



Frank M. Pitre

Partner

San Francisco Bay Area

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Frank M. Pitre, a San Francisco native, earned his B.S., *cum laude*, in Business Administration and his J.D. from the University of San Francisco. While at USF, Frank served a legal externship with the California Supreme Court.

Considered as one of the outstanding trial lawyers in areas of personal injury/wrongful death, consumer fraud, mass torts and commercial torts, Frank has won millions of dollars for victims of injustice.

His skill as a trial lawyer has earned him recognition among his peers who have elected him as a member of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, American Board of Trial Advocates (Advocate), International Academy of Trial Lawyers, International Society of Barristers, and the National Board of Trial Advocacy. In 2018, he was honored by Consumer Watchdog with its Lifetime Achievement Award for his successful advocacy on behalf of consumers over more than three decades.

Since January 2018, he has served as Co-Lead Counsel on behalf of the victims of the North Bay Wild Fires to prosecute claims against PG&E for its mismanagement of electrical operations leading to 43 deaths, 100,000 people displaced, over 245,000 acres burned and more than 14,700 homes and structures destroyed. *In Re: California North Bay Fire Cases, JCCP Action No. 4955*. Concurrently, he served as a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in statewide mass tort actions prosecuted against PG&E arising out of the Butte Wildfire. *In Re: Butte Fire Cases, JCCP Action No. 4853*.

Office

San Francisco Airport Office
Center
840 Malcolm Road
Suite 200
Burlingame, CA 94010

Practice Areas

Aviation / Helicopter Accidents
Balcony Collapse Litigation
Defective Products / Mass Torts
Personal Injury & Wrongful Death
Pharmaceutical Litigation

Education

University of San Francisco School
of Law, J.D.

University of San Francisco, B.S.,
cum laude

Clerkships

Legal externship with the
California Supreme Court

Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court
California

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Previous to that, he acted as Co-Lead Counsel, and secured one of the top 10 largest Shareholder Derivative Settlements in U.S. history against Officers and Directors of PG&E arising out of the San Bruno Fire & Explosion. *Salman, et al. v. Darbee, et al., JCCP Action No. 4648.*

He was selected by Federal District Court Judge Charles R. Breyer as one of twenty lawyers, among 150 attorney applicants nationwide, to serve as a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee to prosecute claims on behalf of a nationwide class of consumers against Volkswagen, Porsche and Audi over their diesel emissions scandal. The cases were pending in the Northern District of California in *MDL 2672: In Re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation.*

Frank presently serves as one of ten members of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee selected by Federal District Court Judge Jesse Furman to lead litigation pending in the Southern District of New York on behalf of a nationwide class of consumers against General Motors for safety related defects in over 27 million vehicles. The cases are currently pending in *MDL 2543: In Re General Motors Ignition Switch Litigation.*

At present, Frank serves as a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in the prosecution of cases against Boeing arising from the Ethiopian Airlines crash of a 737 Max 8 in Addis Ababa on March 10, 2019, which killed 149 passengers and 8 crew members. *19-cv-02170: In Re Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 Crash.* He also serves as a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in claims on behalf of numerous victims who lost their homes and loved ones in the Thomas/Woolsey Wildfires in Southern California. *JCCP Action No. 4965: In Re Southern California Fire Cases.* In addition, he serves as a member of The Steering Committee in the prosecution of over 1,400 clients against So. Cal Gas arising out of the Porter Ranch gas storage facility failure. *In Re: Southern California Gas Leak Cases, JCCP Action No. 4861.*

Frank served as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel spearheading the coordination of dozens of cases filed on behalf of injured passengers against Asiana Airlines and Boeing, arising from the crash of Asiana Airlines Flight 214 in San Francisco on July 6, 2013. *In Re: Air Crash At San Francisco, California On July 6, 2013.*

