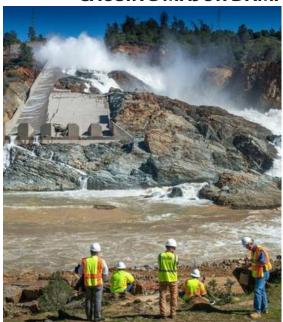
# ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE

San Francisco Bay Area • Los Angeles • New York

#### **MAJOR RECENT FILINGS**

#### CLAIMS FILED ALLEGING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSSES FROM THE OROVILLE DAM SPILLWAY FLOODING CAUSING MAJOR DAMAGE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND FARMERS



In August 2017, numerous CPM clients submitted government claims to the State of California, Department of General Services. JEM Farms, Chandon Ranch and many other farmers and businesses in the flooded area were severely damaged. CPM represents numerous farmers and walnut growers in Butte County. In February 2017, Oroville sustained heavy rainfall and over 180,000 people were evacuated from their homes. Predictably, as a result of reckless action and inaction by California's Department of Water Resources ("DWR") and Division of Safety of Dams ("DSOD"), the farms and businesses damages exceeding \$250 million as a result of dam and gated spillway failures suffered at the Oroville Facility. Damages include lost acreage, lost production, and cleanup/remediation costs. The Oroville Dam and Spillway Facility is operated by DWR and DSOD. DWR and DSOD are responsible for the safety, including maintenance and operation, of all California dams, including the Oroville Dam Gated Spillway Facility. Several engineers have been critical of how the Dam was maintained and recent reports lay blame on the failure to correct known problems. The claim alleges that "DWR and DSOD acted recklessly and with intent, resulting in the progressive deterioration of the performance abilities of the Gated Spillway at the Oroville Facility." The case is being handled by Joe Cotchett, Niall Mc-Carthy, Toriana Holmes, Adam Shapiro, and co-counsel James Nolan, David Jones, and Michael Harriman from local law firms.

#### San Francisco Millennium Towers Sinking and Tilting - Litigation



**CPM** is in litigation on behalf of over 100 homeowners in San Francisco's Millennium Tower, alleging the developers, engineers, architects and builders of the Millennium Tower concealed their knowledge of the building's sinking and tilting for years. The suit also

alleges construction of the Transbay Terminal contributed to the building's leaning and sinking. CPM is pursuing claims for fraud against the building's developer and for inverse condemnation against the public agency that constructed the Transbay Terminal. While engineers continue to search for a solution, the Millennium Tower's residents and the public deserve to know how this occurred, how it can be prevented in the future, and how the victims will be compensated. The case is being handled by Frank Pitre, Niall McCarthy, Eric Buescher, Julie Fieber and Wendy Giblin and team.

#### **Privacy Lawsuit Against Equifax** for Exposing Users' Personal Information



**CPM** filed one of the first major lawsuits against EQUIFAX for the millions of Californians who had their personal information hacked. The case alleges that the defendant knew of the hack and continued to use soft-

ware that was susceptible to hacking without informing users. The case is led by Mark Molumphy, Alexa Summer, Wendy Giblin and team.

#### **DACA Suit Filed by City Of San Jose Against Government**



Representing the City of San Jose, **CPM** has filed one of the first DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) complaints on behalf of all California cities who employ DACA individuals. The federal case alleges the president's repeal of the DACA program is unconstitutional and will harm the hardworking imigrants in the program. The case is led by Nancy Fineman, Joe Cotchett and their CPM team.













#### **MAJOR RECENT CASES**

Family of Slain Oakland Muralist, Tony Ramos, Files Lawsuit Against ICE



In August 2017, CPM filed a lawsuit against the United States Government for the death of Oakland Muralist, Tony Ramos, who was shot and killed with a stolen ICE agent's firearm, in broad daylight, while volunteer painting a non-violence mural in Oakland. The firearm was left in a bag in plain sight in a car parked in the SOMA neighborhood, which is a high-theft, high-crime area. It was not secured or in a lock box. This is a rampant, agency-wide problem for ICE that has been welldocumented for nearly a decade. Despite ICE's knowledge and awareness of the problem and despite recommendations by other government agencies to take corrective action, ICE agents continue to have their unsecured firearms stolen at alarming rates. Tony Ramos' family seeks to force better practices by law enforcement to safely secure lethal firearms so that other innocent lives are not lost. The case is led by Frank Pitre, Alison Cordova and team.

