



Baron & Budd's Practice and Accomplishments

FIRM OVERVIEW

Baron & Budd, P.C. is among the largest and most accomplished plaintiffs' law firms in the country. With more than 35 years of experience, Baron & Budd has the expertise and resources to handle complex litigation throughout the United States. As a law firm that prides itself on remaining at the forefront of litigation, Baron & Budd has spearheaded many significant cases for entities and individuals.

Since the firm was founded in 1977, Baron & Budd has achieved national acclaim for its work on cutting-edge litigation:

- Shareholders Russell Budd and Scott Summy were selected to the 2014 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Summy has been selected to *Best Lawyers* every year since 2006.
- In 2014, Baron & Budd was among just 50 law firms selected to the inaugural Elite Trial Lawyers list from the *National Law Journal*.
- In 2002-2006, 2008, 2011-2012, Baron & Budd was named to the *National Law Journal's* "Plaintiffs' Hot List" of exemplary plaintiffs' firms in the United States.
- In 2013, Baron & Budd was a finalist for the Public Justice Trial Lawyers of the Year Award for the firm's work on a \$105 million settlement on behalf of hundreds of public water providers across the Midwest who are struggling with atrazine contamination in their source water.
- In September 2010, Baron & Budd was one of only four firms chosen to serve on both the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee and on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee of the Multi-District Litigation in the Gulf Oil Spill litigation.
- In 2009, Baron & Budd was a finalist for the Public Justice Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for its recovery of more than \$400 million on behalf of over 150 municipalities from 17 states regarding contamination of groundwater by the gasoline additive MTBE.
- In 2007, shareholders Russell Budd and Burton LeBlanc were among 14 attorneys nationwide to be honored with the Wiedemann Wysocki National Finance Council Award from the American Association for Justice in recognition of their commitment to the legal profession and their

efforts to improve the civil justice system. LeBlanc was recognized for a second time with the award in 2010.

- In 2006, a team of Baron & Budd attorneys received the esteemed Trial Lawyer of the Year Award from the legal non-profit organization, Public Justice, for its work on litigation that spanned 21 years, involved over 1,600 plaintiffs, and resulted in a total recovery of more than \$150 million.
- In 2004, *American Lawyer* named Baron & Budd as one of the sixteen most successful plaintiffs' firms in the country.
- Baron & Budd has been repeatedly selected by *The Legal 500* as one of the country's premier law firms in mass tort claims and class action litigation.

Additional information about Baron & Budd is available on the firm's website, www.baronandbudd.com.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF LITIGATION

Financial Litigation

\$410 Million Bank of America Settlement Over Excessive Bank Overdraft Fees

Baron & Budd attorneys worked closely with other law firms in a class action lawsuit asserting manipulation of data by banks to increase revenue from overdraft fees. The firm helped achieve a \$410 million settlement with Bank of America, the largest bank involved in the bank overdraft fee litigation. The case alleged that Bank of America, along with many other major banks, intentionally reordered debit card transactions to promote overdraft fees. Not only did the case result in repayment of these charges, but it also led to widespread changes in the banking system. Because of the lawsuit, many large banks have changed their overdraft fee policies, no longer “reordering debits” and not offering “courtesy” overdraft services without customer consent.

\$110 Million Settlement with JPMorgan Chase Over Overdraft Fees Plus \$150 Million in Business Practice Changes

Baron & Budd served on the plaintiffs' steering committee in a class action lawsuit asserting manipulation of data by numerous national banks in order to increase overdraft fee revenue. The firm led the negotiations in a \$110 million settlement with JPMorgan Chase regarding the bank's manipulative overdraft fee policies. The case alleged that JPMorgan Chase, along with a number of other banks, intentionally reordered debit card transactions to promote overdraft fees. Not only did the case result in repayment of many of these charges to consumers, it also led to widespread changes in the banking system, affecting virtually every American with a bank account. Because of the lawsuit, many large banks have changed their overdraft fee policies, no longer reordering debits and not offering "courtesy" overdraft services without customer consent. Also, as part of the negotiations, Chase agreed to not charge overdraft fees on debits of \$5 or less.

In 2012, Baron & Budd lawyers were selected as finalists for the 2012 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award by the legal non-profit organization Public Justice for their groundbreaking work on the bank overdraft fee litigation.

