

# CALIFORNIA

## Local litigation firms

### Highly recommended

Altshuler Berzon

Girardi Keese

Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

### Recommended

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble & Mallory

Blecher & Collins

Bramson Plutzik Mahler & Birkhaeuser

Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy

Dietrich Siben Thorpe

Gold Bennett Cera Sidener

Kiesel Boucher & Larson

Pearson Simon Warshaw & Penny

## Local litigation stars

### Howard Alperin

Blecher & Collins  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

### William Bernstein

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein  
Antitrust

### Stephen Berzon

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

### Daniel Birkhaeuser

Bramson Plutzik Mahler & Birkhaeuser  
Class Action, Commercial Litigation, Securities

### Maxwell Blecher

Blecher & Collins  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

### Roy Boucher

Kiesel Boucher Larson  
Civil Litigation, Employment/Labor, Products Liability

### Richard Bramson

Bramson Plutzik Mahler & Birkhaeuser  
Antitrust, Class Action, Commercial Litigation

### Elizabeth Cabraser

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein  
Antitrust, Employment/Labor, Environmental Litigation, False Claims Act, Personal Injury

### Hamilton Candee

Altshuler Berzon  
Employment/Labor

### Solomon Cera

Gold Bennett Cera & Sidener  
Commercial Litigation

### Eve Cervantez

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

### Barbara Chisholm

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

### Craig Corbitt

Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

### Joseph Cotchett

Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy  
Commercial Litigation, Securities

### John Courtney

Girardi Keese  
Class Action, Insurance, Mass Torts, Products Liability

### Jeffrey Demain

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

### Kelly Dermody

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein  
Consumer Protection, Employment/Labor

### Edward Dietrich

Dietrich Siben Thorpe  
Securities

### Michael Fazio

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Class Action, Commercial Litigation, Securities

### Daniel Feinberg

Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson  
Commercial Litigation, Employment/Labor

### James Finberg

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

### Thomas Girardi

Girardi Keese  
Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability

### Richard Heimann

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein  
Antitrust, Personal Injury, Securities

### Daniel Hodes

Hodes Milman  
Medical Malpractice

### Diane Hutnyan

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Antitrust, Class Action, Intellectual Property

### Michele Jackson

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein  
Antitrust

### Todd Jackson

Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson  
Employment/Labor

### Robert Keese

Girardi Keese  
Insurance, Intellectual Property, Toxic Torts

### David Kesselman

Blecher & Collins  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

### Paul Kiesel

Kiesel Boucher Larson  
Civil Litigation, Class Action, Personal Injury

### Karin Kramer

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Class Action, Intellectual Property, Securities

### Scott Kronland

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

### William Larson

Kiesel Boucher Larson  
Commercial and Civil Litigation

**Bill Lee**

Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson  
Employment/Labor, Human Rights

**Danielle Leonard**

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

**Jeffrey Lewis**

Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson  
Commercial Litigation, Employment/Labor

**Stacey Leyton**

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

**Maryann Marzano**

Blecher & Collins  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

**Daniel Mason**

Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

**Niall McCarthy**

Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy  
Commercial Litigation, Consumer Protection, False Claims Act, Personal Injury

**Howard Miller**

Girardi Keese  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

**Jeffery Milman**

Hodes Milman  
Personal Injury

**Robert Nelson**

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein  
Environmental Litigation, False Claims Act, Personal Injury, Securities

**Peter Nussbaum**

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

**Clifford Pearson**

Pearson Simon Warshaw & Penny  
Antitrust, Class Action, Commercial Litigation, Consumer Protection, Employment/Labor

**Theodore Penny**

Pearson Simon Warshaw & Penny  
Employment/Labor

**Louis Petrich**

Leopold Petrich & Smith  
Commercial and Civil Litigation

**John Pierce**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Commercial Litigation, Employment/Labor, Insurance, Securities

**Frank Pitre**

Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy  
Commercial Litigation, Consumer Protection, Personal Injury

**Alan Plutzik**

Bramson Plutzik Mahler & Birkhaeuser  
Antitrust, Class Action, Commercial Litigation, Securities

**Daniel Purtell**

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

**John Quinn**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Securities

**V Andre Rekte**

Girardi Keese  
Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Products Liability, Wrongful Death

**Teresa Renaker**

Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson  
Employment/Labor

**Michael Rubin**

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

**Fran Scarpulla**

Zelle Hofmann Voelbel & Mason  
Antitrust, Class Action, Commercial Litigation

**Matthew Siben**

Dietrich Siben Thorpe  
Securities

**Bruce Simon**

Pearson Simon Warshaw & Penny  
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Consumer Protection

