

EXHIBIT 4

BRAMSON, PLUTZIK, MAHLER & BIRKHAUSER, LLP

Bramson Plutzik, Mahler & Birkhaeuser, LLP is a San Francisco Bay Area law firm that specializes in representing plaintiffs in class actions, derivative suits and other complex litigation nationwide.

Members of the firm serving as lead or co-lead counsel have successfully handled class actions in which hundreds of millions of dollars have been recovered for the class members. Among these cases are: *In re Unocal Toxic Spill Litigation*, in which \$80 million was recovered for victims of a release of toxic chemicals; *Clark v. Ford Motor Credit Co.*, in which the plaintiff class recovered \$58.25 million; *Klussman v. Cross Country Bank*, in which the class achieved a \$21 million recovery; *Nguyen v. Verizon Wireless*, which also produced a \$21 million recovery; *Patrick v. Blue Shield of California*, in which \$20 million was recovered for the class; *Gross v. Barnett Bank*, in which over \$19 million was recovered; *Ganal v. Toyota Motor Credit*, in which an \$18 million recovery was achieved; *Henderson v. First Interstate Bank of California*, in which \$16.25 million was recovered for the plaintiff class; *Guyette v. Viacom, Inc.*, in which a settlement was negotiated that included a cash payment to the class of \$13 million; *Reed v. Bank of America*, in which \$9 million was recovered; *In re Worlds of Wonder Securities Litigation*, a securities fraud action which resulted in a \$9 million recovery; *Whitehouse v. Westcorp Financial Services, Inc.*, in which an \$8 million settlement was achieved. The firm's partners have represented clients in class action and derivative cases in federal and state courts throughout the United States.

In addition to its expertise in class actions and derivative litigation, the firm has also achieved prominence in the areas of telecommunications law and First Amendment litigation. The firm's efforts in these areas have resulted in significant published decisions, including two favorable rulings from the United States Supreme Court -- *Community Communications v. City of Boulder*, 455 U.S. 40 (1982) and *City of Los Angeles v. Preferred Communications*, 476 U.S. 488 (1986). See also *Preferred Communications v. City of Los Angeles*, 13 F.3d 1327 (9th Cir.), cert. denied, 114 S.Ct. 2738 (1994).

Robert M. Bramson

Robert M. Bramson has more than thirty years of experience in the litigation of antitrust and consumer cases, class actions and other complex litigation. Mr. Bramson received his undergraduate degree in economics, summa cum laude, from the University of California at Berkeley in 1977, and obtained his law degree from the Boalt Hall School of Law in 1981.

Mr. Bramson has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in numerous antitrust cases, and has acted as lead counsel in two such actions taken to trial -- *Pacific West Cable Co. v. City of Sacramento*, et al. (E.D. Cal.) (\$12 Million settlement on 24th day of trial, at close of plaintiff's case; Sherman Act §2 monopolization claims) and *Coleman et al. v. Sacramento Cable Television* (Sacramento Sup. Ct.) (\$2.4 Million judgment after 17-day trial; class action/B & P §17200 case; B & P §17024 discriminatory pricing claims).

Mr. Bramson specializes in antitrust, business torts and communications litigation, as well as in class action cases. He served for many years on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and co-chaired its class action committee. He is a contributing author to the National Consumer Law Center's publication *Consumer Class Actions*. He acted as reporter for the National Association of Consumer Advocates in preparing its influential *Standards and Guidelines For Consumer Class Actions*, 176 F.R.D. 375 (1997).

Mr. Bramson's lecture topics have included "Strategic and Ethical Issues in Litigating 17200 Cases" (Bar Association of San Francisco, San Francisco 2001), "Equitable Remedies In Class Actions and Under California's Section 17200 Statute" (National Association of Consumer Advocates, Chicago 2000), "Ethical Issues Arising in Class Action Settlements" (National Consumer Law Center, Wash. DC and San Diego 1999 and 1998) "California's Business & Professions Code Section 17200" (California Bar Association, Lake Tahoe 1997), "Preparation of Competitive Business Practices Cases" (Continuing Education of the Bar, Sacramento 1997), and "The Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984" (California State University, Fullerton 1993).

Robert M. Bramson Representative Cases

Klussman v. Cross Country Bank (Alameda County Superior Court) Honorable Ronald Sabraw and Honorable Lawrence Appel, presiding. Co-counsel for a consumer class against credit card issuer. Shortly before trial was due to commence, a settlement was negotiated that resulted in the recovery of consideration exceeding \$21 million.

