ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE

San Francisco Bay Area • Sacramento • Los Angeles Area • New York • Washington, D.C.

COTCHETT. PITRE & MCCARTHY LAWYERS HONORED AS SUPER LAWYERS FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy has been honored by Northern California Super Lawyers Magazine as among the top attorneys for 2014. Eleven attorneys-a third of the firm's attorneys-recognized as 2014 Super Lawyers. Honored on the Top 10 list are **Ioe Cotchett** (ranked number one) and Frank Pitre; Niall McCarthy and Ara Jabagchourian are on the Top 100 list; and Nancy Fineman is on the women lawyers' Top 50 list. The following at-

torneys are also 2014 Super Lawyers-Justin Berger, Philip Gregory, Mark Molumphy, Anne Marie Murphy, Nanci Nishimura and Steve Williams. Another six of the firm's attorneys are on the Rising Stars list—Eric Buescher, Matthew Edling, Alexandra Hamilton, Bryan Payne, Brian Schnarr and Adam Zapala, based on a survey of California lawyers.

CPM Obtains California's Top Verdict of 2014 - \$1.15 BILLION

CPM has been recognized for obtaining one of California's top verdicts in 2014. Law360 gathered data on all California state and federal verdicts this year. As one of the eight firms mentioned, CPM was ranked number one for its victory in The People of the State of California v. Atlantic Richfield Co. et al. In January, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge James P. Kleinberg entered a \$1.15 billion judgment against three national lead paint manufacturers to fund a state-run program to address health risks to small children posed by lead paint in California homes. The CPM team was Joe Cotchett, Nancy Fineman and Brian Schnarr, and support staff. Numerous county counsel attorneys worked on this case.

FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO MARTIN'S BEACH



CPM attorneys Joe Cotchett, Pete McCloskey and Eric Buescher represent the Surfrider Foun-

dation in a Coastal Act lawsuit challenging closure of public access to Martin's Beach, south of Half Moon Bay. For nearly 100 years, the public was allowed access the beach. In 2008, the property was purchased by Vinod Khosla, who chose to end public access by putting a gate across the only road from Highway One to the coast. The Foundation sued under the California Coastal Act to require the owners to apply for a

permit from the California Coastal Commission to keep the public out. The case went to trial and the Court heard six days of evidence, including a visit with Judge Mallach to the coastal property. The court is writing a decision.



SUPERIOR COURT JURY RULES FOR CPM IN ELDER ABUSE TRIAL



In April, CPM won an elder abuse jury trial in San Mateo County Superior Court. CPM represented a family in a dispute over the estate of longtime San Francisco resident Anne Marie Murphy Rudolph R. Cook. CPM alleged

Niall McCarthy

that the defendant Cyrus LaFarre, a neighbor of Cook's, duped Cook into amending his estate plan to give his estate to LaFarre. After Cook passed away in March 2013, his family learned that LaFarre claimed to have been left the majority of Cook's estate and named the trustee of Cook's trust under an amendment to Cook's long-time estate plan procured by LaFarre in August 2012. The CPM team was Niall McCarthy, Anne Marie Murphy, and Eric Buescher.



MAJOR RECENT FILINGS





Frank Pitre



Alexandra Hamilton

Lawsuits Filed on Behalf of Individuals Who Had Counterfeit, Non-FDA-Approved Medical Devices Implanted Into Their Bodies - FAKE SURGERIES -

In July, CPM filed lawsuits on behalf of individuals who had counterfeit, non-FDAapproved medical devices implanted into their bodies. The complaint alleges that Plaintiffs

Robert Hutchinson are among thousands of spinal fusion surgery patients in Southern California and elsewhere who were used to foster defendants' systematic pattern of fraud and deceit. Fueled by illegal kickbacks, illegal profits, and illegal counterfeit non-FDA-approved spinal fusion hardware implanted into the bodies of patients, including Plaintiffs, without their knowledge and consent, defendants' conspiracy disregarded the safety and effectiveness of the knockoff hardware so that defendants that include doctors, chiropractors, and others, could defraud insurance companies and ensure a continued stream of unlawful profits to the conspirators. The CPM team is headed up by Frank Pitre, Robert Hutchinson, Alexandra Hamilton and Joanna LiCalsi.

