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Attorneys at Law

**Elizabeth J. Cabraser**  
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## A Champion for Justice

Under Elizabeth J. Cabraser's leadership, Lieff Cabraser has become one of the country's largest law firms serving clients seeking redress for financial and consumer fraud, anti-competitive practices, harmful drugs and products, and illegal employment practices. For nearly four decades, Elizabeth has made sure that our firm remains dedicated to its core values.

Possessing unparalleled expertise in complex civil litigation, Elizabeth has served as court-appointed lead, co-lead, or class counsel in scores of federal multi-district and state coordinated proceedings. These cases include multi-state tobacco, the *Exxon Valdez* disaster, Breast Implants, Fen-Phen (Diet Drugs), Vioxx, Toyota sudden acceleration, numerous securities/investment fraud cases, and Holocaust litigation. Today, Elizabeth serves in court-appointed leadership positions in several of the nation's highest profile civil cases: the GM ignition switch defect litigation, the Takata defective airbag litigation, the Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Fraud MDL, and the Fiat Chrysler Ecodiesel Emissions litigation. In January 2018, she was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in the nationwide multidistrict prescription opiates litigation.

## A Pillar of the Plaintiffs' Bar

Elizabeth has been repeatedly recognized as one of the foremost litigators in our nation, including being selected an unprecedented four times as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by the *National Law Journal*, which has called her "a pillar of the plaintiffs' bar."

A *Daily Journal* "Top California Woman Lawyer" since 2007, in 2018 *Law360* named her a "Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar, the National Trial Lawyers Association selected her for its National Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame, and *California Lawyer* named her "California Lawyer of the Year" for her work on the Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Emissions Fraud case. In 2017, Elizabeth received the *National Law Journal's* Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors an attorney's career-long accomplishments and their impact on the national legal community. Also in 2017, she was named "Plaintiff Attorney of the Year" by *Benchmark Litigation*, which noted that she "is known nationwide for having handled some of the largest class actions in US history, as well as being one the firm's -- and the country's -- foremost trial lawyers." The publication also named her to its lists for "Top 10 Women in Litigation," "Top 250 Women in Litigation," and "Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America." The *National Law*

*Journal* selected Elizabeth as a 2017 “Energy and Environmental Law Trailblazer,” and *Chambers USA* named her a “Leader in the Field” for General Litigation (California) and Product Liability (Nationwide).

In 2016, *Benchmark* recognized her as a “Top 10 Female Litigator,” noting “Elizabeth Cabraser is one of the best trial lawyers to be found anywhere. She has an unassuming yet massive courtroom presence.” Also in 2016, *Law360* named Elizabeth a “Most Valuable Player” in Class Action Law. In 2015, the *National Law Journal* named her as one of the 75 outstanding women lawyers in America. She has been named repeatedly to the Lawdragon 500, The Top 100 California Lawyers, and as a SuperLawyer in multiple fields.

The *Daily Journal* has described Elizabeth as

“a commanding attorney and a role model for other litigators, especially fellow female lawyers.”

*Law360* noted in a profile of Elizabeth that

“Her reputation among defense attorneys is that of a formidable opponent who comes to cases thoroughly prepared and can win a Judge’s ear.”

## **Commitment to Advancing the Legal Profession and Society**

Elizabeth serves on the Executive Committee of the Council of the American Law Institute (ALI) and is an advisor to several ALI projects, including Aggregate Litigation, the Restatement Third, Torts: Liability for Economic Harm. Since 2011, she has served on the Federal Civil Rules Advisory Committee.

Elizabeth has written and spoken extensively on substantive legal issues as well as ones related to the advancement of women in the profession, including last year for *Trial* magazine, published by the American Association for Justice, a commentary entitled “Where are all the women in the courtroom?”

Elizabeth’s dedication to the advancement of civil justice extends beyond cases. She lectures on class action and complex litigation at Berkeley and Columbia Law Schools, has written extensively on these issues, and has also lectured and conducted seminars for the Federal Judicial Center, ALI-ABA, the National Center for State Courts, Vanderbilt University Law School, and the Practicing Law Institute.

In 2010, the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession honored Elizabeth with its Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of women lawyers who have excelled in their field and have paved the way to success for other women lawyers. It is regarded by many as the highest honor in the legal profession for women lawyers.

Elizabeth is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Many of our nation’s most accomplished leaders from academia, the social sciences, the study and practice of law, business, public affairs, the humanities, and the arts are members of the Academy.

