

# TOP VERDICTS AND SETTLEMENTS



Described by *The American Lawyer* as “one of the nation’s premier plaintiffs’ firms,” Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP, has played a significant role in achieving verdicts and settlements valued at \$100 million or more in 69 separate cases, including 27 cases in excess of \$1 billion. The following is a summary of our ten largest cases.

## \$42 Billion in Settlements in Tobacco Litigation

**1.** We represented the Attorneys’ General of Massachusetts, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, several additional states, and 18 cities and counties in California in multi-state litigation against the tobacco industry that resulted in settlements announced in November 1998, totaling \$42 billion. In addition to recovering costs incurred by governmental entities for the treatment of patients with smoking-related diseases, the settlement required that the tobacco industry undertake extensive changes in the marketing and sale of cigarettes to reduce teenage smoking.

## \$11.2-\$14.2 Billion in Settlements in VW Emissions Litigation

**2.** We represent VW, Audi, and Porsche owners and lessees in litigation against Volkswagen over “cheat device” software installed on 475,000 U.S. diesel cars

that drastically reduced emissions during testing. In actual driving, massive amounts of pollution were released in extraordinary violation of environmental laws. The combined funding commitment by VW to pay 2.0 liter and 3.0 liter TDI class claims is from \$11.2-\$14.2 billion, with over \$5 billion to be paid in civil environmental payments.

## \$11.2 Billion in Claims Paid in BP Oil Spill Litigation

**3.** We serve on the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee representing fishermen, property owners, business owners, and wage earners who suffered economic harm as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig blowout and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010. To date, claims totaling \$14.2 billion have been approved, and businesses and individuals that suffered financial losses or property damage have received \$11.2 billion through the class action settlement program.

## \$6.25 Billion in Holocaust Case Settlements

**4.** We took a leading role in prosecuting claims by Holocaust survivors against banks, private manufacturers, and other corporations that profited from the persecution of Jews and other minority groups by the Nazi Regime during World War II. We served as Settlement Class Counsel in the case against the Swiss Banks that resulted in a \$1.25 billion settlement in July 2000, and participated in multi-national negotiations that led to Executive Agreements between Germany and the United States establishing an additional \$5 billion in funds for survivors and victims of Nazi persecution. We donated our \$1.5 million attorneys’ fees in the Swiss Banks case to endow

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a Human Rights clinical chair at Columbia University Law School.

### \$4.85 Billion Settlement in Vioxx Products Litigation

**5.** We served on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the Multi-District Vioxx Litigation and represented patients who suffered heart attacks or strokes, and the families of loved ones who died, after having being prescribed the arthritis and pain medication Vioxx. In individual personal injury lawsuits against Merck, the manufacturer of Vioxx, our clients charged that Merck falsely promoted the safety of Vioxx and failed to disclose the full range of the drug's dangerous side effects. In 2007, Merck announced a \$4.85 billion settlement for patients with qualifying claims.

### \$4.75 Billion Settlement in Fen-Phen (Diet Drugs) Litigation

**6.** We served on the Plaintiffs' Management Committee, helping organize and direct the Fen-Phen Multi-District Litigation in federal court. In 2002, a settlement valued at \$4.75 billion received final judicial approval. We also represented over 2,000 persons suffering valvular heart disease, pulmonary hypertension, or other problems (such as needing echocardiogram screening for damage) due to and/or following exposure to Fen-Phen, and obtained more

than \$350 million for clients in individual cases.

### \$4.25 Billion in Settlements in Silicone Gel Breast Implants Litigation

**7.** We served on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and were one of five members of the negotiating committee achieving a \$4.25 billion global settlement with certain defendants in the action. Renegotiated in 1995, this was known as the Revised Settlement Program ("RSP"). Over 100,000 recipients have received initial payments, reimbursement for the explanation expenses and/or long term benefits.

### \$3.3 Billion Verdict in ACC/Lincoln Savings Securities Litigation

**8.** We participated with co-counsel in all phases of the prosecution of this securities fraud class action, including at trial, and helped obtain a class judgment of over \$3.3 billion and settlements totaling over \$250 million.

### \$2 Billion in Settlements in Actos Bladder Cancer Litigation

**9.** We represent patients who developed bladder cancer after exposure to the prescription drug pioglitazone, sold as Actos by Japan-based

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company and prescribed for patients with Type 2 Diabetes. On April 28, 2015, U.S. District Court Judge Rebecca F. Doherty, the judge overseeing the Actos injury cases in federal court nationwide, issued an order recognizing that Takeda, the manufacturer of Actos, agreed to pay over \$2 billion to settle all bladder cancer claims brought against the company by Actos users who satisfy certain conditions.

### \$1.25 Billion in Settlements in Natural Gas Antitrust Cases

**10.** During the California Natural Gas energy crisis in 2000-2001, El Paso allegedly rigged bids and manipulated the market for natural gas transmission into the state. We represented California consumers of natural gas in a class action lawsuit against El Paso. In December 2003, the Court granted final approval to a settlement of nearly \$1.1 billion. In 2006 and 2007, the Court granted final approval to a series of settlements totaling over \$155 million in related cases against additional natural gas suppliers and energy companies.

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