Joanna LiCalsi

LAWSUIT FILED ON BEHALF OF SENIORS AGAINST RETIREMENT VILLAGE FOR **"UP-STREAMING" MILLIONS OF SENIORS' MONEY**



CPM is pursuing a class action complaint on behalf of the 500 residents of the Vi-Palo Alto, a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). CPM's clients (the proposed class representatives) include a Nobel laureate, doctor, World War II journalist and a unique group of accomplished South

Niall McCarthy

Demetrius Lambrinos

Bay senior citizens. The facility is located on Stanford land. The lawsuit is believed to the first of its kind in the Bay Area challenging a CCRC's financial practices. The complaint alleges that \$190 million dollars was "up-streamed" from the Palo Alto facility to its corporate parent in Chicago, thus leaving the senior citizen residents financially vulnerable. Those funds were to be returned to the senior citizens when they moved out, or returned to their families when they passed away. The complaint alleges that the Chicago company has refused to return the money to Palo Alto. The CPM team is headed by Niall McCarthy, Anne Marie Murphy, and Demetrius Lambrinos.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AGAINST HOME WARRANTIES

CPM was recently recruited to join major litigation pending in federal and state courts in California against the largest title companies in the country. The class action cases allege that defendants are selling "repair or replace" home warranty services which are high cost and low benefit. The complaint allege that while consumers pay for "replacement" of appliances and heating systems within homes, virtually no replacements occur and that defendants Old Republic, First American and Fidelity routinely deny repair claims. In short, consumers are paying for a service that they are not getting. CPM is co-counsel in the cases which are proceeding toward trial. The CPM team is headed up by Niall McCarthy, Anne Marie Murphy, Bob Hutchinson, and Joanna LiCalsi. The class cases are pending in federal and state courts in California.



LAWSUITS FILED TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

CPM recently filed two major environmental cases to prevent large-scale highway construction projects. In the first, federal Judge James Donato issued a rare injunction temporarily halting plans by Caltrans to widen Highways 197 and 199 along the Smith River, in northwest California, because the project posed a risk of irreparable harm to the threatened SONCC coho salmon and their critical habitat. The second case sought a follow-on injunction requiring Caltrans to comply with California and federal law before widening Highway 101 through Richardson Grove State Park. The Court blocked Caltrans from widening this narrow one-mile stretch of US 101, finding that the project posed a risk of irreparable harm to ancient redwood trees 300 feet tall and thousands of years old located within the state park. The team is led by Philip Gregory and Pete McCloskey who handle a number of environmental cases - including global warming cases.

MAJOR RECENT FILINGS CONSUMER AND SECURITIES FRAUD













Mark Molumphy Nancy Fineman

eman Nanci Nishimura

Philip Gregory Matthew Edling Camilo Artiga-Purcell Kevin O'Brien

Jennifer Crutchfield

BARCLAYS AND THE "DARK POOLS" LITIGATION

CPM filed a class action complaint against Barclays PLC and Barclays Capital, Inc. ("Barclays") in federal court in the Central District of California. The complaint alleges Barclays made false statements and concealed material information from clients about its dark pool, Liquidity Cross ("LX"). LX is an anonymous private trading venue and one of Wall Street's largest dark pools. CPM's investigation has revealed that while Barclays was courting aggressive, predatory, high-frequency traders to participate in its dark pools, it represented to its other clients that it had a proprietary system that would protect those clients from the very sharks that it knew were lurking in its dark pool. Dark pools have proliferated over the past three years as modern technology has changed the landscape of the securities markets. Billions of dollars now change hands in thousandths of a second, or milliseconds, and speed has become the "holy grail" of Wall Street. CPM seeks to hold Barclays responsible for the losses investors have suffered at the hands of Barclay's deceptive marketing practices.