In November 2013, Frank was honored by the Consumer Attorneys of California as Consumer Attorney of the Year for his efforts in coordinating, prosecuting and resolving over 200 claims of injury, death and property destruction against PG&E. See link to ***In Re: San Bruno Fire Cases: JCCP Action No. 4648***

Earlier that same year, Frank served as Co-Lead Counsel for Economic Loss Class Plaintiffs in the Toyota Unintended Acceleration Marketing & Sales Practices Cases which successfully resulted in securing final approval of a \$1.5 billion settlement on behalf of class members. *In Re: Toyota Unintended Acceleration Marketing Sales Practices & Product Liability Litigation, MDL 2151JVS.*

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In 2011, Frank recovered the largest individual wrongful death verdict in San Diego County history, when a jury awarded \$17.4 million to the wife and three children of a high ranking U.S. Naval Officer who was killed while riding his bike in a collision with an American Medical Response transport van. *Mazurek, et al. v. American Medical Response, et al., San Diego Superior Court Action No. 10-83975 May 20, 2011*. As a result, he was named a finalist for the 2011 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys of California.

In 2009, Frank was recognized by the National Law Journal's "Plaintiff's Hot List" for his work as co-lead trial counsel in the *In Re: Bextra and Celebrex Mktg., Sales Practices & Product Liability Litigation (MDL 1699)*, which culminated in Pfizer agreeing to pay \$894 million to settle consolidated injury and class action cases related to its painkillers Bextra & Celebrex.

In 2006, Frank obtained one of the largest verdicts in Sutter County history when he obtained over \$45 million on behalf of an elderly minority shareholder who had been frozen out of participation in a lucrative family timber harvesting business. *Siller v. Siller, Sutter County Superior Court Action No. CVCS01-1083*.

Frank is a past president of Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), the 3,000-member group of lawyers dedicated to protecting and seeking justice for consumers. He has also served as a past president of the San Francisco Chapter of ABOTA, and presently serves as Treasurer of Cal-ABOTA.

Frank served as liaison counsel and a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the Alaska Air Flight 261 air crash. In addition, he was a member of the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee arising out of the Singapore Airlines Flight 006 air crash in Taiwan. Immediately prior to his committee appointments in *Alaska Air* and *Singapore Airlines*, he served as a member of the Plaintiffs' Management Committee in the *California Diet Drug Litigation*, where thousands of individuals were victimized by the diet pill combination Fen-Phen, which was condemned by the FDA for causing adverse health effects.

Frank's numerous jury trials include a multi-million dollar wrongful death verdict in Orange County Superior Court in Santa Ana, California, against the State Department of Transportation, a highway contractor, and a trucking company. The verdict, one of the then-largest of its kind for Orange County, was affirmed on appeal, and as a result Frank was a finalist for CAOC's Trial Lawyer of the Year award (2004).

Frank served as co-lead trial counsel for Consumers Union, obtaining a defense verdict in favor of Consumers Union in a product disparagement case where the plaintiff, Isuzu Motors of Japan, sought damages of multi-million dollars. His work in defense of Consumers Union earned him recognition as a finalist for the 2000 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.

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Frank won a multi-million dollar verdict for the victims of a high profile San Francisco balcony collapse. He also secured a significant verdict for compensatory and punitive damages before a San Francisco jury which found the defendant to have wrongfully deprived the plaintiff of her partnership interest in a successful business. In addition, he served as co-lead trial counsel with Joseph W. Cotchett for E. & J. Gallo, winning a landmark trade dress infringement case for the winery.

Frank's notable federal class action cases include *Livingston v. Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc.*, involving a nationwide antitrust class action under the Sherman Act by purchasers of more than three million Toyota vehicles.

Frank's experience in mass tort cases began in 1987 with the *PSA Air Crash Cases*, representing numerous plaintiffs in wrongful death actions following the crash of PSA Flight 1771; he served as a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee, and later as Plaintiffs' co-lead trial counsel for the six-week jury trial which established the defendants' liability. The success of the *PSA Air Crash Cases* led to his appointment as a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in *Carnahan et al. v. State of California*, which successfully resolved hundreds of claims for personal injuries and damages against more than 100 defendants.