#### **Animal Abuse Cases**



**CPM** is very active in animal abuse cases and works closely with Humane Societies to ensure the safe treatment of animals. Several cases have been brought

against pet grooming facilities for the improper treatment and handling of pets brought in for grooming. Some cases have resulted in the deaths of beloved pets and horror for their parents. The cases are headed up by **Alison Cordova**, **Toriana Holmes** and their team.

# Lawsuit Filed Against Wells Fargo Officers and Directors Relating to Auto and Home Loan Practices and Other Sham Loans WELLS FARGO

CPM, along with co-counsel, Bottini & Bottini, filed the latest shareholder derivative action against Wells Fargo officers and directors for allowing the overcharging of home and auto loan customers and failing to refund their money. The complaint alleges that Wells Fargo's management allowed the Bank to scam its own customers for years, resulting in serious harm. As alleged in the complaint, for years Wells Fargo forced unneeded collision insurance on consumers who financed their car purchases. The practice reportedly affected over 800,000 customers, including 274,000 people pushed into delinguency as a result, and 25,000 cars that were wrongfully repossessed. Addressing the insurance practices, Wells Fargo conceded that its internal controls were "inadequate" and reassured investors of its commitment to "transparency." The case is led by Joe Cotchett, Mark Molumphy, Alexa Summer, Stephanie Biehl and team.

### CPM Recovers for California Public Entities for Costly Bond Insurance and Muni Derivative Bid-Rigging



**CPM** has now recovered millions of dollars for California public entities in the Bond Insurance Litigation and Municipal Derivatives Litigation. Both complex cases were filed in 2008, but delayed by years

of motion practice and discovery. Public entities were vulnerable to numerous deceptive practices involving insurance required to issue bonds and bid-rigging to invest bond proceeds. The cases were led by **Nanci Nishimura**, **Alexander Barnett**, **Ian Atkinson-Young**, and her public entity team at CPM.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES**

### Landmark Ruling Orders Martins Beach be Open to the Public



**CPM** and Surfrider prevailed in the California Court of Appeal in their ongoing legal fight to restore public access to Martins

Beach. The Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's entire judgment finding the owner illegally prohibited the historic public existed because the owner did not obtain a "development" permit. The Court of Appeal also rejected the owner's claims the trial court's injunction and the Coastal Act's permitting requirement were unconstitutional. The victory is an important step in restoring access to Martins Beach and confirms that California law requires maximization public access to the coast for everyone. The case is being led by **Joe Cotchett, Pete McCloskey** and **Eric Buescher**.

#### CPM is Fighting California's Water Wars City of Weed - Mt. Shasta Water



**CPM's** lawsuit for citizens of the City of Weed is moving forward. The Court will hear claims under the California Environmental Quality Act in early 2018. For the past 50 years, Roseburg charged the City \$1 a year for water from the Beaughan Spring. In July, it began charging \$97,500 annually. A contract signed this year also

directs the City to look for alternative sources and requires the City to relinquish all rights to the water it has relied on for more than 100 years. Based on news articles, Roseburg is selling the water to Crystal Geyser Alpine Spring, a company that bottles its water in Weed to sell as far away as Japan. **Phil Gregory**, **Brian Danitz** and team are handling this case.

#### FALSE CLAIMS & CONSUMER FRAUD UPDATES

#### **CPM Appointed as Interim Lead Counsel to Oversee the Class Actions** Filed Against Samsung Over Exploding Samsung Smartphones

**CPM** and co-counsel Stonebarger Law were tapped by the United States District Court in San Jose to oversee eight consumer class actions filed against Samsung over defective smartphones. The cases involve Samsung Galaxy Series 5, 6 and 7 smartphones (but not the recalled Note7). The complaint alleges that the subject phones are prone to overheating, catching fire and exploding - just like the recalled Samsung Galaxy Note7, yet Samsung has refused to acknowledge the defects and has refused to recall the phones. The case is being handled by Niall McCarthy, Anne Marie Murphy and Eric Buescher.



