

THE PLAINTIFFS' HOT LIST

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wrongful death and personal injury cases arising out of aviation and transportation accidents, medical malpractice and products liability. Since January 2003, the 25-attorney firm has won more than two dozen verdicts and settlements exceeding \$1 million, and dozens in six figures, representing individual plaintiffs.

NOTEWORTHY CASES:

n Yoder v. Romar Transportation Systems Inc. (Cook Co., Ill., Cir. Ct. 2004), lead attorneys Kevin P. Durkin and John T. Karnezis. A toddler was killed and her mother severely injured in a multicar crash on an interstate highway where several trucks negligently blocked the roadway. The jury awarded \$38.3 million.

n Dutler v. Union Pacific Railroad Co. (D.N.M. 2004), lead lawyers Robert A. Clifford and Jeffrey J. Kroll. Smoke from a railroad fire blanketed a highway and caused a multivehicle collision, injuring the plaintiff and killing her spouse. The case settled for \$15.5 million.

n Gist v. Mercy Hospital and Medical Center (Cook Co., Ill., Cir. Ct. 2003), lead counsel Robert A. Clifford and Keith A. Hebeisen. An overdose of glucose was administered to a newborn, who suffered permanent brain damage. The case settled for \$11 million.

Cohen Milstein

Since its founding 28 years ago, *Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll* has focused on complex class actions ranging from antitrust and civil rights cases to consumer protection and health care. With 48 attorneys in offices in Washington, Seattle and New York, the firm has a reputation for taking on industry giants such as Bristol-Myers Squibb, Boeing and Hoffmann-La Roche. It is co-lead counsel in *Dukes v. Wal-Mart*, to date the largest sex discrimination case ever filed in the United States. Class certification was granted in June.

NOTEWORTHY CASES:

n In re Relafen Antitrust Litigation (D. Mass. 2004), co-lead counsel Michael Hausfeld. SmithKlineBeecham Corp. and GlaxoSmithKlineBeecham Corp. allegedly maintained a monopoly on the drug Relafen by obtaining fraudulent patents and engaging in sham patent infringement litigation to delay entry into the marketplace of generic substitutes. The case settled for \$175 million.

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n Animal Science v. Chinook Group Ltd. (D.D.C. 2003), lead counsel Michael Hausfeld. Several vitamin manufacturers conspired to rig the price of B4. The \$49.5 million verdict was trebled to \$149 million.

n Pease v. Jasper Wyman & Son (Knox Co., Maine, Super. Ct. 2003), lead counsel Dan Small. Three blueberry processing companies were found guilty of price-fixing. The jury awarded \$18.6 million, trebled to \$56 million.

Cotchett Pitre

Cotchett, Pitre, Simon & McCarthy has focused exclusively on litigation for the past 36 years. Based in Burlingame, Calif., with offices in Los Angeles and Washington, the firm's 24 lawyers prosecute antitrust, consumer fraud, elder abuse, securities and personal injury cases. It was co-lead counsel in a nationwide consumer class action against Citigroup Inc. for unfair business practices regarding credit insurance "packing" and refinance loan "flipping." The case settled in 2003 for \$240 million (*Morales v. Citigroup*).

NOTEWORTHY CASES:

n In re Household International Inc. (N.D. Calif. 2004), co-lead counsel Niall P. McCarthy. A class action against Household International for predatory lending practices resulted in a \$150 million settlement. The settlement also established a "Foreclosure Avoidance Program" to help borrowers behind in their payments.

n In re Homestore.com Litigation (C.D. Calif. 2004), lead attorney Bruce Simon. Homestore.com, an Internet real estate company, was accused of falsifying financial statements and engaging in accounting irregularities. The class action settled for \$93 million,

and Homestore agreed to reform its corporate policies. Legal action against additional defendants is pending.

n Strategic Resource Solution v. San Francisco Unified School District (Sacramento Co., Calif., Super. Ct. 2004), co-lead attorneys Joseph W. Cotchett and Elizabeth Pritzker. The San Francisco Unified School District secured a \$48 million settlement with Progress Energy Corp. and a subsidiary, which allegedly engaged in fraud and negligence in modernizing the heating and lighting systems in the district's schools.

Gibbs & Bruns

Founded in 1983 with a focus on complex commercial litigation in areas such as intellectual property, antitrust and securities fraud, in recent years the Houston-based 28-lawyer firm has won more than \$500 million in jury verdicts for plaintiffs. In one of several cases that put *Gibbs & Bruns* on the map, the firm won a \$309 million verdict for the plaintiff in a 1993 breach of contract trial (*Aria Development Group v. American General Realty Investment Corp.*).

NOTEWORTHY CASES:

n Taita Chemical Co. v. Westlake Styrene Corp. (W.D. La. 2003), co-lead counsel Grant Harvey. The firm represented Westlake in its counterclaim against Taita for breach of fiduciary duty and fraud. The jury awarded Westlake \$16.3 million.

n Slosburg v. Law Engineering & Environmental Services (Harris Co., Texas, Dist. Ct. 2003), lead lawyers Robin Gibbs and Jean Frizzell. The plaintiffs alleged that the defendant failed to properly monitor an active construction project. The jury awarded \$3 million.

n Northstar Telecommunications Mgmt. v. Southwestern Bell Communications Svcs. (D. Texas 2004), lead lawyers Christopher Reynolds and Brian T. Ross. Defendant allegedly failed to deliver long-distance minutes to Mexico and settled for \$3.8 million.

Greene Broillet

Best known for its landmark \$4.9 billion jury verdict in the products liability case *Anderson v. General*

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