Frank is the author of numerous articles, including "Abuse of Process," California Tort Damages, California Continuing Education of the Bar, 1988; and "Tort Trends," The Docket, San Mateo County Bar Association, 1989-1994. He is co-author of "Jury Instructions: A Practical Approach to their Use," Civil Litigation Reporter, March, 1984; "Arguing Punitive Damages," Civil Litigation Reporter, California Continuing Education of the Bar, 1991; "Effective Opening Statements," California Litigation, Journal of The Litigation Section, California State Bar, 1991; "Jury Trial Tips: Witnesses," California Litigation, Journal of The Litigation Section, California State Bar, 1991; and "Winning Through a More Effective Direct Examination," California Litigation, Journal of the Litigation Section, California State Bar, 1991. Since 1998, he has served as the author of "California Personal Injury Proof," published by the California Continuing Education of the Bar.

Frank has served on the faculty of the Hastings College of Advocacy and the University of San Francisco Trial Advocacy Program. He also has served as the Co-Chair and presenter at several Masters In Trial programs sponsored by the ABOTA Foundation.

Honors & Recognitions

Recognized by Los Angeles/San Francisco Daily Journal as One of California's Top 100 Lawyers

Selected by Los Angeles/San Francisco Daily Journal as One of California's Top 25 Plaintiff Lawyers

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2014-2018 Selected as One of Northern California's Top 10 Lawyers by Super Lawyers

Selected by Best Lawyers as Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year for the San Francisco Bay Area

2014 Finalist Public Justice Trial Lawyer of the Year

2013 Consumer Attorney of the Year Award Recipient

Honored by the San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association as Trial Lawyer of the Year, 2006

Recognized as a Finalist for Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2000, 2004 and 2011

Selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America each year since 2006

Ranked among the top 500 litigators in America by Lawdragon Magazine

Named a Northern California (Top100) Super Lawyer for each year since 2005, earning a Top 10 ranking in 2010

Recipient of Edward I. Pollock Award for his dedicated efforts on behalf of consumers (2010)

Affiliations

American Board of Trial Advocates, San Francisco Chapter, Advocate (President, 2016 San Francisco Chapter)

Cal-ABOTA, Treasurer (2019)

American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow

International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Fellow

International Society of Barristers, Fellow

National Board of Trial Advocacy, Member

Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), Past President

- Vice President 2002, 2004
- President 2005-06

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National Trial Lawyers Association, Top 100

Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Member, Board of Directors 1996 to 2000

American Bar Foundation, Fellow

American Bar Association, Member

American Association for Justice, Member

Litigation Counsel of America, Member

San Mateo County Trial Lawyers, Member, Board of Directors 1996 to 2001

San Mateo County Barristers, Member, Board of Directors, 1984-1986

San Mateo County Bar, Member, Board of Directors, 1990-1992

Bar Association of San Francisco, Member

State Bar of California

University of San Francisco, School of Law, Board of Directors

News

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP Files Lawsuit on Behalf of Justice John Trotter (Ret.), Trustee of the PG&E Fire Victim Trust, Against Certain PG&E Officers and Directors
02.24.2021

Despite Court Closures, 2020 Brought Big Courthouse Wins for Plaintiffs in the Southern California Gas Leak Cases
01.13.2021

Parents of Slain Saugus High School Student Sue School District on the Anniversary of 15-Year-Old Gracie Muehlberger's Tragic Death
11.20.2020

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CPM Partners Joe Cotchett and Frank Pitre Named to Distinguished List of *Daily Journal's* 'Top Plaintiff Lawyers' in California for 2020
06.10.2020

CPM Partners Selected to the Daily Journal's Top Plaintiff Lawyers
06.19.2019

As CPM Fights for Fire Victims, California Says PG&E Power Lines Caused Camp Fire That Killed 85
The New York Times, 05.15.2019