## **Areas of Practice**

Consumer Protection, Defective Products, Personal Injury, Securities & Investor Fraud, Environmental Litigation

## Education

University of California at Berkeley, School of Law (Berkeley Law), Berkeley, California  
J.D. - 1978

University of California, Berkeley, California  
A.B. - 1975

## Bar Admissions

California, 1978  
U.S. Supreme Court, 1996  
U.S. Court of Appeals 1st Circuit, 2011  
U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit, 2009  
U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit, 1994  
U.S. Court of Appeals 4th Circuit, 2013  
U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 1992  
U.S. Court of Appeals 6th Circuit, 1992  
U.S. Court of Appeals 7th Circuit, 2001  
U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Circuit, 1979  
U.S. Court of Appeals 10th Circuit, 1992  
U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit, 1992  
U.S. District Court District of Hawaii, 1986  
U.S. District Court Central District of California, 1992  
U.S. District Court Eastern District of California, 1979  
U.S. District Court Northern District of California, 1978  
U.S. District Court Southern District of California, 1992  
U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan, 2005  
U.S. Tax Court, 1979

## Professional Associations and Memberships

American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Fellow)

American Association for Justice (Fight for Justice Campaign; Women Trial Lawyers Caucus; California State Liaison)

American Bar Association (Committee on Mass Torts, Past Co-Chair; Committee on Class Actions and Derivative Suits; Tort and Insurance Practice Section; Rules & Procedures Committee, Past Vice-Chair; Civil Procedure & Evidence News Letter, Contributor; Business Law Section)

American Constitution Society, Board of Advisors

American Law Institute (1993 - present; Council, 1999 - present; Adviser, the Restatement Third, Consumer Contracts project and the Restatement Third, Torts: Liability for Economic Harm; Members Consultative Group, the Restatement Third, Torts: Liability for Physical Harm; past Adviser, the Recognition & Enforcement of Foreign Judgments project and the Principles of the Law of Aggregate Litigation project)

Association of Business Trial Lawyers

Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit

Bar Association of San Francisco (Past President, Securities Litigation Section; Board of Directors, 1997 - 1998; Judiciary Committee)

Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom

California Constitution Revision Commission (1993 -1996)

California Women Lawyers

Consumer Attorneys of California

Federal Bar Association

Federal Bar Association (Northern District of California Chapter)

Federal Civil Rules Advisory Committee (Appointed by Supreme Court, 2011)

Lawyers Club of San Francisco

National Center for State Courts (Board Member; Mass Tort Conference Planning Committee)

National Judicial College (Board of Trustees)

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference (Lawyer Delegate, 1992 - 1995)

Northern District of California Civil Justice Reform Act (Advisory Committee; Advisory Committee on Professional Conduct)

Northern District of California Civil Justice Reform Act (CJRA) Advisory Committee

Public Justice Foundation

Queen's Bench

State Bar of California

## Published Works

Editor-in-Chief, California Class Actions Practice and Procedures, LexisNexis, Updated Annually

Executive Editor, American Bar Association Survey of Federal Circuit Court's Class Action Decisions - 2018

Co-author with Samuel Issacharoff, "The Participatory Class Action," New York University Law Review, Vol. 92 (2017)

"Punitive Damages," Proving and Defending Damage Claims, Chapter 8, Aspen Publishers, Updated Annually

"Tribute to Judge Jack B. Weinstein," New York University Annual Survey of American Law, Vol. 72, Issue 1 (2017)

"The Class Abides: Class Actions and the 'Roberts Court'," Akron Law Review, Vol. 48, Issue 4 (2015)

Co-author with Jonathan Selbin, "Class Action Settlements," Trial Magazine (September 2015)

"The Rational Class: Richard Posner and Efficiency As Due Process," George Washington Law Review, Vol. 82 (October 2014)

"Symposium: The Essentials of Democratic Mass Litigation," Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems, Vol. 45, No. 4 (2012)

"Symposium: Enforcing the Social Contract through Representative Litigation," 33 Connecticut Law Review 1239, Summer 2011

"When Worlds Collide: The Supreme Court Confronts Federal Agencies with Federalism in Wyeth v. Levine," 84 Tulane L. Rev. 1275, 2010

"Apportioning Due Process: Preserving The Right to Affordable Justice," 87 Denver U. L.Rev. 437, 2010

"Due Process Pre-Empted: Stealth Preemption As a Consequence of Agency Capture," 65 N.Y.U. Annual