**Amy Solomon**

Girardi Keese  
Insurance, Products Liability, Professional Malpractice, Toxic Torts

**Peter Thoreen**

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

**David Thorpe**

Dietrich Siben Thorpe  
Securities

**A William Urquhart**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Antitrust, Class Action, Intellectual Property, Securities

**Charles Verhoeven**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Intellectual Property

**Marshall Wallace**

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble & Mallory  
Commercial Litigation

**Daniel Warshaw**

Pearson Simon Warshaw & Penny  
Antitrust, Class Action, Commercial Litigation, Consumer Protection, Employment/Labor, Products Liability

**Stephen Watkins**

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble & Mallory  
Commercial Litigation

**Jonathan Weissglass**

Altshuler Berzon  
Class Action, Employment/Labor

**Janette Wipper**

Sanford Wittels & Heisler  
Civil Rights, Class Action, Employment/Labor

**Terry Wit**

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan  
Class Action, Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property



# California

**With the boom in commercial and insurance-related claims, plaintiffs firms in California have benefited from the swell in litigation. Attorneys that traditionally represent plaintiffs in civil litigation are involved in more business-to-business litigation than usual.**

## Highly recommended firms

### Altshuler Berzon

Based in San Francisco, Altshuler Berzon has earned nationwide acclaim for litigation excellence. Altshuler Berzon specializes in labor and employment, environmental, constitutional and civil rights litigation, at both the trial court and appellate levels. Typical clients include labor federations, international and local labor unions, workers, consumers, and public interest organizations. In the past several years, Altshuler Berzon has increased its representation of plaintiffs in class actions and its environmental litigation practice. Altshuler Berzon is currently representing a class of hourly employees of KFC's California restaurants alleging that KFC denies employees' meal and rest periods and forces them to work off the clock at the end of the last shift. The firm's environmental practice includes the representation of the Sierra Club against the California Governor's administration for delaying the addition of harmful substances to the list of chemicals known to cause cancer and reproductive injury.

With 21 attorneys, **Stacey Leyton** stands out as an exemplar of the quality of counsel available at this firm. She was named a 2011 "California Lawyer of the Year" by *California Lawyer* magazine for her efforts challenging cutbacks to the California program providing in-home care to recipients of Medicaid. **Michael Rubin**, a partner specializing in impact litigation, class actions and appellate litigation, has received nationwide acclaim for excellence in these areas.

### Girardi Keese

Girardi Keese remains the quintessential plaintiff powerhouse with continued representation of individuals and businesses in diversified practice areas. With client awards in excess of \$3 billion, this full-service plaintiff firm is well regarded for its litigation successes in mass torts, personal injuries and commercial litigation. Girardi Keese litigators pride themselves on their collaborative approach to leveraging their depth of experience in pursuit of justice for their clients. A competitor acknowledges that the firm is "undeniably well respected" and is the go-to firm for plaintiffs' litigation in California.

**Thomas Girardi**, founding partner, is widely heralded as one of the nation's top trial lawyers with, more than 100 jury trials, over 30 verdicts in excess of \$1 million, and more than 100 settlements of \$1 million or more. His

practice includes wrongful death claims, commercial litigation, products liability, bad faith insurance and toxic torts. He has also been honored by induction into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame by the California State Bar. **Robert Keese**, a well regarded trial attorney throughout California, specializes in the areas of toxic torts, bad faith insurance, professional liability and intellectual property. He has served as lead trial counsel in over 100 trials and over 200 arbitrations. **Amy Solomon** stands out for her recent successes against large multinational corporations including The Walt Disney Company.

### Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson

An unyielding commitment to protecting employees has propelled the ascendancy of Lewis Feinberg Lee Renaker & Jackson. A national law firm, Lewis Feinberg represents plaintiffs in wage and hour overtime litigation, ERISA employee benefit and pension litigation and civil rights claims. Based in Oakland, this employment and labor litigation boutique has 17 litigators and continues to flourish despite the shifting judicial landscape in employment and labor law. The firm is currently representing a nationwide class alleging that Deere & Co. discriminates against women seeking entry-level positions within their landscaping division by denying women these jobs and discouraging their applications. The firm is also pursuing a class-action claim against certain California Burger King restaurants on behalf of patrons who use wheelchairs or scooters. Accessibility barriers include excessively heavy doors, queues too narrow for wheelchairs and inaccessible restrooms.

**Jeffrey Lewis**, a founding partner, has specialized in employee benefits law since 1975. He is currently co-chair of the Board of Senior Editors of Employee Benefits Law and has testified before Congressional committees regarding pension issues. In addition to his advisory activities throughout the country, he teaches pension law courses at various California law schools. **Teresa Renaker** recently reached settlement of the plaintiffs' class claims of breach of fiduciary duty arising under ERISA against ANB Bancshares, Inc. **Daniel Feinberg** has been a partner since 1993 and is a renowned expert in ERISA-related litigation. Other litigators of note include **Todd Jackson** and **Bill Lee**.

### Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein

With offices in San Francisco, New York and Tennessee, Lieff Cabraser Heimann &

Bernstein represents plaintiffs in pursuit of justice distributed through a great sense of social responsibility. With over 60 attorneys, Lieff Cabraser is one of the largest plaintiffs' firms in the country. Representing investors, consumers, employees, patients, and small businesses, lawyers at Lieff Cabraser advocate for safer products, fair competition, environmental protection and upholding the civil rights of the global citizenry. Lieff Cabraser injects a broadly celebrated elegance into the plaintiffs' bar with their range of expertise across practice areas and willingness to litigate exceptionally complex cases that are impactful.

Lieff Cabraser is regularly engaged in high-stakes litigation with game-shifting prospects. The firm recently obtained a record \$78.5 million settlement against the University of Phoenix in a case that alleged that the university violated the federal ban on incentive compensation for recruiters. Currently, the firm represents a class of employees in a suit against Adobe, Apple, Google and Intel alleging that the high-tech giants violated antitrust laws by fixing the wages of their employees and entering into 'no solicitation' agreements with each other thereby reducing compensation packages by an estimated 10-15 percent. **Elizabeth Cabraser** has been broadly celebrated for her unflinching capacity to redress clients for financial and consumer fraud, anti-competitive practices, harmful products and illegal employment practices. She has been involved in a plethora of cases that resulted in landmark decisions and precedent-setting rulings and is considered by a colleague to be "one of the most fear-inspiring litigators" because of the vim she injects into her advocacy. **Robert Nelson**, **Richard Heimann**, **William Bernstein** and **Kelly Dermody** contribute heavily to the impactful litigation Lieff Cabraser conducts.

### Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

With offices overseas, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan is the largest firm devoted exclusively to business litigation. In just 25 years, Quinn Emanuel has grown from four attorneys to over 450 carefully vetted litigators. The experience Quinn Emanuel has defending *Fortune* 100 companies gives its litigators a big-picture perspective that augments its representation of plaintiffs. With over \$15 billion in judgments and settlements, five nine-figure jury verdicts, five 10-figure settlements, and eight nine-figure settlements, Quinn Emanuel has consistently provided top-notch advocacy on behalf of plaintiffs and continues to maintain a 90% percent trial success rate. This extremely high success rate can, in part, be attributed to the fact that Quinn Emanuel litigators employ their own proprietary method of mock jury trials for each case that goes to trial. Quinn Emanuel's recent successes include a \$1.1 billion settlement for the representation of General Motors in a case against Volkswagen for stealing

confidential documents; a \$128 million jury verdict in Massachusetts on behalf of Freedom Wireless in a case against several other wireless carriers for patent infringement; and a \$1.2 billion for Litton for intentional patent infringement and interference with prospective business advantage. In fact, Quinn Emanuel has been consistently praised as the go-to law firm for its exceptional record in intellectual property.

**John Pierce** is one of Quinn Emanuel's most esteemed jury trial lawyers maintaining a 100% success rate in jury trials, arbitration and preliminary injunction proceedings. His practice focuses on Securities and Entertainment and Media Litigation. **Karin Kramer** litigates in the areas of intellectual property and securities in individual and class actions. She has taught at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and the Ninth Circuit Federal Appellate Practice Seminar. **Diane Hutnyan**, **David Grable** and **Michael Fazio** further anchor the Quinn Emanuel talent pool with extraordinary experience and successes in plaintiffs' litigation.

### Recommended firms

#### Blecher & Collins

Blecher & Collins has developed a reputation for exceptional litigation in antitrust and complex commercial litigation in the areas of intellectual property, legal malpractice and securities class actions. Based in Los Angeles and founded in 1971, Blecher & Collins represents plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes litigation. Recent representation of the City of Inglewood in a legal malpractice claim resulted in favorable pre-trial settlements. Founding partner **Maxwell Blecher** continues to be a figurehead in antitrust litigation. In addition to his precedent-setting advocacy, he has testified before Congress; written extensively on antitrust and civil litigation; and continues to lecture broadly on trial strategy. **Harold Collins Jr.** focuses his trial and appellate work in various industries, including aerospace, optical lenses, electronic, medical appliances, petroleum, telecommunications, and travel.