GOOGLE, APPLE, AND INTEL LITIGATION

CPM has filed three separate cases in Santa Clara County Superior Court against certain officers and directors of Google, Apple and Intel alleging that they entered into illegal agreements not to recruit each other employees. The highest levels of the companies were involved in making these agreements. These agreements continued for multiple years and had the effect of suppressing innovation and employees' salaries. CPM alleges that the directors and officers breached their fiduciary duties by entering into and ratifying these agreements and subjecting the companies to penalties from the Department of Justice and employee lawsuits. These cases are derivative cases on behalf of the shareholders and company.

LEHMAN LITIGATION

CPM represents California public entities who lost hundreds of millions of dollars following the bankruptcy of Lehman. After settling with the Directors and Officers of Lehman, the case is proceeding against Lehman's auditor Ernst & Young in the federal court in the Southern District of New York. CPM is opposing Ernst & Young's efforts to have the case against it dismissed without a trial.

J.P. MORGAN LITIGATION

CPM is lending a derivative action against JP Morgan's directors following the company's groundbreaking criminal settlement with the government. The firm seeks to recover billions of dollars on behalf of JP Morgan shareholders arising from the directors' approval of risky underwriting activities and sale of toxic mortgage-back securities that led to the 2007 financial crisis. The case is proceeding in the federal court in the Eastern District of California and is set for hearing in September with rulings expected before the end of the year.

LONDON INTERBANK OFFERED RATE (LIBOR) LITIGATION

CPM represents more than a dozen cities, counties, educational institutions and public entities in the LIBOR Litigation, alleging that the benchmark interest rate used to set their multi-million dollar investments or financial instruments was manipulated by the major banks that set one of the world's premier benchmark rates. To date, LIBOR banks including JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup have been fined more than \$6 Billion for rate-rigging by authorities in the U.S., U.K. and elsewhere. In July, Lloyds Banking Group and Lloyds Global Bank was fined nearly \$200 Million in civil and criminal penalties by the CFTC and DOJ, as well as £105 Million in the U.K. The District Court in New York recently lifted the stay and amended complaints will be filed in October. The CPM team is led by **Nanci Nishimura** and her team including **Alexander Barnett** and **Kevin O'Brien**. CPM continues to investigate other potential cases of LIBOR manipulation.

HONORS FOR CPM



COTCHETT, FINEMAN & SCHNARR NAMED TRIAL LAWYERS OF THE YEAR 2014 BY TWO PRESTIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS

Joe Cotchett, Nancy Fineman, Brian Schnarr and the entire Lead Paint team were recognized as TRIAL LAWYERS OF THE YEAR by two prestigious associations - San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and Public Justice. CPM represented various California counties and cities who sued lead paint companies that manufactured and sold lead paint for homes. After a

Joe Cotchett, Nancy Fineman, Mary Alexander and Brian Schnarr

13-year odyssey, the team won a \$1.15 billion judgment to fund lead paint abatement to help lead poisoned children in ten counties and cities. Frank Pitre was also a Public Justice finalist for his work on the Toyota Sudden Unintended Acceleration case. CPM was in 2 of the 5 finalist cases chosen across the United States.



McCLOSKEY AWARDED PCI'S 2014 BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD

Pete McCloskey was awarded the Pacific Century Institute's 2014 Building Bridges Award at PCI's Annual Awards Dinner. McCloskey served in the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1947, the U.S.

Marine Corps from 1950 to 1952, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1952 to 1960, and the Ready Reserve from 1960 to 1967. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1974, having attained the rank of Colonel. His heroism in combat is legendary and he is known within the Marines as "the Beowulf of the Fifth Marines." McCloskey was awarded the Navy Cross and Silver Star for heroism in combat and two Purple Hearts as a Marine during the Korean War accepting the 2014 Building Bridges Award, McCloskey said, "The only bridge I would like to see built in my lifetime would be one where the people of North and South Korea can again be reunited as one people in peace."

Buescher and Hamilton Named Top 40 Under 40

- NATIONAL TRIAL LAWYERS -

CPM attorneys **Eric Buescher** and **Alexandra Hamilton** were selected to the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40. The association recognizes young attorneys under 40 years old who exemplify superior qualifications, trial results, and leadership.