Survey of American Law 449, 2010

Executive Editor, ABA Section of Litigation, Survey of State Class Action Law, 2008-2010

"Just Choose: The Jurisprudential Necessity to Select a Single Governing Law for Mass Claims Arising from Nationally Marketed Consumer Goods and Services," Roger Williams University Law Review, Winter 2009

"California Class Action Classics," Consumer Attorneys of California, January/February Forum 2009

Coordinating Editor, ABA Section of Litigation, Survey of State Class Action Law, 2006-2007

"The Manageable Nationwide Class: A Choice-of-Law Legacy of Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts," University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review, Volume 74, Number 3, Spring 2006

Co-Author with Joy A. Kruse, Bruce Leppla, "Selective Waiver: Recent Developments in the Ninth Circuit and California" (pts. 1 & 2), Securities Litigation Report, West Legalworks May & June 2005

Co-Author with Fabrice N. Vincent, "Class Actions Fairness Act of 2005," California Litigation, Vol. 18, Nov. 3 2005

Co-Author, "2004 ABA Toxicology Monograph-California State Law," January 2004

Co-Author, "Decisions Interpreting California's Rules of Class Action Procedure," Survey of State Class Action Law, updated and re-published in 5 Newberg on Class Actions, ABA 2001 - 2004

Co-Author, "Mass But Not (Necessarily) Class: Emerging Aggregation Alternatives Under the Federal Rules," ABA 8th Annual National Institute on Class Actions, New York (Oct. 15, 2004) & New Orleans (Oct. 29, 2004)

"Symposium Article: Human Rights Violations as Mass Torts: Compensation as a Proxy for Justice in the United States Civil Litigation System," Vanderbilt Law Review, November 2004

"Mass Tort Class Actions," ATLA's Litigating Tort Cases, Vol. 1, Chapter 9, June 2003

"A Plaintiffs' Perspective On The Effect of State Farm v. Campbell On Punitive Damages in Mass Torts," May 2003

Co-Author with Fabrice N. Vincent, "Ethics and Admissibility: Failure to Disclose Conflicts of Interest in and/or Funding of Scientific Studies and/or Data May Warrant Evidentiary Exclusions," Mealey's December Emerging Drugs Reporter, December 2002

"The Shareholder Strikes Back: Varied Approaches to Civil Litigation Claims Are Available to Help Make Shareholders Whole," September 2002

Coordinating Editor/Co-Author, California section, ABA State Class Action Survey, 2001 - 2002

"Unfinished Business: Reaching the Due Process Limits of Punitive Damages in Tobacco Litigation Through Unitary Classwide Adjudication," 36 Wake Forest Law Review 979, Winter 2001

"Equity for the Victims, Equity for the Transgressor: The Classwide Treatment of Punitive Damages Claims," 74 Tulane Law Review 2005, June, 2000

"Class Action Trends and Developments After Amchem and Ortiz," ALI-ABA Course of Study, Civil Practice and Litigation Techniques in Federal and State Courts, 1999

Contributor/Editor, Moore's Federal Practice, 1999

Co-Author, "Preliminary Issues Regarding Forum Selection, Jurisdiction, and Choice of Law in Class Actions," December, 1999

"Life After Amchem: The Class Struggle Continues," 31 Loyola Law Review 373, 1998

"Recent Developments in Nationwide Products Liability Litigation: The Phenomenon of Non-Injury Products Cases, the Impact of Amchem and the Trend Toward State Court Adjudication," Products

Liability, ABA, February, 1998

Contributor/Editor, California Causes of Action, 1998

“Beyond Bifurcation: Multi-Phase Structure in Mass Tort Class Actions,” Class Actions & Derivative Suits, Spring, 1997

“The Road Not Taken: Thoughts on the Fifth Circuit’s Decertification of the Castano Class,” SB24 ALI-ABA 433, 1996

“Getting the Word Out: Pre-Certification Notice to Class Members Under Rule 23(d)(2),” Class Actions & Derivative Suits Newsletter, October, 1995

“Mass Tort Class Action Settlements,” 24 CTLA Forum 11, January-February, 1994

“Do You Know the Way from San Jose? The Evolution of Environmental and Toxic Nuisance Class Actions,” Class Actions & Derivative Suits, Spring, 1994

“An Oracle of Change? Realizing the Potential of Emerging Fee Award Methodologies for Enhancing The Role and Control of Investors in Derivative and Class Action Suits,” Principles of Corporate Governance, ALI, October, 1994