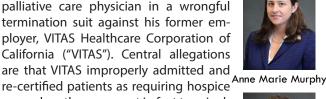
Niall McCarthy





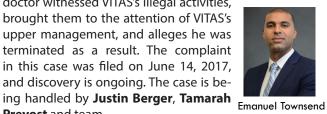


are that VITAS improperly admitted and





Eric Buescher



#### **False Claims Act Case Against Monterey Engineering Firm**



**CPM** represents a whistleblower in a lawsuit against Monterey Peninsula Engineering. The lawsuit alleges the company intentionally disposed of thousands of gallons of untreated sewage and super-chlorinated water in various environmentally sensitive and protected locations throughout

the Monterey Bay, in connection with work on state and local government contracts. As alleged, a number of the disposal sites were only yards from the Monterey Bay, Salinas River, and Carmel Valley River. The complaint also alleges Monterey Peninsula Engineering disposed of toxic super-chlorinated water directly onto vegetation and land in the Olympia Watershed, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and only a few feet from San Lorenzo Valley Water District signs declaring the area a "sensitive habitat that supports numerous rare and endangered species." The complaint alleges the company knowingly concealed their illegal dumping from state and local governments that paid them to fix sewer lines and properly dispose of raw sewage and super-chlorinated water. The case is led by Justin Berger, Emanuel Townsend and team.

#### **Class Action Against Nissan for LEAF Hardware Upgrades Moves Forward in State Court**

The court rejected Nissan's demurrer (motion to

**Case Against VITAS Hospice** 

for Improper Care

palliative care physician in a wrongful

termination suit against his former em-

ployer, VITAS Healthcare Corporation of

California ("VITAS"). Central allegations

care, when they were not in fact terminal-

ly ill. According to the allegations in the

complaint, VITAS improperly collected per diem Medicare reimbursements for

these improperly certified patients. As Hospice Medical Director for VITAS, the

doctor witnessed VITAS's illegal activities,

brought them to the attention of VITAS's upper management, and alleges he was

terminated as a result. The complaint

in this case was filed on June 14, 2017,

and discovery is ongoing. The case is be-

**CPM** represents a board-certified



dismiss) in CPM's class action lawsuit against Nissan North America, Inc. The lawsuit alleges that tens of thousands of consumers throughout California purchased Nissan LEAF electric vehicles based on Nissan's false and misleading claims about the LEAF's CAR-WINGS telematics system. The lawsuit seeks to prevent Nissan from requiring owners and leasees of 2011-2015 model LEAFs to pay for the hardware upgrade needed to use the CARWINGS system. The case is now proceeding with discovery. The case is led by Niall McCarthy, Justin Berger, Emanuel Townsend and team.

Prevost and team.



Adam Shapiro



Phyra McCandless

#### CPM represents a Burlingame resident who had to rescue her three children from rapidly rising floodwater inside their home during a January rainstorm. The complaint alleges the City knew of the risks of flood at the property for over a decade, but took

ures to maintain, re-

pair, upgrade and protect city storm drain

pipes and systems

resulted in a terrifying

CPM sues on Behalf of Peninsula Residents who

**Suffered Severe Flood Damage** 

flood for a family in the City of Burlingame.

no action to address or correct the deficient

storm water drainage system to protect the

family's home. The case is being handled

by Eric Buescher and Tamarah Prevost.

#### **CPM Represents City of Los Angeles in a Qui Tam Alleging Overbilling for Cellular Services**

The City of Los Angeles purchases cellular phones and plans through a series of government contracts negotiate in cooperation with others. Public entities in order to ensure they all obtain cost-effective and favorable pricing and services. The City's complaint alleges that Sprint, Verizon and AT&T all failed to provide the low-cost services the contracts required and failed to provide services that would reduce monthly plan costs. The case is being handled by Niall McCarthy, Eric Buescher, Adam Shapiro and team.

