	Fees
Daniel L. Warshaw	Partner	\$1,250.00	12.00	\$15,000.00
Melissa S. Weiner	Partner	\$920.00	168.90	\$155,388.00
Michael H. Pearson	Partner	\$800.00	193.00	\$154,400.00
Bobby Pouya	Partner	\$990.00	3.00	\$2,970.00
Matthew A. Pearson	Partner	\$800.00	1.50	\$1,200.00
Neil J. Swartzberg	Of Counsel	\$940.00	2.10	\$1,974.00
Greg N. Arenson	Associate	\$575.00	11.70	\$6,727.50
Kyle R. Costello	Associate	\$350.00	3.80	\$1,330.00
Total			396.00	\$338,989.50

26. The attorneys of Pearson Warshaw billed this case at their usual and customary hourly billing rates, which have been approved by courts presiding over similar complex class action lawsuits,

and which are commensurate with the prevailing market rates attorneys of comparable experience and skill handling complex litigation, including:

- a. *In Re Fairlife Milk Products Marketing And Sales Practices Litig.*, MDL No. 2909 (N.D. Ill.). In 2022, Judge Robert M. Dow, Jr issued an attorneys' fees award finding that the following Pearson Warshaw rates were reasonable: \$1,190 for Clifford H. Pearson, and Daniel L. Warshaw, \$920 for Melissa S. Weiner, \$800 for Michael H. Pearson, and \$575 for Gregory Arenson.
- b. *In re Pork Antitrust Litig.*, Case No. 18-cv-01776 (JRT-HB) (D. Minn.). In 2022, Judge John R. Tunheim issued an attorneys' fees award finding that the following Pearson Warshaw rates were reasonable: \$1,190 for Clifford H. Pearson, and Daniel L. Warshaw, \$820 for Melissa S. Weiner (and approving other Minnesota-based partners between \$925 and \$1,150), \$800 for Michael H. Pearson, and \$400 for Naveed Abaie.
- c. *In Re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.*, Case No. 16 C 8637 (N.D. Ill.). In 2021, Judge Thomas M. Durkin issued an attorneys' fees award finding that the following Pearson Warshaw rates were reasonable: \$1,190 for Clifford H. Pearson, and Daniel L. Warshaw, \$625 for Michael H. Pearson, and \$400 for Naveed Abaie.
- d. *In re Keurig Green Mountain Single-Serve Coffee Antitrust Litig.*, Case No. 1:14-cv-04391-VSB (S.D.N.Y.). In 2021, Judge Vernon S. Broderick issued an attorneys' fees award finding that the following Pearson Warshaw rates were reasonable: \$1,190 for Clifford H. Pearson, and Daniel L. Warshaw, \$750 for Melissa S. Weiner, \$690 for Joseph C. Bourne, and \$560 for Matthew A.

Pearson.

- e. *In re National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litig.*, Case No. 4:14-md-2541-CW (N.D. Cal.). In 2019, Magistrate Judge Cousins issued an attorneys' fees award finding that the following Pearson Warshaw rates were reasonable: \$985 (2016) and \$1,035 (2017) for Clifford H. Pearson and Bruce L. Simon and, \$1,050 (2018) and \$1,150 (2019) for Clifford H. Pearson, Bruce L. Simon and Daniel L. Warshaw, \$520 (2017), \$720 (2015) and \$825 (2016) for Aaron M. Sheanin, \$650 (2018) and \$900 (2019) for Benjamin E. Shifan, \$350 (2017) for Alexander L. Simon, \$400 (2018) and \$450 (2019) for Alexander L. Simon and Matthew A. Pearson, \$225 (2017) for Amanda C. Lunzer, and \$225 (2019) for Bradd J. Kopp and Ellowene J. Grant. This award was adopted in whole by Judge Claudia Wilken.
- f. *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litig.*, Case No. 1:13-md-02476-DLC (S.D.N.Y.). In 2016, the court issued an attorneys' fee award which included Pearson Warshaw at weighted average rates of \$958.07 for Clifford H. Pearson, \$935 Bruce L. Simon, \$827 for Daniel L. Warshaw, \$472.75 for Veronica W. Glaze, and \$385 for Matthew A. Pearson.
- g. *In re: Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litig.*, Case No. 3:07-cv-05944-JST (N.D. Cal.). In 2016, the court issued an attorneys' fee award which included Pearson Warshaw at rates of \$985 (2016) for Clifford H. Pearson, Bruce L. Simon and Daniel L. Warshaw.
- h. *James Eashoo v. Iovate Health Sciences U.S.A., Inc.*, Case No. 2:15-cv-01726-BRO-PJW (C.D. Cal.). In 2016, the court issued an attorneys' fee award which

included Pearson Warshaw at rates of \$985 (2016) for Clifford H. Pearson and Daniel L. Warshaw, \$385 (2016) for Matthew A. Pearson.

- i. *Patricia Weckwerth et al. v. Nissan North America, Inc.*, Case No. 3:18-cv-00588 (M.D. Tenn.). In 2020, the court issued an attorneys' fee award which included Pearson Warshaw at the rate of \$1,150 (2010) for Daniel L. Warshaw, \$750 for Melissa S. Weiner (2020) and \$670 (2020) for a senior level associate.
- j. *Susan Swetz, et al. v. GSK Consumer Health, Inc.*, Case No. 7:20-cv-04731-NSR (S.D.N.Y.). In 2021, Judge Nelson S. Roman issued an attorneys' fee award which included Pearson Warshaw at the rate of \$820 for Melissa S. Weiner and \$720 for a senior level associate.

27. Pearson Warshaw has expended \$4,333.15 in unreimbursed expenses which were reasonable and necessarily for the prosecution of this case. These expenses which are accurately reflected in our firm's books and records, include following:

Cost & Expense Categories	Amount
Copying, Printing & Scanning and Facsimiles	\$0.00
Court Fees, Courier Fees, Filings & Service of Process	\$233.00
Mediation Fees	\$2,045.00
Postage & Mailings	\$7.58
Research Services (PACER, Westlaw, etc.)	\$832.57
Travel-Related Costs and Expenses, Meals	\$1,160.86
Telephone and Conference Services	\$54.14
Total	\$4,333.15

PLAINTIFFS' SERVICE AWARDS

28. Plaintiffs deserve service awards for their time and effort to support a case in which they had a modest personal interest, but which provided considerable benefits to Class Members—a commitment undertaken without any guarantee of recompense. Each Plaintiff provided documents to,

and consulted with, Counsel about the claims in this case and assisted throughout the course of the litigation. Plaintiffs reviewed the allegations, kept in constant contact with Plaintiffs' Counsel regarding the status of the case. Plaintiffs have also stayed abreast of settlement negotiations, reviewed the Settlement terms, and approved the Settlement on behalf of the Class.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 12th day of January, 2023, at Wayzata, Minnesota.

/s/ Melissa S. Weiner
Melissa S. Weiner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that he caused a copy of the foregoing to be served upon the following counsel of record by the Court's ECF system, this DECLARATION OF MELISSA S. WEINER IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND SERVICE AWARDS, on the 12th day of January, 2023.

