

## Rising Star: Robbins Geller's Erika Oliver

By **Emilie Ruscoe**

*Law360 (August 1, 2023, 9:22 AM EDT)* -- Erika Oliver of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP helped secure a \$141 million settlement for McKesson Corp. investors, and she played key roles in a pending \$300 million investor settlement with Wells Fargo. These accomplishments and others earned her a spot among the securities law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 Rising Stars.

### *The biggest case of her career:*

For five of the six years Oliver has been with Robbins Geller, she's been part of the team litigating a proposed investor class action against pharmaceutical distributor McKesson Corp. alleging the company made false assertions about a drug price-fixing scheme.

On July 14, U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer in California granted final approval to a \$141 million deal to settle the investor allegations.

"Not only was it a complex securities fraud litigation — and these claims are complex in themselves — but it [had] this underlying component where defendants argued that, in order to establish the securities fraud claim, the plaintiff would have to establish underlying violation of the antitrust laws," Oliver said, adding that "having an embedded antitrust question in securities litigation represented a significant hurdle."

The matter settled as it was headed from document discovery to depositions.

### *What motivates her:*

Oliver said her parents are her greatest source of motivation.

"Both my mom and dad grew up in the Philippines, and when they were growing up, they were really poor," she said. "The things that should be basic human needs, like food, shelter — those things were luxuries for them."

"I think about what they were able to do over the course of their lives," she said, referencing their immigration to the United States, where her father became a chief petty officer in the Navy.

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**RISING  
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**Erika Oliver**  
Robbins Geller

**Age:** 36

**Home base:** San Diego

**Position:** Partner, securities litigation

**Law school:** University of San Diego School of Law

**First job after law school:**

Judicial law clerk, U.S. District Judge Anthony J. Battaglia

Her parents gave Oliver and her brothers "this life where we never knew the hardships that they faced," she said. "We never were hungry; we always had a roof over our heads."

"To know that it was my parents who got us to this point, I just had always felt like I needed to do as much as I could do with what they gave us," she said.

***Why she's a securities attorney:***

Oliver said her practice grew out of a passion for helping those who need advocacy.

"When I went into law school, I knew that I wanted to work at a place where I'd be able to represent people who are harmed by wrongdoing and I kind of homed in on the securities field and being on the plaintiff side," she said. "Not only did I think that I would be able to do that at a place like Robbins Geller, but I'd be able to do it en masse, where you're litigating this one action, but you're representing thousands of harmed investors at one time."

"I especially love that I get to work at a firm, and in a field, where our clients are the pension funds and the institutional investors that are responsible for managing the money and, really, the life savings of people like my parents," she added.

***How she thinks the legal industry will change in 10 years:***

"The one thing that I'm most interested in seeing that I'm sure is going to affect the legal field going forward is the impact AI technology is going to have on the industry," Oliver said, adding, "I'm interested in seeing how it's going to be applied in the legal field to effect efficiencies and cost savings."

*--As told to Emilie Ruscoe.*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2023 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of May 1, 2023, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.*