#### MASS INJURIES UPDATES

**PG&E Being Held Accountable for** 

**Destroying Homes in Calaveras and** 

**Amador Counties for Faulty Power Lines** 

Over one year ago, **CPM** filed a lawsuit against PG&E

for damages suffered by hundreds of California resi-

dents resulting from the Butte Wildfire, which ignited

after a PG&E electrical power line came in contact

with a neighboring tree that had been hazardously

trimmed making it vulnerable to falling on the power

line. The fire burned 70,868 acres and 575 homes. People lost everything, and are still living out of tents and

trailers on barren properties where trees, vegetation

and wildlife once inhabited the region. PG&E recently

filed a motion asking the court to throw out Plaintiffs'

punitive damages claims, but CPM successfully fought

back that motion and prevailed against PG&E, main-

taining our clients' rights to claim punitive damages.

These cases are being handled by Frank Pitre, Alison Cordova, John Thyken and team, with co-counsel.

#### **Government Denies Any Responsibility for Kate Steinle's Death**



In May 2016, **CPM** filed a lawsuit against the City and County of San Francisco ("CCSF"), ex-CCSF Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, and the United States Government for the death of Kate Steinle, who was shot and killed on July 1, 2015 by an undocumented criminal with a government-issued handgun. The undocumented criminal was also in CCSF custody before being released onto the streets of San Francisco without any notice given to ICE. CPM alleges that each government entity failed Kate. Kate would still be alive if any of them had acted with ordinary care and followed their mandatory obligations under the law. Each government entity disagrees and has filed a motion to dismiss the case. The case is being handled by **Frank Pitre**, **Alison Cordova** and team.



Frank Pitre





Alison Cordova



Joel Gordon



Julie Fieber



Neda Lotfi

# CPM Lawsuit for Thousands Affected by Counterfeit, Non-FDA-Approved Spinal Fusion Implants Scam



Over the next few months, CPM will be taking depositions of key participants in the scheme to pay doctors illegal kickbacks and conspiring to use fake, counterfeit, non-FDA-approved hardware in spinal fusion surgeries. The Court has selected ten Bellwether cases to be tried ahead of the other cases. These test cases were selected due to their similarity to each other and involve the same doctor and hospital defendants. There have now been eight criminal plea agreements entered into by various defendants, including hospital owners/operators, doctors, chiropractors and hospital marketing people. None have been sentenced as they continue to cooperate with the United States Attorney's office in Santa Ana. The cases are being handled by Frank Pitre, Bob Hutchinson, Alison Cordova, Joel Gordon, Neda Lotfi and team.

#### Massive Gas Leak at Southern California Gas Company's Storage Facility Near Porter Ranch



**CPM** and Kabateck, Brown & Kelner represent over 1,400 clients from the Porter Ranch area of Southern California who are suffering various ill health effects as well as potentially severe loss of home values as a result of one of the most massive man-made environmental disasters. Southern California Gas Company acknowledged the leak in late October of 2015 although evidence exists that the company knew the storage well was leaking years before. The leak spewed Methane, Mercaptan, Benzene and other potentially

toxic gases. **Frank Pitre**, **Robert Hutchinson**, **Joel Gordon** and **Julie Fieber** are representing residents and their families who suffer from difficulty with breathing, dizziness, nose bleeds and nausea. CPM continues to be active with the Plaintiff's steering committee in dealing with experts, witnesses, discovery and law and motion matters.



John Thyken



Abigail Blodgett

#### HONORS FOR CPM



#### CPM Honored as Northern California Top 100 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2017 - Cotchett and Pitre Named in Top 10 -

CPM has been honored by Northern California Super Lawyers Magazine as among the top attorneys for 2017. 10 of our attorneys have been selected to the 2017 Super Lawyers list – Joe Cotchett (Top 10, Ranked Number One), Frank Pitre (Top 10), Niall McCarthy (Top 100), Steve Williams (Top 100), Mark Molumphy, Nancy Fineman (Top 100 & Top 25 Sacramento), Phil Gregory, Nanci Nishimura, Justin Berger and Anne Marie Murphy (Top 100 & Top 25 Sacramento). Another eight of our attorneys have been selected as 2017 Rising Stars honorees – Stephanie Biehl, Eric Buescher, Joyce Chang, Alison Cordova, Alexandra Summer, John Thyken, Emanuel Townsend and Elizabeth Tran.