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Pearson Warshaw, LLP (“PW”) is an AV-rated civil litigation firm with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Minneapolis. The firm specializes in complex litigation, including state coordination cases and federal multi-district litigation. Its attorneys have extensive experience in antitrust, securities, consumer protection, and unlawful employment practices. The firm handles national and multi-national class actions that present cutting-edge issues in both substantive and procedural areas. PW attorneys understand how to litigate difficult and large cases in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and they have used these skills to obtain outstanding results for their clients, both through trial and negotiated settlement. They are recognized in their field for excellence and integrity, and are committed to seeking justice for their clients.

CASE PROFILES

PW attorneys currently hold, or have held, a leadership role in the following representative cases:

- *In re National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 2451. PW attorneys currently serve as co-lead counsel in this multidistrict litigation that alleges the NCAA and its member conferences violate the antitrust laws by restricting the value of grant-in-aid athletic scholarships and other benefits that college students who are football and basketball players can receive. PW settled the damages case, recently obtaining final approval of a \$208 million dollar settlement. PW attorneys with co-counsel have completed a bench trial for the injunctive portion of the case. A verdict for Plaintiffs was awarded, and the United States Supreme Court issued an Opinion affirming the verdict 9-0. *See NCAA v. Alston*, 141 S.Ct. 2141 (2021).
- *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*, Southern District of New York, MDL No. 2476. PW attorneys served as co-lead counsel and represented the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (“LACERA”) in a class action on behalf of all purchasers and sellers of Credit Default Swaps (“CDS”) against twelve of the world’s largest banks. The lawsuit alleged that the banks, along with other defendants who controlled the market infrastructure for CDS trading, conspired for years to restrain the efficient trading of CDS, thereby inflating the cost to trade CDS. The alleged antitrust conspiracy resulted in billions of dollars in economic harm to institutional investors such

as pension funds, mutual funds, and insurance companies who used CDS to hedge credit risks on their fixed income portfolios. After nearly three years of litigation and many months of intensive settlement negotiations, PW helped reach a settlement with the defendants totaling \$1.86 *billion* plus injunctive relief. On April 15, 2016, the Honorable Denise L. Cote granted final approval to the settlement, which is one of the largest civil antitrust settlements in history.

- *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 1827. PW served as co-lead counsel for the direct purchaser plaintiffs in this multidistrict litigation arising from the price-fixing of thin film transistor liquid crystal display (“TFT-LCD”) panels. Worldwide, the TFT-LCD industry is a multi-billion dollar industry, and many believe that this was one of the largest price-fixing cases in the United States. PW helped collect over \$405 million in settlements before the case proceeded to trial against the last remaining defendant, Toshiba Corporation and its related entities. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as co-lead trial counsel, successfully marshaled numerous witnesses, and presented the opening argument. On July 3, 2012, PW obtained a jury verdict of \$87 million (before trebling) against Toshiba. PW later settled with Toshiba and AU Optronics to bring the total to \$473 million in settlements. In 2013, California Lawyer Magazine awarded Mr. Simon a California Lawyer of the Year Award for his work in the *TFT-LCD* case.
- *In re Potash Antitrust Litigation (No. II)*, Northern District of Illinois, MDL No. 1996. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as co-lead counsel for the direct purchaser plaintiffs in this multidistrict litigation arising from the price-fixing of potash sold in the United States. After the plaintiffs defeated a motion to dismiss, the defendants appealed, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to hear the case *en banc*. Mr. Simon presented oral argument to the *en banc* panel and achieved a unanimous 8-0 decision in his favor. The case resulted in \$90 million in settlements for the direct purchaser plaintiffs, and the Court’s opinion is one of the most significant regarding the scope of international antitrust conspiracies. See *Minn-Chem, Inc. v. Agrium Inc.*, 683 F. 3d 845 (7th Cir. 2012).
- *In Re Fairlife Milk Products Marketing And Sales Practices Litigation*, Northern District of Illinois, MDL No. 2909. PW partner Melissa S. Weiner served as co-lead counsel for a class of purchasers of fairlife-brand milk products who were allegedly subjected to false and misleading representations regarding the treatment of the dairy cows. In 2022, the court finally approved a landmark \$21 million settlement, which also provided for meaningful stipulated injunctive relief.
- *Vakilzadeh v. The Trustees of The California State University*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV23134. PW partner Daniel L. Warshaw serves as co-lead counsel for a putative class of California State University students who were not provided refunds of tuition and fees from the closing all campuses and ending in-person learning and activities.

- *North American Soccer League, LLC v. United States Soccer Federation, Inc., and Major League Soccer, L.L.C.*, Eastern District of New York, Case No. 1:17-cv-05495-MKB-ST. PW, along with co-counsel, represents the North American Soccer League in a matter against the United States Soccer Federation and Major League Soccer alleging antitrust violations. The complaint alleges that U.S. Soccer and MLS have driven NASL out of business and have prevented NASL from competing against MLS (the sole Division I league) and the United Soccer League (the sole Division II league), which is affiliated with MLS.
- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of Illinois, Case No. 1:16-cv-08637. PW attorneys currently serve as interim co-lead counsel on behalf of direct purchaser plaintiffs. The complaint alleges that the nation’s largest broiler chicken producers violated antitrust laws by limiting production and manipulating the price indices. Thus far, PW and co-counsel have secured final approval of over \$180 million in settlements for the direct purchaser plaintiffs with numerous defendants remaining in the litigation.
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation*, District of Minnesota, Case No. 0:18-cv-01776. PW attorneys currently serve as interim co-lead counsel on behalf of direct purchaser plaintiffs. The complaint alleges that the nation’s largest pork producers violated antitrust laws by limiting production and manipulating the price indices. Thus far, PW and co-counsel have secured over \$100 million in settlements for the direct purchaser plaintiffs with numerous defendants remaining in the litigation.
- *Grace v. Apple, Inc.*, Northern District of California, Case No. 5:17-CV-00551. PW partners Daniel L. Warshaw and Jill M. Manning currently serve as class counsel in this California certified class action on behalf of consumers who allege Apple intentionally broke its “FaceTime” video conferencing feature for Apple iPhone 4 or iPhone 4S users operating on iOS 6 or earlier.
- *In re Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, District of New Mexico, Case No. 1:16-md-02695-JB-LF. PW partner Melissa S. Weiner chairs the Executive Committee and PW partner Daniel L. Warshaw serves on the executive committee. This class action alleges that defendants’ “natural” and “additive free” claims on their tobacco products were false and misleading to consumers.
- *In re Keurig Green Mountain Single-Serving Coffee Antitrust Litigation*, Southern District of New York, MDL No. 2542. In June 2014, Judge Vernon S. Broderick appointed PW to serve as interim co-lead counsel on behalf of indirect purchaser plaintiffs in this multidistrict class action litigation. The case arises from the alleged unlawful monopolization of the United States market for single-serve coffee packs by Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. Keurig’s alleged anticompetitive conduct includes acquiring competitors,

entering into exclusionary agreements with suppliers and distributors to prevent competitors from entering the market, engaging in sham patent infringement litigation, and redesigning the single-serve coffee pack products in the next version of its brewing system to lock out competitors' products. PW and co-counsel recently obtained final approval of a \$31 million settlement.