CPM Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit and FAA Claim on Behalf of Young American Woman Killed in Boeing 737 MAX 8 Crash in Ethiopia
2019

CPM Clients Wildfire Victims Accuse PG&E of Resisting Oversight
Courthouse News, 03.04.2019

Attorneys (including CPM): PG&E has long failed to handle wildfire risk
San Francisco Chronicle, 03.01.2019

PG&E bankruptcy will be an expensive process
KTVU

CPM Files Series of Lawsuits on Behalf of Camp Fire Victims
12.10.2018

Four CPM Partners Named Daily Journal's Top 100 Lawyers in California
09.19.2018

PG&E Sees 'Significant Liability' in California Wildfire Report
Bloomberg, 06.11.2018

Cal Fire Releases Cause of a Dozen More October Fires: Nearly All Tied to PG&E
KQED, 06.08.2018

CPM Partner Frank Pitre Receives the 2018 Lifetime Legal Achievement Award for Advocacy Regarding California Wildfires
06.02.2018

SIX-TIME FELON PG&E WANTS A FREE PASS – DON'T LET THEM HAVE IT

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CPM Sues Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Rash of Deadly Northern California Wildfires
NBC Bay Area News, 11.14.2017

CPM Among Five Top Law Firms to Announce Series of Lawsuits against PG&E on behalf of Fire Victims
Davis Vanguard, 11.14.2017

CPM client former SF mayor among plaintiffs in seven new lawsuits against PG&E over North Bay fires
San Francisco Examiner, 11.14.2017

New PG&E reports show widespread problems during Wine Country fires
San Jose Mercury News, 10.31.2017

KGO Radio Interview: CPM Partner Wildfire Litigation Expert Discusses "Is PG&E Responsible for the North Bay Fires?"
KGO Radio, 10.18.2017

Dispatch calls link PG&E power lines to North Bay wild fires, cause still under investigation
KTVU, 10.12.2017

California fire mystery: PG&E lines fell in winds that weren't 'hurricane strength'
San Jose Mercury News, 10.12.2017

CPM Wildfire Litigation Experts Leading Charge of Investigation on North Bay Fires

CPM Files Lawsuit Against Immigration and Customs Enforcement for Family of Fallen Oakland Muralist, Tony Ramos
08.03.2017

PG&E DERIVATIVE LITIGATION NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

CPM Secures \$90 Million Settlement in PG&E San Bruno Explosion Case
04.21.2017

CPM Helps First Major Wave of Millennium Tower Individual Owners File Suit
02.10.2017

As CPM Fights for Justice to Be Served, Government Disclaims Responsibility for Kate Steinle's Death

CPM Partner: Exploding Samsung 7 Phones Are Just the Tip of the Iceberg
10.19.2016

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California police officers required to lock up guns after bill signed into law
OC Register, 09.26.2016

Federal Jury Finds PG&E Guilty of Obstructing Investigators
ABC 7 News, 08.09.2016

Multiple CPM Litigators Recognized as Northern California Super Lawyers 2016
07.19.2016

Lost in the Debate: The Threat to Judicial Independence
06.17.2016

CPM Files Federal Claim Against ICE for Family of Slain Oakland Muralist, Tony Ramos
06.02.2016

CPM Client Kate Steinle's Family Sues Federal Agencies After Alleged Murder By Undocumented Immigrant
ABC News, 05.27.2016

CPM Partner Frank Pitre Chosen as One of Two of State's Top Consumer Lawyers Among Dream Team to Lead Nationwide Class Action Cases Against Volkswagen
2016

Unaccounted For: Hundreds of Guns Lost or Stolen From Bay Area Police Agencies Since 2010
NBC Bay Area, 11.16.2015

CPM Files Lawsuit Against Volkswagen on Behalf of Stanford Professors for Allegedly Using Software to Circumvent Emissions Testing
09.25.2015