Boltz v. Buena Vista Home Entertainment, et al. (Los Angeles Superior Court) Honorable Anthony Mohr, presiding. Co-counsel on behalf of a nationwide class of hard of hearing persons seeking "close captioning" of content on the DVDs distributed to the public by four major motion picture studios. Case was settled by stipulations to industry-changing injunctions requiring greater captioning.

Acree v. General Motors Acceptance Corp. (Sacramento Superior Court; Third District Court of Appeal) Honorable James Long, presiding. Class action challenging insurance charges imposed upon borrowers by defendant. Following extended trial and multiple appeals, judgment for class and award of fees against defendant totaling approximately \$7,000,000 upheld on appeal.

In re Unocal Refinery Litigation (Contra Costa Superior Court) Honorable Ignacio Ruvulo, presiding. One of two co-lead counsel for a class of victims exposed to a toxic chemical spill. Following extensive discovery, including several months of daily depositions, an \$80,000,000 settlement was negotiated.

Pacific West Cable Company v. City of Sacramento, et al. (U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal.) Honorable Milton L. Schwarz, presiding. Antitrust jury trial on behalf of plaintiff. Case settled for \$12,000,000 after month-long presentation of plaintiff's case in chief.

Coleman v. Sacramento Cable Television (Sacramento Superior Court) Honorable Roger K. Warren, presiding. Judgment of \$2,400,000 obtained for clients in Bus. & Prof. Code §17200 “quasi-class” case, following 26 day trial.

Campisi v. Chavez, et al. (Arbitration) Charles E. Farnsworth, Esq., Referee, presiding. Defended clients against claims of breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. Three week arbitration proceeding resulting in ruling limiting plaintiff to amount stipulated as due.

Pacific West Cable Company v. City of Sacramento, et al. (U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal.) Honorable Milton L. Schwarz, presiding. Twenty-nine day jury trial challenging municipal cable franchising activities. Favorable jury verdicts (see 672 F. Supp. 1322) led to \$6,000,000 settlement for client as well as injunction permitting access to the market.

Nor-West Cable Communications Partnership v. City of St. Paul (U.S. District Court, D. Minn.) Honorable Joseph Alsop, presiding. Three month jury trial challenging municipal policy fostering monopolization of local cable television market.

Furniture Creations, Inc. v. Universal Furniture (Los Angeles Superior Court) Honorable Robert Einstein, presiding. Three week jury trial in breach of contract case resulting in \$1,000,000 verdict for clients.

Robert M. Bramson Selected Published Decisions:

Klussman v. Cross Country Bank, 134 Cal.App.4th 1283 (2005).

Acree v. General Motors Acceptance Corp., 92 Cal.App.4th 385 (2001).

Heartland Communications, Inc. v. Sprint Corp., 161 F.R.D. 111 (D. Kan. 1995).

Preferred Communications, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles, 13 F.3d 1327 (9th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 512 U.S. 1235 (1994).

Gordon v. Ford Motor Credit Corp., 868 F. Supp. 1191 (N.D. Cal. 1992).

Century Federal, Inc. v. City of Palo Alto, 710 F.Supp. 1559 (N.D. Cal. 1988).

Pacific West Cable Company v. City of Sacramento, 672 F. Supp. 1322 (E.D. Cal. 1987) and 693 F. Supp. 865 (E.D. Cal. 1988).

Colorado Springs Cablevision, Inc. v. Lively, 579 F. Supp. 252 (D. Colo. 1984).

Alan R. Plutzik

Alan R. Plutzik specializes in complex business litigation in federal and state courts. Areas of particular emphasis include consumer class actions, securities fraud and corporate governance litigation, antitrust and communications law. Mr. Plutzik is admitted to practice in California and the District of Columbia Bar (inactive member) and is a member of the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the Second, Third, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and District of Columbia Circuits and a number of federal district courts.

Mr. Plutzik joined the firm upon his graduation from the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1977. He received his undergraduate degree from St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1971, and holds an M. A. from Stanford University.