\$14.58 Million Settlement with Comerica Over Deceptive Bank Overdraft Fees

In 2014, Budd served as co-lead counsel in a settlement with Comerica, valued at more than \$14.5 million. In 2013, a \$410 million settlement was reached with Bank of America in the case. The settlement was another step forward in national litigation against numerous large banks that were accused of reordering debit card transactions to promote the maximum amount of overdrafts.

More Than \$33 Million in Settlements on Behalf of Three States Regarding Deceptive Credit Card Practices

Consumers may be familiar with credit card payment protection plans. Usually, a consumer will be contacted by their credit card company via phone and asked if they want to sign up for a payment protection plan. On the surface, this seems like a great deal for consumers. However, these phone calls can often be confusing and highly misleading, and many of them unintentionally sign up for a payment protection program. After signing up, consumers are charged monthly fees by their credit card company for the service, even though they may not have understood what they were signing up.

These plans are advertised as a way to protect the consumer in the event of unemployment, disability or other difficult life events. However, the plans offer no real benefit for the consumers and are only a means for the credit card companies to make additional profit. These cases sent a strong message to the credit card companies that these types of deceptive practices will not be tolerated by the states.

The firm and its co-counsel negotiated settlements valued at more than \$12.6 million on behalf of the State of West Virginia with Discover, Chase, Bank of America and other credit card companies. The firm and its co-counsel negotiated settlements on behalf of the State of Hawaii with Barclays, Discovery, Chase, Bank of America, HSBC and Citi valued at \$13 million. The firm and its co-counsel also negotiated settlements on behalf of the State of Mississippi that are valued at \$15 million.

Baron & Budd continues to represent the state and Hawaii in litigation against credit card companies, regarding the companies' use of deceptive credit card protection payment plans.

Unlawful Default-Related Fees Charged to Home Mortgage Borrowers

Baron & Budd currently represents homeowners throughout the United States in three separate class action cases regarding unlawfully marked-up and unnecessary fees charged to borrowers who were late on their mortgage payments. The cases, which have been brought against Wells Fargo, JPMorgan Chase and Citi, assert that when borrowers fall behind on their mortgages, the banks assess fees for property preservation, maintenance and appraisal services. According to the lawsuits, however, in order to generate a profit, the banks add a mark-up to the cost of the services and they order them when they are unnecessary. Furthermore, the lawsuits also assert that the banks use deceptive language on borrowers' statements to hide the true nature of the fees.

Manipulation of the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”)

Baron & Budd represents homeowners throughout the United States in a case regarding the unlawful manipulation of the London Interbank Offered Rate (the “LIBOR” rate) by sixteen different banks, including Bank of America, Citi and JPMorgan Chase. The LIBOR rate is one of the most popular benchmarks for adjustable rate mortgages. The case asserts that the banks’ manipulation of the LIBOR rate caused homeowners to pay higher interest rates on their adjustable rate mortgage loans.

\$20 Million Settlement in Stock Option Back-Dating Case

Baron & Budd achieved a \$20 million settlement on behalf of individuals who purchased Semtech stock. Firm shareholder Burton LeBlanc served as co-lead counsel in the case. Plaintiffs in the case alleged that Semtech manipulated grant dates for stock options, which result in understatement of Semtech’s compensation expenses and overstatement of its reported income.

Protecting Shareholders’ Interest in Corporate Transition

As co-lead counsel in *In Re: 7-Eleven, Inc. Shareholders Litigation*, Baron & Budd represented shareholders in negotiations to increase the amount of an offer in a transaction turning a publicly-traded company into a privately-held entity. Baron & Budd achieved a \$5 per share increase in the offer which provided an additional \$145 million to 7-Eleven shareholders.

Settlement of Mutual Fund Advisors’ Breaches of Fiduciary Duties

Baron & Budd represented shareholders in recovering funds in various mutual fund families against the fund advisors for their breach of their fiduciary duties for failing to file proof of claim forms in settled securities cases for which the funds were eligible. Baron & Budd reached a series of confidential settlements that resulted in money being returned from the fund advisor to the mutual fund.

Protecting Public Investors from Corporate Self-Dealing

In 2010, Baron & Budd successfully protected the interests of public investors in Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (ACS). While ACS was being sold to Xerox, ACS’s management and largest shareholder negotiated a better price for their own shares as well as remarkable future employment compensation packages. The insiders at the same time voted to sell ACS at a price well below its fair market value, which would have forced public shareholders to sell their shares for less. Working with other national law firms, Baron & Budd was able to obtain \$69 million in additional compensation for ACS public shareholders.