Selection is based on a thorough multi-phase process which includes peer nominations combined with third-party research.



McCarthy Wins Award From California Judicial Council



In August, **Niall McCarthy** was presented the **Stanley Mosk Defender of Justice Award** by the California Judicial Council. In September, McCarthy was also honored with the Presidential Recognition Award by the State Bar of California and admitted to the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

FINEMAN NAMED PRESIDENT OF BOALT HALL ALUMNI

Nancy Fineman has been appointed **President** of the **Boalt Hall Alumni Association**. She has been busy working with the school's new dean, Sujit Choudhry, to foster the school's tradition of educational excellence, strengthen relationships among alumni, faculty and students and promote the development of law school resources.

PITRE APPOINTED TO USF SCHOOL OF LAW BOARD OF COUNSELORS

Frank Pitre was honored and appointed to the **University of San Francisco School of Law** Board of Counselors by Dean John Trasvina. The Board of Counselors is a distinguished group of alumni and friends of the Law School who provide the Dean with advice about the mission, direction and future of the Law School. Pitre was a graduate of USF's Business School in 1977, and the Law School in 1981. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

SANTA CLARA LAW SCHOOL HONORS COTCHETT

Joe Cotchett received the Santa Clara Law Amicus Award at the Celebration of Achievement Gala in San Jose. The Celebration of Achievement honors lawyers who have made a difference in the law for all of Californians. Every year, the Law School acknowledges the significant contributions of leaders in the bar and their alumni. Cotchett graduated from The University of California's Hastings College of the Law.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

CPM VOLUNTEERS FOR 2014 REBUILDING TOGETHER PROGRAM



Debbie Kiefer heads up **CPM's** team of volunteers for Rebuilding Together, the nation's leading nonprofit that works to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities for low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and those with disabilities. CPM helped restore an elderly woman's home in Daly

City by sanding, painting, gardening and cleaning. This year, Kiefer was recognized by the California Legislature and Rebuilding Together Peninsula for her many years as the CPM Volunteer/ Construction Captain.



ANNUAL CHINESE DELEGATE VISIT



Every year, **CPM** hosts Chinese delegates through the **International Academy of Trial Lawyers.** In May,

Justice Ming Chin Fan "Roger" Yang from the People's Republic of China came to learn about the legislation process, law and U.S. regulation on internet administration, movie industry and cultural heritage protection. He is an official in the Department of Education, Science, Culture and Public Health in the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council.



CPM Paralegal Volunteers Time To Teach Adults To Read



Oni Szeto, a senior paralegal at **CPM**, volunteers for **SF Project Read**. It is a free adult literacy program offered by the SF Public Library to any English-speaking adult with the desire to learn or improve his or her reading skills. Oni provides free one-on-one tutoring and on-going support to those adults who seek to improve their basic reading and writing skills. Oni said she is "very for-tunate that CPM encourages [her] to volunteer for this wonderful organization."

CPM RESTORES PRESCHOOL FOR S.F. CHILDREN



CPM Staff and Attorneys (pictured) volunteered all day for a Pre-School Beautification program organized by the Asian American Bar Association. CPM volunteers painted, landscaped, cleaned, and did repair work at a preschool in San Francisco. The children

were delighted when they returned to their school with freshly painted classrooms, clean surroundings and fresh soil for their gardening class.



CPM SUPPORTS VETERANS



In August, **CPM** attorney **Chris Lavorato** participated in the Veterans' Stand Down event, a new organization consist-

ing of veteran lawyers helping vets with legal issues on a pro-bono basis. The event helped over 400 homeless veterans— they were able to obtain legal advice, assistance on court cases, receive medical care and even veterinary care for their animals. The

organization known as Veteran Lawyers of San Mateo County is in formation, and was cofounded by Lavorato.



CPM WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATES



ALEX BARNETT Received his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and earned his J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.



JOYCE CHANG Received her B.S. from University of California, Davis and earned her J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law. Chang speaks fluent Mandarin and is involved in International & Asian Business Dispute Resolution.