Mr. Plutzik has handled a wide variety of class actions and derivative cases. He has represented, among other clients,

- investors in securities class actions
- shareholders in corporate derivative suits;
- victims of consumer fraud;
- parties alleging breach of contract by insurance companies and other corporations;
- limited partners challenging conduct by their general partners;
- consumers and businesses harmed by price-fixing and other anticompetitive conduct;
- employees in ERISA and wage/hour cases;
- property owners in litigation challenging policies that affect their property rights;
- purchasers of mislabeled and defective products;
- home buyers in suits brought under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act;
- victims of toxic pollution; and
- Subscribers to cellular, landline telephone, cable TV and Internet-delivered services.

Mr. Plutzik has also represented technology companies in litigation and arbitration, and broadcasters, cable television companies, communications common carriers and consumers in litigation and in administrative proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission. He has been designated a Northern California SuperLawyer.

Mr. Plutzik has written or lectured on topics that include class actions, California consumer law, substantive and procedural issues under the federal securities laws, First Amendment issues applicable to the media, cable television franchising and legal issues arising from cable television companies' access to utility poles and real estate developments. He has appeared as a guest radio commentator on the Len Tillem Show on KGO-Radio in San Francisco, discussing class actions, consumer protection law and investor rights.

Mr. Plutzik has served as a judge *pro tem* on the Contra Costa County Superior Court. He is also Co-President of the Warren W. Eukel Teacher Trust, a charity that honors outstanding teachers in Contra Costa County, California.

Alan R. Plutzik Representative Cases

In re Pacific Bell Late Fee Litigation (Contra Costa County Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik is co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs in a consumer class action challenging the validity of a landline telephone company's late fees in light of California statutory limitations on liquidated damages. A \$38 million settlement was negotiated and approved by the Court.

Patrick v. California Physicians' Service dba Blue Shield of California (San Francisco County, California Superior Court and United States District Court for the Northern District of California). Mr. Plutzik represented the plaintiffs in a class action for consumer fraud, unfair business practices and violations of ERISA arising from allegedly deceptive and unfair practices by a health insurance company in connection with patient co-payments for hospital treatment. A settlement of \$20 million was negotiated after the close of discovery.

In re Cellphone Termination Fee Cases – Handset Locking Actions (Alameda County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik served as co-lead counsel in five coordinated cases challenging the secret locking of cellphone handsets by major national wireless carriers to prevent consumers from activating them on competitive carriers' systems. Settlements were approved in all five cases on terms that required the cellphone carriers to disclose their handset locks to consumers and to provide unlocking codes nationwide on reasonable terms and conditions. The settlements fundamentally changed the landscape for cellphone consumers nationwide regarding the locking and unlocking of cellphone handsets.

In re Cellphone Termination Fee Cases – Early Termination Fee Cases (Alameda County, California Superior Court and Federal Communications Commission). Mr. Plutzik is Liaison Counsel and a member of the plaintiffs' Executive Committee in connection with claims challenging the validity under California law of early termination fees imposed by national cellphone carriers. In one of those cases, against Verizon Wireless, a nationwide settlement was reached after three weeks of trial in the amount of \$21 million. In a second case, which was tried to verdict and affirmed on appeal, the Court ruled after trial that more than \$73 million of flat early termination fees that Sprint PCS had collected from California consumers over an eight-year period were void and unenforceable, and enjoined Sprint from collecting an additional \$225 million of such charges that had been billed but not paid.

Guyette v. Viacom, Inc. (Alameda County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik was co-counsel for a class of cable television subscribers who alleged that the defendant had improperly failed to share certain tax refunds with the subscribers. A settlement was negotiated shortly before trial under which defendants paid the class \$13 million in cash.

Green v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. (San Francisco County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik was co-counsel for a California class of MetLife policy holders in a class action alleging that MetLife had engaged in “twisting,” “churning” and other misconduct in the sale of replacement life insurance policies. After the California class was certified, the case settled on a nationwide basis for consideration in excess of \$1 billion.

In re Pacific Lumber Company Securities Litigation (United States District Court, Southern District of New York). Mr. Plutzik was counsel for the plaintiff class in a securities class action arising out of a tender offer for Pacific Lumber Company by a corporate raider. The plaintiff class recovered in excess of \$140 million.