#### McCarthy, Molumphy & Murphy Named to the Irish Legal 100



**Niall McCarthy, Mark Molumphy, Anne Marie Murphy** have been named to the Irish Legal 100 for 2017. The Irish Legal 100, founded by the Irish Voice newspaper in New York, is an annual compilation of the most distinguished Irish legal professionals in the United States.



# McCarthy Inducted into International Academy of Trial Lawyers

**Niall McCarthy** was inducted as a **Fellow** into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. The Academy is a group of trial counsels representing both sides of the Bar: prosecutors and defense lawyers in criminal cases, and plaintiff and defense counsel in civil litigation. The Fellows are lawyers from the U.S. and more than 30 countries.

Fellowship is by invitation only, and trial lawyers are invited to become Fellows only after an extremely careful vetting process. The academy is limited to 500 active trial lawyers worldwide. Partners **Joe Cotchett**, **Frank Pitre**, **Nancy Fineman** and **Phil Gregory** are also Fellows of the Academy.

## McCloskey Speaks at California Land Trust Event Father of Earth Day While in Congress



**Pete McCloskey**, former Congressman and CPM partner, addressed the Land Trust Annual Dinner. The organization was founded in 1993 and has managed to conserve some of the most important lands in the state. "We are honored to have such an icon of the environmental movement agree to join us and support our

more than 20 years of conservation work here today," said Val Nixon, president of the Lake County Land Trust. McCloskey is one of the nation's first environmental lawyers who co-founded Earth Day, now celebrated globally. **In September, McCloskey celebrated his 90th birthday!** McCloskey is a decorated Marine from the Korean War and Stanford graduate, undergraduate and Law School.

#### **NEW ATTORNEYS AT CPM**



**ABIGAIL D. BLODGETT** 

- Guilford College, B.A.
- University of Oregon School of Law, J.D.
- Class actions, mass torts, personal injury claims, consumer rights and environmental law



PHYRA M. McCANDLESS

- Harvard University, A.B.
- John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health, M.P.H.
- University of San Francisco School of Law, J.D.
- False claims act litigation and other complex civil matters

#### Daily Journal Names Cotchett in the Top 100 Attorneys in California for 2017



For the fourteenth consecutive year, **Joe Cotchett** has been named one of *The Daily Journal's* Top 100 Attorneys in **California**. The

Daily Journal annually reviews hundreds of nominations and honors 100 California attorneys doing the most **cutting-edge** work in business, civil, criminal and non-profit practices. Cotchett has been on the Top 100 list in California since the inception of the attorney rankings.

#### Nishimura Speaks at National Asian Pacific Bar Association on Public Service



Nanci Nishimura spoke to members of the NAPABA at their Western Regional Con-

ference in Silicon Valley. As a panelist with a group of Asian-American jurists, she addressed career paths to public service on the bench. Nanci serves on the California **Commission on Judicial Performance** appointed by Governor Jerry Brown.

#### **ANTITRUST & BUSINESS FRAUD UPDATES**















ng Mark Ram

Tamarah Prevost

Steve Williams

apala

**Qualcomm Over-Reaching on Licensing Fees** 



**CPM** has been appointed interim co-lead counsel on behalf of plaintiffs in a lawsuit brought against Qualcomm for its alleged anticompetitive practices. Such practices include its acquisition and maintenance of a monopoly in the market for modem chips, refusal to license on non-discriminatory terms its standard essential patents, and coercive de facto exclusive dealing agreements, enabling Qualcomm to maintain a dominant market position, inhibit competitors, and artificially inflate the all-in costs to original equipment manufacturers which are passed on to consumers who buy cellular devices, mainly smart phones. The Federal Trade Commission has also filed an action against Qualcomm. Qualcomm has faced a series of antitrust investigations by regulators around the globe. The case is handled by **Steve Williams**, **Joe Cotchett**, **Adam Zapala**, **Joyce Chang**, **Brian Danitz**, **Mark Ram** and team.