- *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al.*, Northern District of California, Case No. 14-cv-0608. PW attorneys currently serve as co-lead counsel in this certified class action and FLSA collective action on behalf of minor league baseball players who allege that Major League Baseball and its member franchises violate the FLSA and state wage and hour laws by failing to pay minor league baseball players minimum wage and overtime. On August 26, 2022, the court granted preliminary approval to a historic proposed \$185 million settlement.
- *In re KIND LLC "Healthy and All Natural" Litigation*, Southern District of New York, MDL No. 2645. PW partner Daniel L. Warshaw currently serves as interim co-lead counsel in this multistate certified class action on behalf of consumers who allege that they purchased KIND snack bars that were falsely advertised as "all natural," "non-GMO," and/or "healthy."
- *Trepte v. Bionaire, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC540110. PW attorneys served as Class Counsel in this certified class action alleging that the defendant sold defective space heaters. The complaint alleged that defendant breached the warranty and falsely advertised the safety of the heaters due to design defects that cause the heaters to fail – and, as a result of the failure, the heaters could spark, smoke and catch fire. Final approval of the class settlement was granted.
- *In re Carrier IQ Consumer Privacy Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 2330. PW attorneys served as interim co-lead counsel in this putative nationwide class action on behalf of consumers who alleged privacy violations arising from software installed on their mobile devices that was logging text messages and other sensitive information.
- *Sciortino, et al. v. PepsiCo, Inc.*, Northern District of California, Case No. 14-cv-0478. PW attorneys served as interim co-lead counsel in this putative California class action on behalf of consumers who alleged that PepsiCo failed to warn them that certain of its sodas contain excess levels of a chemical called 4-Methylimidazole in violation of Proposition 65 and California consumer protection statutes.
- *James v. UMG Recordings, Inc.*, Northern District of California, Case No. 11-cv-01613. PW partner Daniel L. Warshaw served as interim co-lead counsel in this putative nationwide class action on behalf of recording artists and music producers who alleged that they had been systematically underpaid royalties by the record company UMG.

- *In re Warner Music Group Corp. Digital Downloads Litigation*, Northern District of California, Case No. 12-cv-00559. PW attorneys served as interim co-lead counsel, with partner Bruce L. Simon serving as chairman of a five-firm executive committee, in this putative nationwide class action on behalf of recording artists and music producers who alleged that they had been systematically underpaid royalties by the record company Warner Music Group.
- *In re Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 1486. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as co-chair of discovery and as a member of the trial preparation team in this multidistrict litigation arising from the price-fixing of DRAM, a form of computer memory. Mr. Simon was responsible for supervising and coordinating the review of almost a terabyte of electronic documents, setting and taking depositions, establishing and implementing protocols for cooperation between the direct and indirect plaintiffs as well as the Department of Justice, presenting oral arguments on discovery matters, working with defendants on evidentiary issues in preparation for trial, and preparation of a comprehensive pretrial statement. Shortly before the scheduled trial, class counsel reached settlements with the last remaining defendants, bringing the total value of the class settlements to over \$325 million.
- *In re Methionine Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 1311. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as co-lead counsel in this nationwide antitrust class action involving a conspiracy to fix prices of, and allocate the markets for, methionine. Mr. Simon was personally responsible for many of the discovery aspects of the case including electronic document productions, coordination of document review teams, and depositions. Mr. Simon argued pretrial motions, prepared experts, and assisted in the preparation of most pleadings presented to the Court. This action resulted in over \$100 million in settlement recovery for the Class.
- *In re Sodium Gluconate Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 1226. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as class counsel in this consolidated antitrust class action arising from the price-fixing of sodium gluconate. Mr. Simon was selected by Judge Claudia Wilken to serve as lead counsel amongst many other candidates for that position, and successfully led the case to class certification and settlement.
- *In re Citric Acid Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 1092. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as class counsel in antitrust class actions against Archer-Daniels Midland Co. and others for their conspiracy to fix the prices of citric acid, a food additive product. Mr. Simon was one of the principal attorneys involved in discovery in this matter. This proceeding resulted in over \$80 million settlements for the direct purchasers.
- *Olson v. Volkswagen of America, Inc.*, Central District of California, Case No. CV07-05334. PW attorneys brought this class action lawsuit against Volkswagen alleging that

the service manual incorrectly stated the inspection and replacement intervals for timing belts on Audi and Volkswagen branded vehicles equipped with a 1.8 liter turbo-charged engine. This case resulted in a nationwide class settlement.

- *Swain et al. v. Eel River Sawmills, Inc. et al.*, California Superior Court, DR-01-0216. Bruce L. Simon served as lead trial counsel for a class of former employees of a timber company whose retirement plan was lost through management's investment of plan assets in an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Mr. Simon negotiated a substantial settlement on the eve of trial resulting in a recovery of approximately 40% to 50% of plaintiffs' damages after attorneys' fees and costs.
- *In re Homestore Litigation*, Central District of California, Master File No. 01-11115. PW attorneys served as liaison counsel and class counsel for plaintiff CalSTRS in this securities class action. The case resulted in over \$100 million in settlements to the Class.
- *In re MP3.Com, Inc., Securities Litigation*, Southern District of California, Master File No. 00-CV-1873. PW attorneys served as defense counsel in this class action involving alleged securities violations under Rule 10b-5.
- *In re Automotive Refinishing Paint Cases*, Alameda County Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4199. PW attorneys served as class counsel with other law firms in this coordinated antitrust class action alleging a conspiracy by defendants to fix the price of automotive refinishing products.
- *In re Beer Antitrust Litigation*, Northern District of California, Case No. 97-20644 SW. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as primary counsel in this antitrust class action brought on behalf of independent micro-breweries against Anheuser-Busch, Inc., for its attempt to monopolize the beer industry in the United States by denying access to distribution channels.
- *In re Commercial Tissue Products Public Entity Indirect Purchaser Antitrust Litigation*, San Francisco Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4027. PW partner Bruce L. Simon served as co-lead counsel for the public entity purchaser class in this antitrust action arising from the price-fixing of commercial sanitary paper products.
- *Hart v. Central Sprinkler Corporation*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC176727. PW attorneys served as class counsel in this consumer class action arising from the sale of nine million defective fire sprinkler heads. This case resulted in a nationwide class settlement valued at approximately \$37.5 million.
- *Rueda v. Schlumberger Resources Management Services, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC235471. PW attorneys served as class counsel with other law firms representing customers of the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

(“LADWP”) who had lead-leaching water meters installed on their properties. The Court granted final approval of the settlement whereby defendant would pay \$1.5 million to a *cy pres* fund to benefit the Class and to make grants to LADWP to assist in implementing a replacement program to the effected water meters.