In re Worlds of Wonder Securities Litigation (United States District Court, Northern District of California). Mr. Plutzik was co-lead counsel for the plaintiff class in a securities fraud class action against officers, directors, venture capitalists and auditors of failed toy company in a case raising complex accounting and auditing issues. After percipient and expert discovery, summary judgment, appeal and remand, a settlement was reached against the company's auditor, Deloitte & Touche, LLP, for \$9 million. The case resulted in a number of published opinions – e.g., *In re Worlds of Wonder Securities Litigation*, 35 F.3d 1407 (9th Cir. 1994), *cert. denied*, 516 U.S. 868 (1995); 694 F. Supp. 1427 (N.D. Cal. 1988); 721 F. Supp. 1140 (N.D. Cal. 1989); 1990 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18396, [1990-91 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) 95,689 (N.D. Cal. 1990); 147 F.R.D. 208 (N.D. Cal. 1992).

McCall v. Newkirk Capital LLC (Connecticut Superior Court, New Britain Judicial District). Mr. Plutzik represented a class of investors in 90 limited partnerships in a suit arising out of a consolidation, or “rollup,” of the partnerships. A settlement was negotiated and approved by the Court that provided for the class to receive significant consideration, including cash, additional partnership units and a restructuring of certain assets and agreements with the general partner and its affiliates.

In re Daisy Systems Securities Litigation (United States District Court, Northern District of California). Mr. Plutzik represented a plaintiff class in a securities fraud class action against the directors and officers of a Silicon Valley company. A \$13.1 million settlement was reached.

Hodge v. Franklin Select Realty Trust (San Mateo County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik was co-counsel for a shareholder class in a claim against directors and officers of a real estate investment trust and others, arising out of merger with two other related companies. A settlement of \$4 million was negotiated.

Barnett v. Glenborough Pension Investors (San Mateo County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik was co-counsel for a plaintiff class of limited partners in a claim against general partners, attorneys and lenders arising from the restructuring of a real estate limited

partnership. A settlement of approximately \$3 million was reached after the close of expert discovery.

In re Technical Equities Federal Securities Litigation (United States District Court, Northern District of California). Mr. Plutzik represented the plaintiff class in securities fraud class action against directors, officers, auditors, attorneys, lenders and investment bankers of a public corporation that operated a complex Ponzi scheme. A global classwide settlement in the amount of \$13 million was reached shortly before trial. See *In re Technical Equities Federal Securities Litigation*, 1988 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15813, [1988-89 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) P 94, 093 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 3, 1988)

Daniels v. Centennial Group (Orange County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik was co-counsel for the plaintiff class in a claim for fraud, negligent misrepresentation and breach of fiduciary duty against general partners and promoters arising from a "roll-up" of six real estate limited partnerships. A settlement of approximately \$4 million was reached on behalf of the investors. The case resulted in an important published opinion regarding the standards for class certification under California law – *Daniels v. Centennial Group, Inc.*, 16 Cal.App.4th 467 (1993).

Harbor Finance Partners v. BKP Capital Management et al. (San Francisco County Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik was co-counsel for a plaintiff class consisting of both individual and institutional investors in an action asserting claims of misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty and unfair business practices against a hedge fund, its general partner, its auditor and others. The action settled on terms favorable to the class.

Condes v. Evercom et al. (Alameda County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik was co-counsel for a class of recipients of inmate telephone calls. A partial class settlement which, together with individual settlements, resulted in the recovery of more than \$1 million was negotiated and approved by the Court.

NV Security, Inc. v. Fluke Networks, Inc. (U.S. District Court, Central District of California). Mr. Plutzik was counsel in a class action on behalf of purchasers of allegedly defective telephone line equipment. A settlement was negotiated that included monetary and injunctive relief for class members.

McCullough v. Jameson (United States District Court for the Northern District of California) – Individual and derivative case on behalf of shareholders of a privately held oil company for alleged misappropriation of corporate opportunities and other breaches of fiduciary duties. The case settled favorably.

Stock Options Backdating Derivative Cases (United States District Court, Northern District of California) – Mr. Plutzik served as Liaison Counsel in a number of corporate derivative cases in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California alleging the improper backdating of stock options, including *In re Integrated Silicon Solutions Derivative Cases*, *In re Actel Derivative Cases* and *In re Chordiant Derivative Cases*. Successful results were achieved in all of those cases.

In re Washington Public Power Supply Securities Litigation (United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit) – Mr. Plutzik represented a class action law firm in a case that established important principles regarding the compensation of plaintiffs’ counsel in federal class actions. The case resulted in a published opinion. *In re Washington Public Power Supply Sys. Sec. Litig.*, 19 F.3d 1291, 1300 (9th Cir. 1994).