#### Bramson Plutzik Mahler & Birkhaeuser

With over 25 years experience handling complex litigation, Bramson Plutzik Mahler & Birkhaeuser is an active and respected litigation boutique, with seven attorneys. The firm has earned a reputation for its longstanding history of successfully prosecuting consumer, antitrust, and investor class actions. In the last several years, Bramson Plutzik has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for class members. In addition to its time-tested class action practice, the firm also represents individual clients under the federal and state antitrust laws. The firm has a robust *pro bono* practice, assisting the Courts and community members with representation. The firm also

provides *pro bono* representation to several non-profit organizations, including the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and the American Association of Retired Persons, and it makes significant contributions to local and national non-profit organizations.

#### Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy

An established firm based in San Francisco, Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy has developed a reputation for their dedication to principles of fairness and justice. The firm prosecutes claims in the areas of antitrust, construction, employment, mass torts, insurance, personal injury, False Claims Act, securities and intellectual property. The firm has had a number of high-profile successes. The firm recently finalized a \$241 million settlement of a health care whistleblower case, making it the largest False Claims Act recovery in California history. The final approval of the \$77 million settlement has been granted in the *In re Static Random Access Memory* antitrust litigation case, which is extraordinary since the Department of Justice closed the investigation without any indictments or guilty pleas. **Joseph Cotchett** is considered one of the nation's best trial attorneys and has the record to substantiate the numerous accolades he has received. He has tried over 100 cases and has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in antitrust, securities and major fraud cases. **Frank Pitre** practices in consumer fraud, commercial torts, and personal injury cases, and has the largest recovery for an individual wrongful death claim in San Diego County history.

#### Dietrich Siben Thorpe

The litigators of Dietrich Siben Thorpe provide unparalleled opt-out representation of complex securities fraud claims. By selectively counselling individual investors in effort to recover investment losses, the firm provides an alternative to maximize investor recoveries. This is a considerable point of differentiation from traditional securities class action law firms and defense-oriented firms that periodically engage in plaintiffs' side securities litigation. While the economy has triggered a rise in class-action litigation, investors are not being meaningfully recompensed for their losses. Dietrich Siben Thorpe supports the conclusion of empirical research, which indicates that individual plaintiffs recover substantially more than class members.

**Edward Dietrich**, **Matthew Siben** and **David Thorpe** bring substantial experience in securities litigation to their boutique firm and are well on their way into creating a lasting niche in opt-out securities litigation.

#### Gold Bennett Cera Sidener

With a strong team of seasoned litigators, Gold Bennett Cera & Sidener has developed an impressive practice in securities, antitrust, mass torts and business litigation that has led

to client recoveries in excess of \$2 billion. The firm has a national reputation for handling individual claims and class actions brought by investors as well as the capacity to handle shareholder derivative and corporate governance issues. The firm has been appointed as lead counsel on behalf of shareholders that purchased securities of Tronox in a claim that is currently pending in the Southern District of New York. Gold Bennett is also currently representing Wal-Mart employees in Colorado in a workers' compensation class action alleging that Wal-Mart wrongfully interfered with their medical care in violation of Colorado law.

#### Kiesel Boucher & Larson

Formed a decade ago by the merger of Kiesel & Larson and the Law Offices of Raymond P Boucher, Kiesel Boucher & Larson represents plaintiffs in a vast array of practice areas including personal injury, business fraud, wrongful death, consumer class action, insurance bad faith, professional malpractice and employment discrimination. **Paul Kiesel** serves as Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Litigation Section after appointment by the Chief Justice of California and writes heavily about civil litigation and the impact of technology on the practice of law. **Ray Boucher** has received numerous accolades for the litigation he has conducted on behalf of consumers and dedicates his time and resources to several California charities. He also frequently advises California Senate, Assembly and Offices about legal issues. Like the other founding partners, **William Larson** has been applauded for his ability to successfully maneuver legal nuances in extremely complex matters.

#### Pearson Simon Warshaw & Penny

Pearson Simon Warshaw & Penny represents individuals and groups that have been aggrieved by large corporations, employers and insurance companies. Pearson Simon has 13 attorneys in its offices in Los Angeles and California practicing in the areas of antitrust, wage and hour employment litigation, securities, consumer protection, insurance, workers' compensation and defective products. Currently, this firm is prosecuting a claim on behalf of 700 investors against Bank of America alleging financial fraud. The firm has also filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of California owners of the 2010 Toyota Prius and Lexus HS250h alleging a design defect in the antilock braking system. **Clifford Pearson** has nearly 30 years of experience focusing on civil litigation, class actions, antitrust and consumer protection, and is considered a formidable opponent by his colleagues. **Bruce Simon** has achieved national recognition for his work in complex antitrust and securities cases. He is broadly published and frequently invited to speak on issues surrounding trial strategy in the US and internationally.