“How To Streamline Complex Litigation: Tailor a Case Management Order to Your Controversy,” 21 The Brief 12, ABA/TIPS, Summer, 1992

“The Applicability of the Fraud-On-The-Market Theory to Undeveloped Markets: When Fraud Creates the Market,” 12 Class Action Reports 402, 1989

“Mandatory Certification of Settlement Classes,” 10 Class Action Reports 151, 1987

## Speaking Engagements, Seminars, and Courses

Visiting Professor, Columbia University School of Law, Spring 2003 – Present. Courses Taught: Complex Litigation/Mass Torts; Consumer Litigation Advanced Seminar

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2002-Present. Advanced Course in Civil Procedure: Complex Litigation/Mass Torts, Spring Semester 2002, Fall Semester 2003 – 2008; Spring Semester 2010; Class Actions, Spring Semester 2008; Consumer Class Actions, Spring Semester 2016

Faculty, Speaker and Contributor, Annual ALI/ABA Advanced Products Liability Seminar, 1996 – Present

Faculty, Speaker, Panelist and Contributor, “Civil Practice and Litigation Techniques in the Federal Courts,” ALI/ABA, 1995 – Present

Speaker and Contributor, First through Thirteenth Annual ABA National Institute on Class Actions, 1997 – 2009

Panelist and Contributor, Charleston Law School, Punitive Damages Symposium, Fall 2007

Panelist and Contributor, 2007 Toronto Region Judges’ Education Conference

Visiting Professor, Vanderbilt University School of Law Fall 2006: Complex Litigation Short Course

United States Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction, Mass Torts Panel Presentation, January 2002

Panelist and Contributor, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Annual Georgetown University Law Center Mass Tort Litigation Institute, 1996 – 2002

Fifth Annual Irving H. Green Memorial Lecture “What We Owe Each Other: Enforcing the Social Contract Through Civil Litigation,” UCLA School of Law, April 6, 1998

Speaker and Contributor, National Law Journal Fen-Phen Litigation Seminar, March 1998

Co-Chair, Speaker and Contributor, Andrews Fen-Phen Litigation Seminar, April 1998

Panelist “Champagne Panel on Current Class Action Issues of the Future,” 1998 Judicial Conference of the Fifth Federal Circuit, April 1998

Speaker, ALI-ABA Current Issues in Corporate Governance, Winter 1994, 1996, 1997

Speaker, ABA 26th Annual Conference on Environmental Law, Spring 1997

Speaker, Complex Tort Litigation, American Conference Institute, Spring 1996

Panelist, Mass Tort Litigation Panel, Stanford Law School, Fall 1996

Speaker, ABTL “The Punitive Damages Jury Trial,” Winter 1996

Panelist and Contributor, 22nd Annual Securities Regulation Conference, 1995

Panelist and Contributor, 1995 and 1996 ALI/ABA/Federal Judicial Center Telecast: “New Directions in Federal Civil Practice, Procedure, and Evidence”

Panelist and Commentator, Institute for Judicial Administration Research Conference on Class Actions, NYU School of Law, April 1995

Speaker, Institute for Legal Studies, “Tobacco Policy Research Program,” 1995

Speaker and Panelist, “A Practical Look at Complex MDL and Mass Tort Litigation,” Northwestern School of Law Conference, 1995

Panelist and Contributor, 1994 Hastings College of the Law MCLE Program, “Major 1993 Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Examination of Related Local Rules for the Northern District of California”

Panelist and Contributor, Practising Law Institute (PLI) Program: Securities Update, 1993

Panelist and Contributor, 1993 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Program: Federal-State Court Coordination of Mass Tort Litigation

Panelist and Contributor, 1993 ABA Annual Meeting Program: Syndicating Litigation

Panelist and Contributor, 1993 SFTLA and CTLA California Litigation Technologies Seminar

Contributor, ABA National Institute, Taking Depositions, 1992

Panelist and Contributor, ABA Business Law Section 1992 Annual Meeting Programs, Mandatory Settlement Class Certification: Beyond the Limited Fund

Panelist and Contributor, Managing Complex Litigation: Procedures and Strategies for Lawyers and Courts, ABA TIPS 1991 Spring Meeting

Panelist and Contributor, CEB Trial Practice Series: Advocacy and Management in Complex Litigation, March 1991