Antitrust Direct and Indirect Purchaser Class Actions – Mr. Plutzik has served in a leadership position in numerous antitrust class actions, including *In re Methionine Direct Purchaser Antitrust Litigation* (United States District Court for the Northern District of California), *In re California Indirect Purchaser MSG Antitrust Litigation* (San Francisco County Superior Court) and *In re California Infant Formula Indirect Purchaser Antitrust Litigation* (San Francisco County Superior Court).

California Community Television Association v. Pacific Gas & Electric Company (Alameda County, California Superior Court), *Group Cable v. PG&E* (United States District Court for the Northern District of California) and *California Community Television Association v. Pacific Gas & Electric Company* (California Public Utilities Commission) – associational and class action cases alleging antitrust and related business tort claims for denial of access to utility poles on reasonable terms, and administrative action seeking regulatory ruling setting fair and reasonable prices and terms, brought on behalf of California cable television companies against a public utility. The cases were settled on terms that permitted favorable conditions of access to the poles.

Lucero v. Frederick's of Hollywood, Inc. (Santa Clara County, California Superior Court). Mr. Plutzik served as lead counsel for an employee class in this wage and hour class action. A \$950,000 settlement was approved by the Court.

USA Media Group LLC v. Truckee Donner Public Utility District (United States District Court for the Eastern District of California). Mr. Plutzik represented a cable television company in a claim brought against a public utility district for constitutional and antitrust violations and related state-law claims arising from restrictions imposed by the public utility district on the cable television company's access to utility poles owned by the public utility district, which was planning to offer competitive cable television service. The case settled on terms that permitted the cable television company to continue to obtain access the poles on reasonable terms and conditions.

Tele-Communications of Key West, Inc. v. United States (United States District Court, District of the District of Columbia). Mr. Plutzik represented a cable television company in constitutional litigation arising from its provision of service on Homestead Air Force Base. *Telecommunications of Key West, Inc. v. United States*, 757 F.2d 1330 (D.C. Cir. 1985).

Citizens Cable Communications Co. v. Cox Cable Communications Co. (United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana). Mr. Plutzik represented a cable television company in litigation arising from an option to purchase a cable television system in a neighboring community. The case settled favorably during trial.

Daniel E. Birkhaeuser

Daniel E. Birkhaeuser received his law degree from the University of California, Davis in 1988. While at Davis, he served as an Editor of the *U.C. Davis Law Review*.

Following graduation, Mr. Birkhaeuser joined the law firm of McCutchen, Doyle, Brown and Enersen. At the McCutchen firm, he represented plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of complex civil litigation matters including real estate, bankruptcy and environmental litigation. In 1991, Mr. Birkhaeuser co-chaired an eight week trial in *Quadrant Corporation v. First Interstate Bank*, Contra Costa County Superior Court Action No. C90-03855 recovering for his client over \$15 million which, at that time, was the largest jury verdict in Contra Costa County history.

In 1992, Mr. Birkhaeuser began to focus his career on class action litigation at the trial and appellate levels. One such matter, *Harris v. Chase Manhattan Bank*, N.A. (1994) 34 Cal. App. 4th 1563, resulted in a favorable decision, the reasoning of which was affirmed by the California Supreme Court in a companion case entitled *Smiley v. Citibank* (1995) 11 Cal. 4th 138, and ultimately by the United States Supreme Court in the same case. *Smiley v. Citibank* (1996) 517 U.S. 735.

Mr. Birkhaeuser joined the firm in 1994 and became a partner in 1997. At the firm, he has prosecuted class action cases involving insurance, false nutritional labeling, price fixing and securities fraud. Mr. Birkhaeuser served in a leadership position in *In Re Kansas Vitamin Antitrust Litigation* and *In re Wisconsin Vitamin Antitrust Litigation*, which were coordinated through proceedings in the District of Columbia and consolidated with *parens patriae* actions brought by attorneys general in 23 jurisdictions; and in *In re DRAM California Indirect Purchaser Antitrust Litigation* and *In re California Polyester Indirect Purchaser Antitrust Litigation*, in which he served on the plaintiffs' Executive Committee. He has also served as a judge *pro tem* in the Contra Costa Superior Court.

Other Significant Cases:

Van Warmerdam v. Honey Hill Farms (arbitration) Honorable William Boone, presiding. Lead counsel in complex contract dispute resulting in verdict in client's favor on complaint and cross-complaint.