CPM Client Steinle Family Files Claims to Hold SF Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, ICE and the Bureau of Land Management Responsible for Daughter's Death
09.01.2015

Court Orders PG&E Directors to Answer, Allowing CPM Client Shareholders' Suit to Proceed
08.28.2015

Multiple Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy Lawyers Honored as Super Lawyers For Northern California
07.16.2015

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CPM Partners Cotchett, Pitre and Murphy Selected to List of Daily Journal's Top 25 Plaintiff Lawyers
07.15.2015

CPM Partner Niall McCarthy Interviewed by Dublin Radio Station RTE Radio 1 Re: Berkeley Balcony
Collapse
06.21.2015

Experts say balcony collapse that killed 6 likely due to dry rot
The Daily Californian, 06.18.2015

Public Radio Airs Story on CPM's Counterfeit Screws Litigation
The Center for Investigative Reporting, 03.09.2015

CPM Represents City of Richmond Regarding Chevron Refinery Fire

CPM Fights Against Oil Pollution of Farm Lands in Kern County

CPM's Consolidated Shareholder Derivative Lawsuit Moves Ahead Against PG&E Officers and Directors

CPM Files Lawsuits on Behalf of Individuals Who Had Counterfeit, Non-FDA-Approved Medical Devices
Implanted

CPM Partner Pitre Selected by "Best Lawyer" as 2015 Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year

In Defective Airbags Product Liability Case, CPM Represents Numerous Owners of Honda and BMW
Cars with Defective Takata Airbags

Center for Investigative Reporting Covers CPM's Spinal Screw Case
11.03.2014

Blast lawsuit seeking money from PG&E execs gets go-ahead
San Francisco Chronicle, 08.05.2014

CPM Attorneys Win National Trial Lawyer of the Year
07.27.2014

CPM Files Lawsuit Regarding Counterfeit, Non-FDA Approved Medical Devices Implanted Into Bodies
07.17.2014

CPM Partners Cotchett, Pitre, McCarthy and Jabagchourian Named to 2014 Top 100 Northern California
Super Lawyers List
07.09.2014

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CPM Name Partner Frank Pitre is Consumer Attorneys of California's 2013 Consumer Attorney of the Year

11.17.2013

CPM Files Consolidated Shareholder Derivative Lawsuit Against PG&E Officers And Directors
2013

CPM Files Complaint on Behalf of PG&E Against Its Officers and Directors for Breach of Their Fiduciary Duties

09.23.2013

CPM Helps SFO Plane Crash Survivors File Lawsuit Against Asiana, Boeing
NBC Bay Area, 08.09.2013

CPM client Northern California city sues Chevron over refinery fire
Reuters, 08.02.2013

Multiple CPM Lawyers Named to Super Lawyers Annual List for Northern California
07.24.2013

Courts Will Treat Asiana Passengers Differently
AP, 07.15.2013

CPM Achieves \$1.3 Billion Settlement in Toyota Acceleration Class Action
12.26.2012

Judge Rules Jury Can Set Punitive Damages in PG&E Pipeline Blast
10.30.2012

CPM Named as Super Lawyers 2012

CPM Client Receives Largest Verdict Awarded in Individual Wrongful Death Suit in San Diego County
05.20.2011

Frank Pitre Receives Edward I. Pollock Award

CPM Selected as Co-Lead Counsel for Toyota Class Action

CPM Facilitates \$894 Million Pfizer Settlement

CPM Participates in National Rebuilding Day (formerly Christmas in April)

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CPM Partner Pitre Inducted Into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers
04.2007

Publications

California Personal Injury Proof, California Continuing Education of the Bar

Assault Weapons: The Case Against The TEC-9

Consumer Attorneys of California Annual Seminar 1996

Blog Posts

Public Radio Airs Story on CPM's Counterfeit Screws Litigation

Advocates for Justice, 03.09.2015

Introduction to Personal Injury Law

Advocates for Justice, 05.12.2014