Panelist and Contributor, Practising Law Institute (PLI) Program, The Realty Partnership in Default, 1991

Contributor, Managing Mass Tort Cases: A Resource Book for State Trial Court Judges

Panelist and Contributor, Practising Law Institute (PLI) Program: Securities Litigation, 1991

Guest lecturer on Advanced Torts and Products Liability: Stanford, Columbia, and NYU Law Schools

## Honors and Awards

AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

Selected for inclusion by peers in The Best Lawyers in America in the fields of “Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Plaintiffs,” “Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs,” and “Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs,” 2005 – 2019

“Lawyer of the Year,” Best Lawyers, recognized in the category of Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions-

Plaintiffs and Product Liability Litigation-Plaintiffs for San Francisco, 2014, 2016, 2019

“Elite Women of the Plaintiffs Bar,” National Law Journal, 2018

“Top 10 Northern California Super Lawyer,” Super Lawyers, 2011 – 2018

“Top 50 Women Super Lawyers in Northern California,” Super Lawyers, 2005 – 2018

“Super Lawyer for Northern California,” Super Lawyers, 2004 – 2018

“Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America,” Benchmark Litigation, 2015, 2017, 2018

“Champion of Justice,” Public Justice, 2018

“National Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame,” National Trial Lawyers Association, 2018

“Titan of the Plaintiffs’ Bar,” Law360, 2018

“California Lawyer of the Year,” Daily Journal/California Lawyer, 2018

“Plaintiff Lawyer of the Year,” Benchmark Litigation, 2017

“Lifetime Achievement Award,” National Law Journal, 2017

“Consumer Attorney of the Year Finalist,” Consumer Attorneys of California, 2017

“Energy and Environmental Law Trailblazer,” National Law Journal, 2017

“Top 250 Women in Litigation,” Benchmark Litigation, 2016 - 2018

“Top Plaintiff Lawyers,” Daily Journal, 2016 - 2017

“Leader in the Field” for General Commercial Litigation (California); Product Liability - Plaintiffs (Nationwide), Chambers USA, 2017

“Top 10 Women in Litigation,” Benchmark Litigation, 2016 - 2017

“Top 100 Attorneys in California,” California Daily Journal, 2002 – 2007, 2010 – 2017

“Top California Women Litigators,” California Daily Journal, 2007 – 2017

“California Litigation Star,” Benchmark Litigation, 2012 - 2017

“Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America,” Lawdragon, 2005 - 2017

“MVP for Class Action Law,” Law360, 2016

“Litigator of the Week,” American Lawyer, October 28, 2016

“Judge Learned Hand Award,” American Jewish Committee, 2016

“25 Most Influential Women in Securities Law,” Law360, 2016

“Women Trailblazers in the Law,” Senior Lawyers Division, American Bar Association, 2015

“Outstanding Women Lawyer,” National Law Journal, 2015

“Top 100 Northern California Super Lawyers,” Super Lawyers, 2005 – 2016

“Recommended Lawyer,” The Legal 500, U.S. edition, 2000-2014

“100 Most Influential Lawyers in America,” The National Law Journal, 1997, 2000, 2006, 2013

“Outstanding Achievement Award,” Chambers USA, 2012

“Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award,” American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession, 2010

“Edward Pollock Award,” Consumer Attorneys of California, 2008

“50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America,” The National Law Journal, 1998, 2007



“Award For Public Interest Excellence,” University of San Francisco School of Law Public Interest Law Foundation, 2007

“Top 75 Women Litigators,” California Daily Journal, 2005 – 2006

“Distinguished Leadership Award,” Legal Community Against Violence, 2006

“Women of Achievement Award,” Legal Momentum (formerly the NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund), 2006

“Top 30 Securities Litigator,” California Daily Journal, 2005

“Top 50 Women Litigators,” California Daily Journal, 2004

“Citation Award,” University of California, School of Law (Berkeley Law), 2003

“Distinguished Jurisprudence Award,” Anti-Defamation League, 2002

“Top 30 Women Litigators,” California Daily Journal, 2002

“Top Ten Women Litigators,” The National Law Journal, 2001

“Matthew O. Tobriner Public Service Award,” Legal Aid Society, 2000

“California Law Business Top 100 Lawyers,” California Daily Journal, 2000

“California Lawyer of the Year (CLAY),” California Lawyer, 1998

“Presidential Award of Merit,” Consumer Attorneys of California, 1998

“Public Justice Achievement Award,” Public Justice, 1997