- *In re Louisiana-Pacific Corp. Inner-Seal OSB Trade Practices Litigation*, Northern District of California, MDL No. 1114. PW partner Bruce L. Simon worked on this nationwide product defect class action brought under the Lanham Act. The proposed class was certified, and a class settlement was finally approved by Chief Judge Vaughn Walker.
- *In re iPod nano Cases*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4469. PW attorneys were appointed co-lead counsel for this class action brought on behalf of California consumers who own defective iPod nanos. The case resulted in a favorable settlement.
- *Unity Entertainment Corp. v. MP3.Com*, Central District of California, Case No. 00-11868. PW attorneys served as defense counsel in this class action alleging copyright infringement.
- *Vallier v. Jet Propulsion Laboratory*, Central District of California, Case No. CV97-1171. PW attorneys served as lead counsel in this toxic tort action involving 50 cancer victims and their families.
- *Nguyen v. First USA N.A.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC222846. PW attorneys served as class counsel on behalf of approximately four million First USA credit card holders whose information was sold to third party vendors without their consent. This case ultimately settled for an extremely valuable permanent injunction plus disgorgement of profits to worthy charities.
- *Morales v. Associates First Financial Capital Corporation*, San Francisco Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4197. PW attorneys served as class counsel in this case arising from the wrongful sale of credit insurance in connection with personal and real estate-secured loans. This case resulted in an extraordinary \$240 million recovery for the Class.
- *In re AEFA Overtime Cases*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4321. PW attorneys served as class counsel in this overtime class action on behalf of American Express Financial Advisors, which resulted in an outstanding class-wide settlement.
- *Khan v. Denny’s Holdings, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC177254. PW attorneys settled a class action lawsuit against Denny’s for non-payment of overtime wages to its managers and general managers.

- *Kosnik v. Carrows Restaurants, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC219809. PW attorneys settled a class action lawsuit against Carrows Restaurants for non-payment of overtime wages to its assistant managers and managers.
- *Castillo v. Pizza Hut, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC318765. PW attorneys served as lead class counsel in this California class action brought by delivery drivers who claimed they were not adequately compensated for use of their personally owned vehicles. This case resulted in a statewide class settlement.
- *Baker v. Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC286131. PW attorneys served as class counsel for investors who were charged a fee for transferring out assets between June 1, 2002 and May 31, 2003. This case resulted in a nationwide class settlement.
- *Eallonardo v. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC286950. PW attorneys served as class counsel on behalf a nationwide class of consumers who purchased DVDs manufactured by defendants. Plaintiffs alleged that defendants engaged in false and misleading advertising relating to the sale of its DVDs. This case resulted in a nationwide class settlement.
- *Gaeta v. Centinela Feed, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. BC342524. PW attorneys served as defense counsel in this class action involving alleged failures to pay wages, overtime, employee expenses, waiting time penalties, and failure to provide meal and rest periods and to furnish timely and accurate wage statements.
- *Leiber v. Consumer Empowerment Bv A/K/A Fasttrack*, Central District of California, Case No. CV 01-09923. PW attorneys served as defense counsel in this class action involving copyrighted music that was made available through a computer file sharing service without the publishers' permission.
- *Higgs v. SUSA California, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC372745. PW attorneys served as co-lead class counsel representing California consumers who entered into rental agreements for the use of self-storage facilities owned by defendants. In this certified class action, plaintiffs allege that defendants wrongfully denied access to the self-storage facility and/or charged excessive pre-foreclosure fees.
- *Fournier v. Lockheed Litigation*, Los Angeles County Superior Court. PW attorneys served as counsel for 1,350 residents living at or near the Skunks-Works Facility in Burbank. The case resolved with a substantial confidential settlement for plaintiffs.
- *Nasseri v. CytoSport, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 439181. PW attorneys served as class counsel on behalf of a nationwide class of consumers who

purchased CytoSport's popular protein powders, ready to drink protein beverages, and other "supplement" products. Plaintiffs alleged that these supplements contain excessive amounts of lead, cadmium and arsenic in amounts that exceed Proposition 65 and negate CytoSport's health claims regarding the products. The case resulted in a nationwide class action settlement which provided monetary relief to the class members and required the reformulation of CytoSport supplement products.

- *In re Samsung Top-Load Washing Machine Marketing, Sales Practice and Products Liability Litigation*, Western District of Oklahoma, Case No. 5:17-ml-02792-D. Plaintiffs allege that the top-load washing machines contain defects that cause them to leak and explode. PW Partner Melissa S. Weiner was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in this multi-district class action.



ATTORNEY PROFILES

FOUNDING PARTNERS

CLIFFORD H. PEARSON

Clifford H. Pearson, a founding partner of Pearson Warsaw, LLP, is a civil litigator, business lawyer and mediator focusing on complex litigation, class actions, and business law. In 2013, 2016, 2021 and 2022 Mr. Pearson was named by the *Daily Journal* as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California. Additionally, Mr. Pearson was named as one of the Daily Journal's 2019 Top Plaintiff Lawyers and in 2022 he was named one of the Top Antitrust Lawyers. He was instrumental in negotiating a landmark settlement totaling \$1.86 billion in *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*, a case alleging a conspiracy among the world's largest banks to maintain opacity of the credit default swaps market. Mr. Pearson also negotiated \$473 million in combined settlements in *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, an antitrust case in the Northern District of California that alleged a decade-long conspiracy to fix the prices of TFT-LCD panels and over \$90 million in *In re Potash Antitrust Litigation*, an antitrust case in the Northern District of Illinois that alleged price fixing by Russian, Belarusian and North American producers of potash, a main ingredient used in fertilizer. Mr. Pearson currently serves as co-lead counsel in both the *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* and *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* antitrust class action cases alleging price fixing in the broiler and pork industries.

Before creating the firm in 2006, Mr. Pearson was a partner at one of the largest firms in the San Fernando Valley, where he worked for 22 years. There, he represented aggrieved individuals, investors and employees in a wide variety of contexts, including toxic torts, consumer protection and wage and hour cases. Over his career that spans nearly 40 years, Mr. Pearson has successfully negotiated substantial settlements on behalf of consumers, small businesses and companies. In recognition of his outstanding work on behalf of clients, Mr. Pearson has been regularly selected by his peers as a Super Lawyer (representing the top 5% of practicing lawyers in Southern California). He has also attained Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating (AV) for legal ability and ethical standards.

Mr. Pearson is an active member of the American Bar Association, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Consumer Attorneys of California, Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, and Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Current Cases:

- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill.)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *North American Soccer League, LLC v. United States Soccer Federation, Inc., and Major League Soccer, L.L.C.* (E.D.N.Y.)
- *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al.* (N.D. Cal.)



Education:

- Whittier Law School, Los Angeles, California – J.D. – 1981
- University of Miami, Miami, Florida – M.B.A. – 1978
- Carleton University, Ontario, Canada – B.A. – 1976

Bar Admissions:

- California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles
- Consumer Attorneys of California
- Los Angeles County Bar Association



DANIEL L. WARSHAW

Daniel L. Warshaw, a founding partner of Pearson Warshaw, LLP, is a civil litigator and trial lawyer who focuses on antitrust, complex litigation, class actions, and consumer protection. Mr. Warshaw has held leadership roles in numerous state, federal and multidistrict class actions, and obtained significant recoveries for class members in many cases. These cases have included, among other things, antitrust violations, high-technology products, automotive parts, entertainment royalties, intellectual property and false and misleading advertising. Mr. Warshaw has also represented employees in a variety of class actions, including wage and hour, misclassification and other Labor Code violations.

