

# ELITE TRIAL LAWYERS

THE LEADING PLAINTIFFS FIRMS IN AMERICA AS CHOSEN BY THE EDITORS OF THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL AND LAW.COM.

## SECURITIES

WINNER

### ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP

**LARGEST OFFICE:** SAN DIEGO  
**ATTORNEYS:** 210



PAUL GELLER

The firms recognized in this category led cases that reined in corporate fraud in the banking, pharmaceutical and auto industries, helping pension funds and other investors recoup billions of dollars. In one case—brought against General Motors amid its ignition-switch scandal—one of our finalists convinced the automaker to pay \$300 million to resolve a securities fraud case over drops in the company's stock. Our winning case, accusing a global bank's consumer-finance business of inflating its stock price, resulted in a nearly \$1.6 billion settlement for investors. It came after more than a decade of litigation in one of the largest securities class actions ever to go to trial.

The firm has obtained many high-dollar settlements over the one-year contest time period, including a proposed \$1.575 billion settlement that came after 14 years of litigation against Household International, now HSBC Finance Corp. Robbins Geller secured a jury verdict in that case in 2009, had part of it reversed in 2015 and then set up to retry the case in May and June of this year.

On June 6, literally on the eve of trial, HSBC agreed to settle. The litigation team beat back several attempts by the defendants to invalidate the verdict, including objections to thousands of claims by injured class members, and an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. The agreement is pending court approval.

Robbins Geller also secured, as co-lead counsel, final approval of a \$500 million settlement with Bank of America related to subsidiary Countrywide Financial Corp.'s prerecession dealings in residential mortgage-backed securities.

**THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL:** Describe the national importance of your case and why your firm prevailed.

**PAUL GELLER, PARTNER:** Reaching the record-breaking \$1.575 billion recovery ... took 14 hard-fought years, 130,000 hours, more than 85 depositions, \$35 million in out-of-pocket expenses, a six-week jury trial, and an appeal of the verdict. We took what appeared to be a modest case of securities

fraud and crafted it into the largest securities fraud recovery ever obtained in the Seventh Circuit and the seventh-largest settlement ever in a securities fraud class action case. Simply put, the result is unprecedented. A work of art.

**NLJ:** What's a word or phrase that best describes the firm?

**PG:** Tireless.

**NLJ:** What's one interesting fact about your firm that few people know?

**PG:** Law and art may not seem to go hand-in-hand, but there is a real art to what we do; each attorney brings a unique talent to the courtroom, and when you step back, each successful case is its own masterpiece.

**NLJ:** What traits do you respect most in opposing firms and lawyers?

**PG:** Professionalism and civility.

**NLJ:** What is your biggest worry about practicing law?

**PG:** I worry about persistent politically motivated efforts to erode important laws that protect consumers and investors.

**NLJ:** What's the most significant change in trial practice in the last five years?

**PG:** An increasing desire on the part of institutional investors to have their claims adjudicated at trial.