#### **Price-Fixing of Domestic Air Travel**



**CPM** has been allowed by the Court to move forward against defendants in an alleged illegal conspiracy to fix, raise, and maintain the price of domestic air passenger transportation through various means, including by eliminating or

restricting the supply of domestic air transportation – otherwise known as seating "capacity." Extensive discovery has been taking place. The case is pending in Washington, D.C. The case is being handled by **Steve Williams**, **Joyce Chang** and team.

#### **Price-Fixing of Resistors for Electronic Equipment**



**CPM** is Lead Counsel for a class of indirect purchasers of resistors purchased from defendants who allegedly conspired to unlawfully inflate, fix, raise, maintain or artificially stabilize prices. This case is pending in federal court in Northern District of California. CPM

plaintiffs have filed a Consolidated Complaint, and have begun discovery. The case is being handled by **Adam Zapala**, **Elizabeth Tran**, **Mark Ram** and team.

# CPM Wins Appeal in Price-Fixing of Overseas Airline Tickets In January 2017, Stayo Williams around before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circu



In January 2017, Steve Williams argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on the important issue of whether or not federal courts have the power to adjudicate illegal conduct in violation of the antitrust laws or whether the courts must defer to regulatory agencies. Williams argued that plaintiffs' position that the deregulation of air transportation renders the federal filed rate doctrine inapplicable and, thus, the federal court can handle this case. The Ninth Circuit denied the defendants' appeal which has broad implications for many cases. The case is being handled by **Steve Williams**, **Adam Zapala** and team.

#### **Price-Fixing of Capacitors Used in Electronic Devices**



cpm is Lead Counsel and represents indirect purchasers of capacitors against defendants, the leading manufacturers of capacitors sold in the United States, for engaging in two separate conspiracies to unlawfully inflate, fix, raise,

maintain or artificially stabilize prices for electrolytic and film capacitors. Settlements have been reached with three defendants and more defendants are expected to settle rather than face trial before a jury. The case is being handled by **Steve Williams**, **Joe Cotchett**, **Adam Zapala**, and **Elizabeth Tran**.

#### VIZIO's Litigation on Consumer Privacy Through a Television Screen Suit



**CPM's** complaint alleges that VIZIO unlawfully intercepted, collected, and sold personally identifiable information taken from innocent consumers as they watched shows and other content on VIZIO TVs. A federal

court denied VIZIO's attempt to dismiss CPM's privacy rights lawsuit. CPM is now reviewing documents and other evidence obtained in discovery. **Joe Cotchett**, **Adam Zapala**, **Wendy Giblin** and **Mark Ram** are litigating the case, along with cocounsel from Girard Gibbs. LLP.

cpmlegal.com Fall 2017

#### **BUSINESS & CONSUMER LITIGATION UPDATES**





Mark Molumphy



Nancy Fineman







Phil Gregory

Nanci Nishimura Alexandra Summer



Stephanie Biehl



Brian Danitz







Toriana Holmes

#### **Conflicts of Interest by Silicon Valley Venture Capital Firms Under Attack by CPM**

Wendy Giblin

**CPM** represents a class of shareholders in a certified class action against directors and major investors of Oportun, which is a private financial services company headquartered in Redwood City, CA. The director and major investor defendants are alleged to have breached their fiduciary duties in approving several "inside" rounds of equity financing, meaning they were on both sides of the transactions – leading them as investors and approving them on behalf of the company, for their benefit and to the detriment of the common shareholders. Trial is set in January 2018 in San Mateo County Superior Court. The Silicon Valley venture capital firms controlled the process within the company and the other defendants failed to protect the common shareholders through proper corporate governance measures. It is alleged that these tactics and resulting conflicts are increasing in Silicon Valley and by venture capital investors, who place their representatives on the boards of companies they seek to control. The common shareholders' interest in Oportun was substantially and unfairly diluted due to the conflicted financings. The case is being handled by Mark Molumphy, Alexa Summer, Stephanie Biehl and team.