Mr. Warshaw played an integral role in several of the firm's groundbreaking cases. In the *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, he assisted in leading this multidistrict to trial and securing \$473 million in recoveries to the direct purchaser plaintiff class. After the firm was appointed as interim co-lead counsel in *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*, Mr. Warshaw along with his partners and co-counsel successfully secured a \$1.86 billion settlement on behalf of the class.

Currently he serves in a lead or co-lead position in the following cases: *Vakilzadeh v. The Trustees of The California State University*, Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV23134, a putative class action alleging the students were not refunded for tuition and fees when the California State University System closed its campuses and provided remote learning in lieu of in person education; *Grace v. Apple, Inc.*, 5:17-CV-00551-YGR (N.D. Cal.), a certified class action on behalf of consumers who allege that Apple intentionally broke its "FaceTime" video conferencing feature for iPhones with older operating systems that recently settled for \$18 million on behalf of a California class; *In re KIND LLC "Healthy and All Natural" Litigation*, MDL No. 2645, (S.D.N.Y.), a multistate certified class action on behalf of consumers who allege that they purchased KIND snack bars that were falsely advertised as "all natural," and/or "non-GMO"; *Senne v. The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball*, 3:14-cv-00608-JCS (N.D. Cal.), a certified multistate class action alleging that Major League Baseball and its teams violate state and federal wage and hour laws relating to minor league players. On August 26, 2022, the court granted preliminary approval to a historic proposed \$185 million settlement.

Mr. Warshaw's cases have received significant attention in the press, and Mr. Warshaw has been profiled by the *Daily Journal* for his work in the digital download music cases. In 2022 Mr. Warshaw was named by the *Daily Journal* as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California. In 2019 and 2020, Mr. Warshaw was named as one of the Daily Journal's Top Plaintiff Lawyers. And in 2020 and 2022 he was also named one of the Daily Journal's Top Antitrust Lawyers. Additionally, Mr. Warshaw has been selected by his peers as a Super Lawyer (representing the top 5% of practicing lawyers in Southern California) every year since 2005. He has also attained Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating (AV) for legal ability and ethical standards.

Mr. Warshaw has assisted in the preparation of two Rutter Group practice guides: *Federal Civil Trials & Evidence* and *Civil Claims and Defenses*. Mr. Warshaw is the founder and Chair of the



Class Action Roundtable. The purpose of the Roundtable is to facilitate a high-level exchange of ideas and in-depth dialogue on class action litigation.

Current Cases:

- *Vakilzadeh v. The Trustees of The California State University*, (Cal. Super. Ct.)
- *In re KIND LLC “Healthy and All Natural” Litigation* (S.D.N.Y.)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *In re. Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation* (D. N.M.)
- *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al.* (N.D. Cal.)

Education:

- Whittier Law School, Los Angeles, California – J.D. – 1996
- University of Southern California – B.S. – 1992

Bar Admissions:

- California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Board Member
- Consumer Attorneys of California
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Complex Court Committee, Member
- Plaintiffs’ Class Action Roundtable, Chair



BRUCE L. SIMON

Bruce L. Simon is a partner emeritus at Pearson Warshaw, LLP and has lead the firm to national prominence. Mr. Simon specializes in complex cases involving antitrust, consumer fraud and securities. He has served as lead counsel in many business cases with national and global impact.

In 2019, Mr. Simon was named as one of the Daily Journal's Top Plaintiff Lawyers. In 2018, Mr. Simon was awarded "Antitrust Lawyer of the Year" by the California Lawyers Association. In 2013 and 2016, Mr. Simon was chosen by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 attorneys in California. In 2013, he received the California Lawyer of the Year award from California Lawyer Magazine and was selected as one of seven finalists for Consumer Attorney of the Year by Consumer Attorneys of California for his work in *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1827 (N.D. Cal.). That year, Mr. Simon was included in the Top 100 of California's "Super Lawyers" and has been named a "Super Lawyer" every year since 2003. He has attained Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating (AV) for legal ability and ethical standards.

Mr. Simon was co-lead class counsel in *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, a case that lasted over five years and resulted in \$473 million recovered for the direct purchaser plaintiffs. Mr. Simon served as co-lead trial counsel and was instrumental in obtaining an \$87 million jury verdict (before trebling). He presented the opening argument and marshalled numerous witnesses during the six-week trial.

Also, Mr. Simon was co-lead class counsel in *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*, a case alleging a conspiracy among the world's largest banks to maintain opacity of the credit default swaps market as a means of maintaining supracompetitive prices of bid/ask spreads. After three years of litigation and many months of intensive settlement negotiations, the parties in *CDS* reached a landmark settlement amounting to \$1.86 billion. It is one of the largest civil antitrust settlements in history.

Mr. Simon was also co-lead class counsel in *In re Potash Antitrust Litigation (II)*, MDL No. 1996 (N.D. Ill.), where he successfully argued an appeal of the district court's order denying the defendants' motions to dismiss to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Mr. Simon presented oral argument during an *en banc* hearing before the Court and achieved a unanimous 8-0 decision in his favor. The case resulted in \$90 million in settlements for the direct purchaser plaintiffs, and the Court's opinion is one of the most significant regarding the scope of international antitrust conspiracies.

More recently, Mr. Simon completed the trial seeking injunctive relief in the *In re National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litigation*. The plaintiffs allege that the NCAA and its member conferences violate the antitrust laws by restricting the value of grant-in-aid athletic scholarships and other benefits that college football and basketball players can receive.

**Reported Cases:**

- *Minn-Chem, Inc. et al. v. Agrium Inc., et al.*, 683 F.3d 845 (7th Cir. 2012)
- *In re National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litigation*, 141 S.Ct. 2141 (2021).

Education:

- University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, California – J.D. – 1980
- University of California, Berkeley, California – A.B. – 1977

Bar Admissions:

- California
- Supreme Court of the United States
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Publications:

- Class Certification Procedure, Ch. V, ABA Antitrust Class Actions Handbook (3d ed.), (forthcoming)
- Reverse Engineering Your Antitrust Case: Plan for Trial Even Before You File Your Case, *Antitrust*, Vol. 28, No. 2, Spring 2014
- *The Ownership/Control Exception to Illinois Brick in Hi-Tech Component Cases: A Rule That Recognizes the Realities of Corporate Price Fixing*, ABA International Cartel Workshop February 2014
- *Matthew Bender Practice Guide: California Unfair Competition and Business Torts*, LexisNexis, with Justice Conrad L. Rushing and Judge Elia Weinbach (Updated 2013)
- *The Questionable Use of Rule 11 Motions to Limit Discovery and Eliminate Allegations in Civil Antitrust Complaints in the United States*, ABA International Cartel Workshop February 2012

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- California State Bar Antitrust and Unfair Competition Section, Advisor and Past Chair
- ABA Global Private Litigation Committee, Co-Chair
- ABA International Cartel Workshop, Steering Committee
- American Association for Justice, Business Torts Section, Past Chair
- Business Torts Section of the American Trial Lawyers Association, Past Chair
- Hastings College of the Law, Board of Directors (2003-2015), Past Chair (2009-2011)

PARTNERS

MELISSA S. WEINER

Melissa S. Weiner is a partner and civil litigator whose work is squarely focused on combating consumer deception. Her experience is expansive, including class actions related to consumer protection, product defect, intellectual property, automotive, false advertising and data breach. Ms. Weiner has taken a leadership role in numerous large class actions and MDLs in cases across the country.