RYON NIXON Received his B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles and earned his J.D. from University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.



KEVIN O'BRIEN Received his B.A. from San Francisco State University and earned his J.D. from University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

DAMRELL JOINS GOV. JERRY BROWN ON TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO



In July, **CPM** attorney and former Federal Judge **Frank Damrell** attended a trade mission to Mexico with **Governor Jerry Brown**. They met with Mexican government and business leaders to help boost bilateral trade, investment opportunities and expand environmental and economic cooperation. The trade mission included business, economic development, investment and policy leaders throughout California. The trip follows Governor Brown's 2013 Trade and Investment Mission to China attended by Judge Damrell.

CPM NAMED AMERICA'S ELITE TRIAL LAWYERS

CPM has been honored as one of America's **Elite Trial Lawyers** by **The National Law Journal**. The list is compiled of firms that obtained results in complex cases that have wide impact on the law and legal profession.

NISHIMURA LEADER IN THE ASIAN COMMUNITY



Nanci Nishimura was Co-Chair for the Asian Art Museum gala in June after she was appointed to the Commission of the Asian Art Museum by San Francisco Mayor

Nanci Nishimura

Ed Lee in January. In May, she spoke on behalf of Governor Jerry Brown on

the importance of public service at a Sacramento reception honoring Gubernatorial appointees of Asian descent.

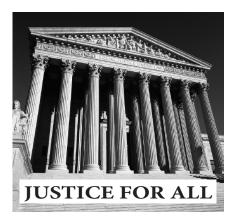


COTCHETT HONORED AS TOP 100 ATTORNEY IN CALIFORNIA FOR 2014

For the 17th consecutive year, **Joe Cotchett** has been named one of **The San Francisco and Los Angeles Daily Journal's Top 100 Attorneys** in California. This list honors the 100 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 ranking.



COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARTHY, LLP 840 MALCOLM ROAD BURLINGAME, CA 94010 www.cpmlegal.com



"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it." - Maya Angelou



ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE CASE UPDATES

ANTITRUST & BUSINESS FRAUD



FREIGHT FORWARDING

CPM recently filed a motion to approve additional settlements in the Freight Forwarding antitrust class action in federal court in Brooklyn, New York. This case involves a global conspiracy to fix the prices of freight forwarding services - shipments of packages and cargo by air and by sea - by companies such as UPS and DHL. The recently announced settlements will return approximately \$44 million to the class, and almost \$200 million has been recovered for the class so far. The case continues against the remaining defendants.



TRANSPACIFIC AIR TRANSPORTATION

CPM recently announced five settlements in this case, totaling approximately \$30 million. This case, pending in the United States District Court in San Francisco, involves a global conspiracy to increase the prices charged to people traveling between the United States and Asia by air. CPM expects to announce additional recoveries in our next newsletter.

AUTO PARTS



This case involves a massive conspiracy to fix the prices of component parts of cars. CPM alleges that these increased prices are then passed on to the consumers who purchase automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles. The first settlements have been announced in this case with defendants TRW, Yazaki, Nippon Seiki, Autoliv, and Lear. The Court has also upheld complaints in the Wire Harness, Fuel Senders, Heating Control Panel, and Bearings cases, and discovery is beginning. Thus far, at least twenty-nine separate auto parts have been identified as being the subject of price-fixing by defendants. The United States Department of Justice has called this conspiracy the "biggest criminal antitrust investigation that we've ever encountered . . . with respect to the impact on U.S. businesses and consumers."



CATHODE RAY TUBES

The first part of this case has reached its conclusion with \$143.475 million in settlements on behalf of the class of direct purchasers of Cathode Ray Tubes. This case involved a long conspiracy by companies such as Samsung to fix the price of Cathode Ray Tubes that were used in television sets and computer monitors. We are continuing to prosecute the case against Mitsubishi and Thomson.