#### Franklin Templeton Exonerated in a **Major Case of Alleged Lost Shares**

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON **CPM** represents Franklin Templeton in a lawsuit brought INVESTMENTS by a former shareholder who seeks reissuance of stock certificates or the monetary equivalent – decades after those shares were actually sold by the plaintiff's family. This complicated backdrop required extensive investigation of events that occurred several decades ago. CPM was successful in substantially limiting the claims at the pleading stage, and recently achieved a complete victory for Franklin at the summary judgment stage in federal court in the Northern District of California. Nanci Nishimura, Mark Molumphy, Alexa Summer and Toriana Holmes are leading the team.

#### **Court of Appeal Hears Lead Paint Pollution Case**



After 17 years of litigation and a \$1.15 billion judgment in favor of ten California cities and counties, the Lead Paint litigation is one step closer to resolution. On August 24, 2017, the California Court of Appeal heard oral argument on the lead paint manufacturers' appeal. Sherwin Williams, National Lead and ConAgra are trying to overturn the trial court's findings that they or their predecessors were liable for promoting lead paint while knowing of its poisonous effects on children. Although banned in 1978, lead paint remains on millions of homes in California. The trial court ordered the abatement of lead from certain homes in the ten jurisdictions. The removal of lead paint will have a dramatic effect on the health of young children who live in homes in these jurisdictions, most of them minorities and poor. Removal will prevent this toxic metal from damaging the children's kidneys, brains and nervous systems. A decision by the Court of Appeal is expected within 90 days. CPM hopes that the Court of Appeal will affirm the judgment and order the lead paint manufacturers to begin the clean-up process. The case is being handled by Joe Cotchett, Nancy Fineman and team.



#### **CPM Leads Resolution of the PG&E San Bruno Fire Corporate Cases Requiring More Corporate Oversite of Operations**

**CPM** represented the shareholders of PG&E Corporation in a shareholder derivative lawsuit against certain of the company's current and former officers and directors. The shareholders alleged on behalf of the company that the Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to PG&E, and that such breaches were a substantial factor in losses caused by the September 9, 2010 pipeline rupture in San Bruno, California. The derivative action was coordinated in San Mateo County Superior Court with numerous actions also filed by CPM on behalf of victims of the PG&E pipeline explosion, which killed eight people and injured dozens more, and destroyed or damaged several dozen homes. The conclusion of this massive derivative action represents a substantial victory for PG&E shareholders and brings resolution to the PG&E Fire Litigation as a whole which has been pending since the explosion in 2010. Frank Pitre, Mark Molumphy, and Alexa Summer led the team for CPM, along with co-counsel.

#### SPOTLIGHT ON CPM STAFF



#### Part-Time Cyclist, Full-Time Litigator

When he is not litigating, **Adam Shapiro**, enjoys cycling around the Bay Area. Shapiro, who joined CPM as an Senior Lawyer in January 2017, developed a passion for cycling soon after he moved to San Francisco in 2010. On weekends, he enjoys long rides in Marin and on the Peninsula, and on weekdays he often commutes between San Francisco and Burlingame by bicycle. His favorite rides include biking up and around the Marin Headlands and Mt. Tamalpais. Shapiro currently focuses on whistleblower actions, as well as appellate matters. Prior to joining CPM, Shapiro worked as a Staff Attorney at the California Court of Appeal, and as a clerk

at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Shapiro is a graduate of Stanford Law School, he earned a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University, and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Rochester.

#### **NEW CPM STAFF**



#### **JASON ABBOTT**

Jason Abbott is a Case Assistant on the Business & Consumer Litigation team. He received his B.S. from Humboldt State University and his M.A. from Vermont Law School. Jason enjoys non-profit work with Big Sur Land Trust, hiking,

snowboarding, bird watching and plays the guitar, keyboard, bass and does vocals.



#### **MORGAN BLEHM**

Morgan Blehm is a Case Assistant on the Antitrust team. She received her B.A. from Sonoma State University. Away from work, Morgan enjoys spending time with her family, catching old re-runs of "Friends" and playing soccer and softball.



#### **KONI CHEN**

Koni Chen joined CPM as a Case Assistant on the Business & Consumer Litigation team. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Davis. Koni can speak Cantonese and Mandarin fluently. She is an avid badminton player and loves spending time outdoors.