A contributor to her professional community, Ms. Weiner serves as Chair of the Development Committee for Public Justice and serves on the Minnesota Bar Association Food & Drug Law Council. Additionally, she teaches Food Law as an adjunct professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law and sits on the Food Law Center Advisory Board for Mitchell Hamline School of Law. In recognition of her outstanding efforts in the legal community, each year since 2012, Ms. Weiner has been named a Super Lawyers *Rising Star* by Minnesota Law & Politics.

Ms. Weiner has been appointed to leadership positions in the following MDLs and consolidated cases:

- *In Re: Luxottica of America, Inc. Data Security Breach Litigation* (S.D. Ohio) (Appointed Interim Executive Committee Member);
- *Culbertson v. Deloitte Consulting LLP* (S.D.N.Y.) (Appointed to Plaintiffs' Executive Committee), a nationwide data breach class action;
- *In Re: Fairlife Milk Products Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation* (N.D. Ill.) (Appointed Interim Co-Lead Counsel);
- *In Re Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Marketing & Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation* (D.N.M.) (chair of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and member of the Plaintiffs' Oversight Committee);
- *In Re Samsung Top-Load Washing Machine Marketing, Sales Practices & Product Liability Litigation* (W.D. Okla.), (appointed to Plaintiffs' Executive Committee), a nationwide class action regarding a design defect in 2.8 million top loading washing machines, which resulted in a nationwide settlement;
- *In Re Windsor Wood Clad Window Product Liability Litigation* (E.D. Wis.), a nationwide class action regarding allegedly defective windows, which resulted in a nationwide settlement.
- *In Re: Blackbaud, Inc. Customer Data Security Breach Litigation* (D.S.C.), nationwide data breach class action, (appointed to Plaintiffs' Steering Committee).
- *Dusko v. Delta Airlines, Inc.* (N.D. Ga.), a nationwide breach of contract class action (appointed as Co-Lead Class Counsel);
- *In re Apple Inc. App Store Simulated Casino Style Games Litigation* (N.D. Cal.), a multi-state statutory class action (appointed to Plaintiffs' Steering Committee).

Current Cases:

- *Anurag Gupta v. Aeries Software, Inc.* (C.D. Cal.) (data breach)
- *Ashour v. Arizona Beverages USA LLC et al.* (S.D.N.Y.) (false advertising/mislabeling)
- *Benson et al v. Newell Brands Inc., et al.* (N.D. Ill.) (false advertising/mislabeling)
- *Connor Burns v. Mammoth Media, Inc.* (C.D. Cal.) (data breach)
- *Daniels v. Delta Air Lines, Inc.* (N.D. Ga.). (COVID-19 pandemic relief)
- *In Re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *In Re Samsung Top-Load Washing Machine Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation* (W.D. Okla.)
- *In Re Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation* (D. N.M.) (false advertising/mislabeling)
- *Dusko v. Delta Airlines, Inc.*, (N.D. Ga.) (breach of contract)
- *Bombin v. Southwest Airlines Co.*, (E.D. Pa.) (breach of contract)
- *Freeman v. MAM USA Corp.* (N.D. Ill.) (false advertising/mislabeling)
- *In re: Apple Inc. App Store Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.; In re: Facebook, Inc. App Center Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.; and In re: Google Play Store Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.* (N.D. Cal).

Education:

- William Mitchell College of Law – J.D. – 2007
- University of Michigan – Ann Arbor – B.A. – 2004

Bar Admissions:

- New York
- Minnesota
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- U.S. District Court, Colorado
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Public Justice



BOBBY POUYA

Bobby Pouya is a partner in the firm's Los Angeles office, focusing on complex litigation, class actions, and consumer protection. Mr. Pouya has been an attorney with Pearson Warshaw, LLP since 2007, and has extensive experience in representing clients in a variety of contexts. He has served as a primary member of the litigation team in multiple cases that resulted in class certification or a class-wide settlement, including cases that involved high-technology products, price fixing, consumer safety and false and misleading advertising. The cases that Mr. Pouya has worked on have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in judgments and settlements on behalf of effected plaintiffs and class members.

Mr. Pouya has served as one of the attorneys representing direct purchaser plaintiffs in several complex antitrust cases, including *In re Polyurethane Foam Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ohio) and *In re Fresh and Processed Potatoes Antitrust Litigation* (D. Idaho). Mr. Pouya is currently actively involved in the prosecution of *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill), *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.), *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al.* (N.D. Cal.), as well as several prominent consumer class action lawsuits.

Mr. Pouya's success has earned him recognition by his peers as a Super Lawyers Rising Star (representing the top 2.5% of lawyers in Southern California age 40 or younger or in practice for 10 years or less) every year since 2008. Mr. Pouya earned his Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2006, where he received a certificate in dispute resolution from the prestigious Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and participated on the interschool trial and mediation advocacy teams, the Dispute Resolution Law Journal and the Moot Court Board.

Current Cases:

- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *In re Cattle Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al.* (N.D. Cal.)

Education:

- Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, California – J.D. – 2006
- University of California, Santa Barbara, California – B.A., with honors – 2003

Publications:

- *Should Offers Moot Claims?*, Daily Journal, Oct. 10, 2014
- *Central District Local Rules Hinder Class Certification*, Daily Journal, April 9, 2013

Bar Admissions:

- California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California



- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association
- Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles
- Consumer Attorneys of California
- Los Angeles County Bar Association

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- California State Bar Antitrust and Unfair Competition Section, Advisor and Past Chair
- ABA Global Private Litigation Committee, Co-Chair
- ABA International Cartel Workshop, Steering Committee
- American Association for Justice, Business Torts Section, Past Chair
- Business Torts Section of the American Trial Lawyers Association, Past Chair
- Hastings College of the Law, Board of Directors (2003-2015), Past Chair (2009-2011)

JILL M. MANNING

Jill M. Manning is a Partner in the firm's San Francisco Office. Ms. Manning has over twenty years of experience representing businesses and consumers in complex and class action litigation, with a focus on antitrust, unfair competition and consumer protection cases. She has successfully represented plaintiffs in some of the leading cases brought under federal and state antitrust and consumer protection. She has sued price-fixing cartels, high tech companies, electronics manufacturers, agribusinesses, healthcare companies and the NCAA, and achieved recoveries exceeding \$1.5 billion.

In the antitrust area, Ms. Manning is Co-Counsel for direct purchaser plaintiffs in an antitrust case against the leading suppliers of broiler chickens sold in the United States. *In re: Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Ill). She represented direct purchasers in an antitrust class action involving a conspiracy to raise the price of potatoes and secured an \$18.5 million settlement and injunctive relief valued at over \$1 billion. *In re: Fresh and Process Potatoes Antitrust Litig.* (D. Idaho). She played an integral role in prosecuting one of the nation's largest indirect purchaser antitrust class actions and was recognized by Special Master Martin Quinn as "one of the leaders in structuring and managing the overall document retrieval effort." *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig.* (N.D. Cal) (\$1.082 billion all-cash settlement).