Meadow Wood Land Company v. Landmark Vineyards, Ltd, et. al., First Appellate District No. AO43692. Lead counsel for defendants and respondents in case which settled favorably after the filing of Respondents' brief on appeal.

Leshar Communications, Inc. v. City of Walnut Creek, 52 Cal. 3d 531 (1991). Landmark decision under California Environmental Quality Act addressing City's ability to amend general plan by voter initiative.

Acree v. General Motors, Inc., 92 Cal. App. 4th 385 (2001). Important decision defining scope of covenant of good faith and fair dealing and reasonableness of fee award after class action trial against tenacious defendant.

Morelli v. Weider Nutrition Group, Inc., 275 A.D.2d 607, 712 N.Y.S. 2d 551 (1st Dept. 2000). Case of first impression holding that plaintiffs' claims for false nutritional labeling were not preempted by the Nutritional Labeling and Education Act.

Jennifer S. Rosenberg

Jennifer S. Rosenberg is senior counsel with the firm. She received her A.B. in political science, with great distinction in general scholarship, in 1981 from the University of California at Berkeley. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Rosenberg obtained her law degree from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall) in 1985.

From 1985 to 1987, Ms. Rosenberg was an associate with the law firm of McKenna, Conner & Cuneo. Before joining Bramson, Plutzik, Mahler & Birkhaeuser, she was associated with McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen. As an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco, she has taught business law and business ethics in the undergraduate and MBA programs of the McLaren School of Business.

Ms. Rosenberg is a contributing writer for Justice Maria Rivera's *California Practice Guide: Civil Procedure Before Trial Forms* (The Rutter Group), and is the principal drafter of the guide's class action forms. She has published articles in *California Lawyer* and *Business Voice* magazines and edited the 1994 edition of Remy, Thomas & Moose's *Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act*.

At Bramson, Plutzik, Mahler & Birkhaeuser, Ms. Rosenberg has focused on the prosecution of consumer class actions. Ms. Rosenberg is admitted to practice in California and is a member of the bars of the federal district courts of California and of the Ninth Circuit. She has acted as a judge pro tem for civil matters and a small claims appeals judge in Superior Court and as a fee arbitrator.

Selected Published Decisions:

Figueroa v. Sharper Image Corporation, 517 F.Supp.2d 1292 (S.D. Fla. 2007)

Acree v. General Motors Acceptance Corporation, 92 Cal. App. 4th 385 (2001)

Mangini v. Aerojet-General Corporation, 230 Cal.App.3d 1125 (1991)

Michael S. Strimling

Michael S. Strimling has extensive experience in complex litigation and class actions. He received his J.D. from Boalt Hall Law School at U.C. Berkeley and was admitted to the California Bar in 1980. As well as actively prosecuting class actions and mass tort litigation while at Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, at Bramson, Plutzik, Mahler & Birkhaeuser, LLP, and of counsel in other complex litigation, he has defended class actions while associated with Bartko, Zankel, Tarrant & Miller and Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean.

In addition, Mr. Strimling has served as the Research Attorney for the Complex Litigation Department of Santa Clara County Superior Court, as a Senior Research Attorney to the California Sixth District Court of Appeal, as a Research Attorney to the Alameda County Superior Court, as a Legal Advisor to the Solomon Islands government in the United States Peace Corps, and as a three-term member of the California State Bar's Committee on the Administration of Justice. In addition to admission before State and Federal District Courts he has been admitted to the Bar and argued before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C., lectured in continuing legal education seminars, published articles on derivative litigation, and been admitted to the New Zealand and Solomon Islands Bar.

Jenelle Welling

Jenelle Welling graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2000, where she was honored with the American Jurisprudence Award in both Moot Court and Trial Advocacy. She also was a member of the Hastings Women's Law Journal. Prior to law school, Ms. Welling received a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley. She graduated with Highest Honors from the University of California at San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Recognized as a Rising Star by the Super Lawyers of Northern California in 2010 and 2011, Ms. Welling is a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates, the Consumer Attorneys of California, and the Contra Costa County Bar Association. Her primary practice area is complex and class action litigation in consumer financial services and consumer products. She also practices in antitrust and commercial litigation. She has lectured on the Truth in Billing Act, mediating consumer class actions, and presented seminars on the basics of consumer class action litigation for plaintiffs' lawyers.