#### **ALISON COX**

Alison Cox is a Case Assistant on the Antitrust team. She graduated from Whittier College with a B.A. In Alison's spare time, she studies Modern Standard Arabic, volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and travels as often as she can.



#### SYLVIA HERNANDEZ

Sylvia Hernandez is a Legal Assistant on the Business & Consumer Litigation team. She graduated from Westmoor High School and worked at the San Mateo County District Attorney's office for 14 years. Sylvia loves to spend time with her kids and family.



#### **MADELEINE KERR**

Madeleine Kerr joined CPM as a Case Assistant on the False Claims & Consumer Fraud team. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley. Madeleine was a star volleyball player at Cal. She recently moved to

S.F. and enjoys exploring the city and trying new restaurants. Madeleine loves to do anything outdoors, an avid Game of Thrones viewer and Warriors fan.



#### **VIRGINIA LIN**

Virginia is a Case Assistant on the Antitrust team. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. Virginia speaks Mandarin. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, hiking, hunting for the newest food trends and traveling.



#### **CARLO LIPSON**

Carlo Lipson is a Case Assistant on the Business & Consumer Litigation team and also assists with the CPM Investigations team. He graduated from Pitzer College and studied abroad in Paris. Carlo speaks fluent French

and limited Mandarin. His interests are reading, traveling and watching and playing sports.



#### **KEVIN PETRIE**

Kevin Petrie is a new co-pilot for **CPM Air**. He received his B.S. in Aviation, with a minor in Business from San Jose State University. Kevin has been flying since 2011. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, skiing, biking, playing soccer, barbeques and spending time with his dog KC.



#### **JEANETTE SANCHEZ**

Jeanette Sanchez joined CPM as a Case Assistant on the Business & Consumer Litigation team. She received her B.A. from San Francisco State University and speaks fluent Spanish. In her spare time, she likes going to the beach, walking her dog and hanging out with friends.

#### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**



### **CPM Proudly Supports Consumer Watchdog Rage for Justice Awards**

**CPM** annually sponsors the Consumer Watchdog's event in Los Angeles to honor the heroes and heroines of the public interest movement. This year's Rage for Justice Awards honorees included Bernie & Jane Sanders, Jackson Browne and others. Pictured is CPM's partner **Robert Hutchinson** of CPM's Los Angeles office with **Senator Bernie Sanders**. CPM's attorneys work with Consumer Watchdog to represent consumers around the State and throughout the country.



CPM Volunteers at Local Food Banks for Families in Need

#### "Meet the Judges" at San Francisco Community Event



**CPM** attorney **Phyra McCandless** served at the Third Baptist Church of San Francisco to host "Meet the Judges" community forum and reception. San Francisco Superior Court Presiding Judge Teri L. Jackson led a panel of more than ten court officers. McCandless set up the event for the Bar Association of San Francisco and participated in the forum. Pictured left, Hon. Teri L. Jackson, BASF Executive Director Yolanda Jackson and McCandless, a BASF Justice & Diversity Center board member.

CPM Support of California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)



**CPM** has supported the work of CANHR for many years. It is one of the preeminent non-profits serving the legal needs of senior Californians. Anne Marie Murphy serves on the board of

CANHR and CPM is a lead sponsor of the CANHR Annual Conference, which will be held in November in Monterey.

CPM is active in community and state-wide non-profits to benefit our society.

#### COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARTHY, LLP 840 Malcolm Road | Burlingame, CA 94010 www.cpmlegal.com

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"The Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy firm has few peers that equal their ability in litigation.

Their commitment to the cause of justice and their ethical standards stand apart.

They are people who give back to the community and give lawyers a good name."



FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2017



From left, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley; Joseph Cotchett of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy; Chief Justice of California Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye; and California Supreme Court Justice Kathryn M. Werdegar.

# American Jewish Committee Honoree 2017

he American Jewish Committee honored attorney Joseph Cotchett of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy with the 2017 Judge Learned Hand Award on June 1 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

The annual award is the highest honor the

AJC bestows a member of the legal profession. Also honored at the event were AJC Legacy of Justice Award recipients California Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathryn M. Werdegar and Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

- Skylar Dubelko