In the consumer protection field, Ms. Manning was appointed by Judge Koh as Co-Lead Counsel for the certified class in *Grace v. Apple Inc.* (N.D. Cal.), a case alleging that Apple caused the popular FaceTime feature to stop working on certain iPhone devices. Ms. Manning was appointed by Judge Lee on Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in cases against the NCAA on behalf of Division I football players who suffered concussion-related personal injuries. *In re: NCAA Student/Athlete Concussion Injury Litig.* (N.D. Ill.). She was appointed by Judge Davila to Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in cases challenging the conduct of Apple, Google, and Facebook in supporting and profiting from illegal social casinos on their platforms. *In re: Apple Inc. App Store Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.; In re Facebook Inc. App Center Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.; In re Google Play Store Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.* (N.D. Cal).

Ms. Manning represented Eduardo Saverin in *Facebook v. Saverin* (Santa Clara Sup. Ct.), one of the cases featured in the Academy Award-winning movie, *The Social Network*, and achieved a confidential settlement.

In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Manning has demonstrated leadership in her professional life and community. She served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law Section of the California Bar Association during the 2017-2018 term and presently serves as an Advisor. During her tenure, she implemented numerous live and on-line educational opportunities for section members and created "Celebrating Women in Competition Law in California," an annual panel presentation and networking event now in its fifth year. She is a court-appointed neutral for the Northern District of California's Early Neutral Evaluation Program and a trained private mediator. She is an elected official, serving on the Board of Trustees of Shoreline Unified School District since 2010, and as President of the Board since 2016.

Current Cases:

- *In re: Apple Inc. App Store Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.; In re: Facebook, Inc. App Center Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig.; and In re: Google Play Store Simulated Casino-Style Games Litig. (N.D. Cal).*
- *In re: Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig. (N.D. Ill)*
- *In re: NCAA Student/Athlete Concussion Injury Litig. (N.D. Ill)*
- *In re: Pork Antitrust Litig. (D. Minn.)*
- *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al. (N.D. Cal.)*

Education:

- Cambridge University, Pembroke College (summer 1990)
- B.A., University of California at Davis (1991)
- J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law (1995)

Bar Admissions:

- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the Southern District of California
- State of California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association, Antitrust Section
- Bar Association of San Francisco, Antitrust Section
- California Lawyers Association, Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law Section
- Marin County Bar Association

Recent Events / Speaking Engagements:

- Panelist, Teatime with Angeion: Work-Life Balance in the COVID Era, March 4, 2021
- Creator and Co-Chair, Fourth Annual “Celebrating Women in Competition Law in California,” moderated by the Honorable Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, March 5, 2020
- Moderator, “Big Stakes Antitrust Trial: *In re Korean Ramen Antitrust Litigation*,” 29th Annual Golden State Antitrust Law Institute, Panel Presentation, November 14, 2019
- Moderator, “Managing Antitrust and Complex Business Trials,” featuring the Honorable William Alsup, Laurel Beeler, and Edward Chen, 28th Annual Golden State Antitrust, UCL and Privacy Law Institute, Panel Presentation, November 8, 2018



MICHAEL H. PEARSON

Michael H. Pearson is a Partner and civil litigator in the firm's Los Angeles office, focusing on complex litigation, class actions, and consumer protection. Mr. Pearson has extensive experience in representing clients in a variety of contexts. He has served as a member of the litigation team in multiple cases that resulted in class certification or a class-wide settlement, including cases that involved antitrust, business litigation, complex financial products, high-technology products, consumer safety, and false and misleading advertising. *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.*, No. 16 C 8637, 2022 WL 1720468, (N.D. Ill. May 27, 2022); *Benson v. Newell Brands, Inc.*, No. 19 C 6836, 2021 WL 5321510 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 16, 2021). Specifically, he was instrumental in managing the review of tens of millions of documents and drafting pleadings in *In Re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*, which was settled for \$1.86 billion, plus injunctive relief.

Mr. Pearson received his Bachelor of Science degree from Tulane University in 2008, majoring in Finance with an Energy Specialization. He received his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School Los Angeles in 2011. Mr. Pearson is an active member in a number of legal organizations, including the American Bar Association, Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Pearson's success has earned him recognition by his peers as a Super Lawyers Rising Star (representing the top 2.5% of lawyers in Southern California age 40 or younger or in practice for 10 years or less) in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Current Cases:

- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill.)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al.* (N.D. Cal.)
- *Benson et al v. Newell Brands Inc., et al.* (N.D. Ill)

Education:

- Loyola Law School Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California – J.D. – 2011
- Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana – B.S., *magna cum laude* – 2008

Bar Admissions:

- California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association



- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Los Angeles County Bar Association



BENJAMIN E. SHIFTAN

Benjamin E. Shiftan is a Partner in the firm’s San Francisco office. Since joining the firm in 2014, Mr. Shiftan has focused on complex class action litigation, including antitrust, insurance, wage and hour, product defect, and consumer protection cases. In 2019, Mr. Shiftan received an award from the American Antitrust Institute for “Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice” in connection with his and PW’s work on the groundbreaking *In re: NCAA Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Cal. Case No. 14-md-2541-CW). The damages portion of the case settled for \$208 million dollars, while the injunctive relief phase of the case ended with a 9-0 victory in front of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Shiftan litigated complex bad faith insurance cases for a national law firm. Before that, Mr. Shiftan served as a law clerk to the Honorable Peter G. Sheridan, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and worked for a mid-sized firm in San Diego.

Mr. Shiftan graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2009. While in law school, he served as Lead Articles Editor of the San Diego International Law Journal and competed as a National Team Member on the Moot Court Board. Mr. Shiftan won the school's Paul A. McLennon, Sr. Honors Moot Court Competition. At graduation, he was one of ten students inducted into the Order of the Barristers. Mr. Shiftan graduated from the University of Virginia in 2006.

Current Cases:

- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *Senne, et al. v. Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, et al.* (N.D. Cal.)
- *North American Soccer League, LLC v. United States Soccer Federation, Inc., and Major League Soccer, L.L.C.* (E.D.N.Y.)

Education:

- University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA – J.D. – 2009
- University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA – B.A. – 2006

Bar Admissions:

- California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- San Francisco County Bar Association
- American Bar Association



MATTHEW A. PEARSON

Matthew A. Pearson is a partner in the firm's Los Angeles office focusing on antitrust, consumer protection, business litigation and childhood sexual abuse matters. Matt received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona in 2010, majoring in Business Management, and received his Juris Doctorate from Whittier Law School in 2013.

Over the course of his career, Matt has represented clients in variety of different matters including toxic tort litigation, general business litigation, intellectual property, products liability, family law and high-stakes personal injury matters. Matt's clients have included public and private companies, closely held corporations and thousands of individuals.

Matt was part of the litigation team in the *National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litigation* which resulted in a plaintiff verdict for the injunctive relief portion of the case in 2018. The damages portion of the case had previously been settled for \$208 million. The plaintiffs' litigation team was honored with the "Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice" award by the American Antitrust Institute (AAI) in 2019 for their success in the matter. The verdict was later appealed to the United States Supreme Court where plaintiffs successfully upheld district court's verdict in a landmark 9-0 victory.