CPM is handling several arbitrations for Asian corporations, including companies headquartered in Beijing. CPM uses its expertise in the American legal system and its experience in arbitration in assisting Asian companies in navigating the United States' legal system in order to achieve just, efficient, and fair results. These

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Bryan Payne



PENDING INVESTIGATIONS

CPM has been asked to investigate new antitrust cases involving collusion in financial markets, electronic goods, agricultural supplies, and food products. If you are concerned that you may have been the victim of price-fixing or other anti-competitive conduct, please feel free to contact us.

claims including business disputes, contract claims, and intellectual property claims.

Adam Zapala



FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT





Niall McCarthy



Anne Marie Murphy Ryon Nixon

WHISTLEBLOWER CASES

The CPM False Claims team has recently continued their success against companies who overbill the federal and state governments. The team recently recovered millions of dollars in California, Virginia, Massachusetts and Nevada in Medicaid overbilling cases. In recent years, the lawyers at CPM have returned hundreds of millions of dollars to taxpayers. The recent cases fall into two categories, charging the government more than private payors for the exact same service or product and providing kickbacks or incentives to secure government business. CPM receives many calls from former employees and referring attorneys who describe all types of frauds against the government. The team's ability to efficiently achieve results for whistleblowers has brought CPM to the top of this specialized field. CPM currently has cases pending thought the country in federal and state courts covering all types of billing fraud against the government.

Whistleblower cases under the False Claims Act are filed under seal, and typically do not become public for several years after filing. CPM has matters involving corporations in multiple industries, including medical laboratories, hospice companies, oil and gas companies, physical therapy chains, nursing homes, medical device manufacturers, hospitals, pharmacies, vocational schools, and others. Unfortunately, fraud against the government runs rampant in virtually every industry. CPM lawyers also provide lectures on how to successfully prosecute False Claims Act actions.

MASS TORTS - GM IGNITION SWITCH DEFECT

In June, the United States Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation issued an Order coordinating hundreds of lawsuits for personal injury, death and economic losses tied to General Motors' concealment of defective ignition switches in approximately 2.6 million vehicles. Judicial supervision over the mix of class action and individual damage cases was assigned to Judge Jesse M. Furman of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. **Frank Pitre** of **CPM** was selected by Judge Furman to fill one of ten Executive Committee Leadership Positions to prosecute the nationwide litigation on behalf of consumers.

FALSE CLAIMS - COUNTERFEIT SURGICAL HARDWARE

For over two years, CPM investigated a fraudulent overbilling scheme involving kickbacks to doctors and medical device suppliers in return for performing spinal fusion surgeries at select Southern California hospitals. In the course of that investigation, CPM discovered that the distributors of medical devices had contracted with a machine shop in Temecula, California to manufacture counterfeit medical devices used in spinal fusion surgeries. In the last forty-five days, CPM, together with the lawyers from Knox Rickson, LLP and Kabateck, Brown and Kellner, LLP, filed cases on behalf of the unsuspecting victims of this unconscionable fraudulent scheme whose health has been compromised in the name of greed.

MASS INJURY

RICHMOND-CHEVRON REFINERY FIRE

CPM represents the City of Richmond against Chevron U.S.A. Inc. in connection with a massive oil refinery explosion that paralyzed the City of Richmond. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigating the fire found that Chevron missed multiple opportunities to replace the doomed pipe that caused the blaze—which shut down the refinery for months and caused over 15,000 residents to seek help. CPM is in the process of conducting its own, more expansive review of tens of thousands of documents related to deficiencies in Chevron's pipeline safety practices over a decade prior to the incident.

<u>AVIATION</u>

ASIANA FLIGHT 214 CRASH

Frank Pitre was appointed Liaison Counsel to oversee the litigation in the Northern District of California arising from the July 6, 2013 air crash of Asiana Flight 214. CPM has taken a leadership role in organizing and managing the prosecution of thirty-four cases consolidated as part of the multidistrict litigation against Asiana Airlines and Boeing. The CPM team is actively involved in document production related to concerns in Boeing's auto-throttle control system, auto-throttle warnings, and low-speed warnings. At the same time, the CPM team is working with the lawyers around the country to develop a structure for potential resolution of all passenger cases.