Some of the clients and plaintiff classes Ms. Welling has represented include:

- *In re: Ford Explorer Cases, J.C.C.P. Nos. 4266 & 4270.* Ms. Welling, along with co-counsel, represented a class of California consumers alleging that Ford withheld material information about the rollover propensity of the Ford Explorer. Ms. Welling was a member of the 5-person trial team that presented plaintiffs' case over the course of a 50-day trial, and was primarily responsible for presenting expert testimony in support of restitution under Business & Professions Code §17200 totaling more than \$500 million. The case settled on the eve of closing argument and ultimately provided injunctive relief that will inure to the benefit of consumers nationwide, as well as the opportunity for monetary redress for consumers in California, Texas, Illinois, and Connecticut.

- *In re CARB Compliant Gasoline Cases II, JCCP No. 4449.* Jenelle Welling served as co-liaison counsel in this anti-trust action filed in California Superior Court. Plaintiffs allege that Union Oil Company misled the California Air Resources Board (CARB) into adopting standards for the composition of summertime reformulated gasoline that overlapped with Union Oil Company's then undisclosed and pending patents. Through this alleged deception and other alleged anti-competitive acts, California consumers in the downstream market allegedly overpaid for summertime CARB-complaint gasoline. A settlement providing \$48 million in cy pres was approved by the court in 2008.
- *In re: Baycol Cases I and II.* This action alleges that Bayer's advertisement and sale of the cholesterol drug Baycol, which was ultimately pulled from the market for safety risks, violated California's Unfair Competition Law. In February 2011, Ms. Welling successfully overturned an appellate opinion, and obtained a ruling in Plaintiff's favor on important class action procedural issues. *See In re Baycol Cases I and II*, (2011) 51 Cal.4th 751.
- *Brothers v. Hewlett-Packard.* In this case, Ms. Welling secured speedy relief for owners nationwide of certain HP laptop computers that were alleged to contain a defect associated with an advanced graphics card. Consumers received a new, equally performing graphics card at no expense and a refund of 100% of expenses associated with any repair of the alleged defect. This case also generated the first decision within the Ninth Circuit establishing federal jurisdiction under CAFA for Magnuson-Moss claims without the 100 plaintiff jurisdictional requirement. *See Brothers v. Hewlett Packard, Co.*, Case No. 06-02254, 2007 WL 485979 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 12, 2007).
- *In re: Tenet Healthcare Cases II.* Jenelle Welling served on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in this consolidated action that obtained redress for uninsured consumers who received treatment from one of Tenet Healthcare's 42 California hospitals. The complaint alleged Tenet charged exorbitant and unconscionable prices, for example, marking up prescription drugs 1,038% on average, to increase revenues and profits. A national settlement was approved in August 2005 that provides for restitution, injunctive relief and \$4 million of cy pres damages. The settlement has been hailed as a model for how the nation's uninsured population should be billed for hospital care.
- *Prata v. Bank One.* Ms. Welling, along with co-counsel, represented the plaintiff class in this case involving "Same as Cash" credit card financing claims. The Superior Court in Los Angeles approved a \$3 million cash settlement for California consumers who participated in the "Same as Cash" financing plan. Litigation of this case resulted in a oft-cited opinion interpreting Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *Prata v. Sup. Ct.* (2001) 91 Cal. App. 4th 1128.

- *Starkey v. Rusnak BMW*. Ms. Welling led this class action asserting that expensive BMW wheels on new cars were secretly replaced before sale with lower value after market wheels. The action was resolved quickly to the benefit of the class, and included an agreement by the dealer to refrain from selling after market wheels on new cars.
- *Prata v. GE Capital*. Ms. Welling, along with co-counsel, restored another \$2.5 million to Californians who were duped by the "Same as Cash" advertising slogan and program that GE bought from Bank One. GE also agreed to refrain from using the "Same as Cash" slogan to advertise financing plans that require minimum monthly payments.

Paul F. Mahler (Of Counsel)

Paul F. Mahler is a 1980 graduate of the University of California, Boalt Hall School of Law. After working several years in-house at a major educational company headquartered in San Francisco, Mr. Mahler joined the firm in 1985, became a partner in 1997 and is currently of counsel to the firm.

Mr. Mahler handles business transactions, representing primarily small and medium-sized businesses. Mr. Mahler's transactional work includes entity formation and agreements among owners; the purchase and sale of assets, stock or other interests; intellectual property issues; employment matters; and commercial real estate matters, primarily in leasing. His clients include high technology companies, biotechnology companies, accounting and insurance firms and companies with significant retail store operations.