Matt is an active member in a number of legal organizations including the American Bar Association, American Association for Justice, Association of Business Trial Lawyers and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Matt has also been selected as a Southern California Rising Star by Super Lawyers from 2019 to the present.

Current Cases:

- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust* (N.D. Ill.)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *In re Cattle Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *Jennifer Andrews, et al v. Google LLC, et al* (N.D. Cal)
- *In re KIND LLC "Healthy and All Natural" Litigation* (S.D.N.Y.)
- *North American Soccer League, LLC v. United States Soccer Federation, Inc., and Major League Soccer, L.L.C.* (E.D.N.Y.)
- *In re Northern California Clergy Cases*
- *In re Southern California Clergy Cases*
- *In re The San Diego Diocese Cases*

Past Cases:

- *In re: Keurig Green Mountain Single-Serve Coffee Antitrust Litigation* (S.D.N.Y.) – **\$31 million settlement**
- *Grace v. Apple, Inc.* (N.D. Cal.) – **\$18 million settlement**
- *In re National Collegiate Athletic Association Athletic Grant-in-Aid Cap Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Cal.) – **\$208 million settlement**



- *In re Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation* (S.D.N.Y.) – **\$1.86 billion settlement**
- *Eashoo v. Iovate Health Sciences USA Inc.* (C.D. Cal.) – **\$2.5 million settlement**

Education:

- Whittier Law School, California – J.D. – 2013
- University of Arizona: Eller College of Management – B.S.– 2010

Bar Admissions:

- California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association
- American Association for Justice
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Los Angeles County Bar Association



OF COUNSEL

NEIL SWARTZBERG

Neil Swartzberg, Of Counsel to Pearson Warshaw, LLP, has significant litigation and counseling experience, with a track record of providing advice and representation to individuals and companies. He has expertise in complex and commercial litigation, focusing on consumer protection, antitrust and securities laws, primarily in the class action context. Practicing in both federal and state courts, he has litigated price-fixing class actions, securities fraud suits and other consumer protection cases, as well as patent infringement, trade secret misappropriation and related intellectual property matters.

Mr. Swartzberg was a leading attorney in the direct purchaser plaintiff class action *In re Static Random Access Memory (SRAM) Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Cal.). He was also actively involved in several other antitrust class actions, such as *In re International Air Transportation Surcharge Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Cal.), *Air Cargo Shipping Services Antitrust Litigation* (E.D.N.Y.), *In re Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Cal.), and *In re Optical Disk Drive (ODD) Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Cal.). In addition, he has represented patent owners and companies in infringement cases for patents covering video game controllers, Internet search functionality, secure mobile banking transactions and telecommunications switches.

His current cases include: direct purchaser antitrust class actions against the leading domestic producers of poultry (broiler chickens) and pork; several class actions on behalf students against colleges and universities seeking partial refunds of tuition and fees because of the schools closing their campuses and transitioning to online-only classes in the wake of COVID-19; an antitrust suit challenging the conduct of Major League Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation to exclude competition in men's professional soccer; and, two consumer class actions against airlines who failed to provide proper refunds when they canceled passengers' flights following COVID-19.

Current Cases:

- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill.)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)
- *Vakilzadeh v. The Trustees of California State University* (Cal. Sup. Ct., Los Angeles)
- *North American Soccer League, LLC v. United States Soccer Federation, Inc.* (E.D.N.Y.)
- *Bombin v. Southwest Airlines Co.* (E.D. Pa.)
- *Dusko v. Delta Air Lines, Inc.* (N.D. Ga.)

Education:

- University of California, Davis, School of Law– J.D. – 2001
- State University of New York, Buffalo – M.A. – 1994
- Duke University – A.B. – 1991



Bar Admissions:

- California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Federal Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania

Publications and Presentations:

- *The Hard Cell, Mobile banking and the Federal Circuit's "divided infringement" decisions*, Feb. 2013, Intellectual Property magazine, with Robert D. Becker.

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association

Languages:

- German (proficient)



ASSOCIATES

NAVEED ABAIE

Naveed Abaie is an associate in the firm's Los Angeles office focusing on consumer protection, antitrust, and business litigation.

He graduated from the University of San Diego, School of Law in 2017. While at the University of San Diego, Mr. Abaie earned his J.D. with a concentration in Business and Corporate Law. Mr. Abaie received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business in 2012.

Current Cases:

- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)

Education:

- University of San Diego, California – J.D. – 2017
- University of California, Berkeley, California – B.A.– 2012

Bar Admissions:

- California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- Iranian American Bar Association



BRIAN S. PAFUNDI

Brian S. Pafundi is an associate in the firm's Minneapolis office focusing on antitrust and consumer class actions.

Mr. Pafundi graduated from University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2010. After law school he worked as an Assistant Public Defender for the State of Minnesota where he handled a full and diverse caseload including felony trials.

Mr. Pafundi received his B.A. in Political Science in 2005 and a Master of Arts degree in Mass Communications in 2009, both from the University of Florida.

Current Case:

- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)

Education:

- University of Florida Levin College of Law – J.D. – 2010
- University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications – M.A. – 2009
- University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Science – B.A. – 2005

Bar Admission:

- Minnesota



ADRIAN J. BUONANOCE

Adrian J. Buonanoce is an associate in the firm's Los Angeles office, focusing on antitrust litigation.

Mr. Buonanoce received a Bachelor's degree in Political Economy from the University of California, Berkeley in 2012. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law with a concentration in International Law in 2018.

Current Case:

- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)

Education:

- University of San Diego, California – J.D. – 2018
- University of California, Berkeley, California – B.A.– 2012

Bar Admissions:

- California



ERIC J. MONT

Eric J. Mont is an associate in the firm's Los Angeles office focusing on antitrust, consumer protection, and business litigation. Mr. Mont has represented clients in a variety of different matters and works closely with clients, co-counsel, and opposing counsel on all aspects of litigation.

Mr. Mont received his Bachelor of Science degree from Loyola Marymount University in 2012, majoring in Natural Science. He received his Juris Doctorate from UCLA in 2017.

Current Cases:

- *In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litigation* (N.D. Ill)
- *In re Pork Antitrust Litigation* (D. Minn.)

Education:

- University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA– J.D. – 2017
- Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA– B.S.– 2012

Bar Admissions:

- California

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- American Bar Association



JACOB T. SCHUTZ

Jacob T. Schutz is an associate in the firm's Minneapolis office, focusing on consumer protection litigation.

Previously, Mr. Schutz litigated class-action cases against retirement fiduciaries, corporations, and employers at a national class action firm, recovering tens of millions of dollars for 401(k) plan participants.

Mr. Schutz received a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 2013.

Current cases:

- *In re: Blackbaud Inc., Customer Data Security Breach Litigation* (D.S.C.)
- *Ashour v. Arizona Beverages USA LLC* (S.D.N.Y.)
- *Benson v. NUK USA, LLC* (N.D. Ill.)
- *Davis v. Walmart, Inc.* (N.D. Cal.)
- *Freeman v. MAM USA Corporation* (N.D. Ill.)

Education:

- University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN – J.D. – 2013
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA – B.A.– 2010

Bar Admissions:

- Minnesota

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Foundation Fellow
- National Employment Lawyers Association