Pharmaceutical Litigation

\$177 Million Settlement for Seven States Against Manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline

Baron & Budd represented the states of Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah and West Virginia in litigation regarding the fraudulent marketing of the diabetes drug Avandia by manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline.

This result is the largest settlement of a pharmaceutical case ever for several of the involved states. These states chose to opt out of the 2012 multistate settlement and, as a result, each state received a much higher settlement than what they would have otherwise.

The lawsuit alleged that GlaxoSmithKline had misrepresented the safety and efficacy of the drug Avandia, stating that Avandia reduced adverse cardiac events, when actually it increases them.

Baron & Budd shareholders Russell Budd, Burton LeBlanc, Laura Baughman and of counsel Ann Saucer served as co-lead counsel in the litigation, alongside co-counsel and each state's Office of the Attorney General.

Avandia

After it was released in the U.S. in 1999, Avandia quickly became a popular drug to treat diabetes. In 2007, the FDA placed a black box warning on Avandia. Even though the FDA considered removing the drug from the market at that time, the drug's manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline, insisted that certain studies showed no increased health risk associated with Avandia use. In 2010, the FDA voted not to remove the drug from the market.

Baron & Budd stepped up to help protect people who have suffered from serious health problems due to Avandia use. In the litigation, plaintiffs alleged that Avandia caused an increased risk of heart attack and other physical harms, and that GlaxoSmithKline failed to provide adequate warnings about the risk. The case resulted in a confidential settlement of approximately 17,000 Avandia cases.

GranuFlo

Baron & Budd shareholder Burton LeBlanc was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the litigation surrounding dialysis product GranuFlo and its sister product NaturaLyte. Baron & Budd also currently represents hundreds of individuals who were harmed by the use of GranuFlo in their dialysis treatments.

Transvaginal Mesh

Baron & Budd managing shareholder and co-founder Russell Budd serves on the Plaintiffs's Steering Committee in the litigation regarding transvaginal mesh issues. Baron & Budd attorneys currently represent hundreds of individuals who have been harmed by the use of transvaginal mesh.

Fluoroquinolones

Baron & Budd attorneys currently represent hundreds of individuals who have taken the antibiotics Avelox, Levaquin and/or Cipro and suffered from peripheral neuropathy.

Lipitor

Baron & Budd attorneys currently represent hundreds of individuals who have been harmed by taking the cholesterol drug Lipitor.

Actos

Baron & Budd attorneys currently represent hundreds of individuals who have been harmed by ingesting the diabetes drug Actos.

Risperdal

Baron & Budd attorneys currently represent hundreds of men who have been harmed by taking the drug Risperdal.

Fen-Phen

Baron & Budd played a leading role in representing people harmed by the diet drug Fen-Phen. The firm was instrumental in negotiating the Seventh Amendment to the AHP Settlement Agreement, which required the defendants to place an additional \$1.275 billion into a trust for those affected. In addition, Baron & Budd has settled Fen-Phen personal injury claims for approximately 3,300 of its own clients.

Consumers' Rights

Baron & Budd led the fight for victims' rights in two landmark Supreme Court victories, *Amchem Products v. Windsor* and *Ortiz v. Fibreboard Corp.*, which are widely recognized as among the most significant appellate decisions for consumer rights.

Ortiz v. Fibreboard Corp., 526 U.S. 815, 119 S. Ct. 2295 (1999) was one of the last decisions handed down by the United States Supreme Court in 1999. The

Court's 7-2 decision was handed down after months of fierce debate over whether future claims by victims of asbestos exposure should be handled as a class action.

Baron & Budd led the charge to dismiss the Fibreboard mandatory class action settlement that would have severely limited the rights of people to pursue individual claims based on the severity of their specific illness and specific circumstances of their exposure.

Writing on behalf of the Court, Justice Souter questioned the fairness of the settlement because, if allowed to go forward, Fibreboard would essentially have had a "get out of jail free card." Fibreboard would have been able to settle all asbestos claims, including all future claims, with only \$500,000 of the company's own money, thus retaining virtually all of its net worth at the expense of the victims of its asbestos-containing products.

The *Ortiz* decision corroborated an earlier Supreme Court decision in which Baron & Budd also fought for victims' rights: *Amchem Products v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591, 117 S. Ct. 2231, 138 L.Ed2d 689 (1997).

Environmental Litigation

Lead Role in the Gulf Oil Spill Litigation

Immediately after the explosion that caused the massive Gulf Oil Spill, Baron & Budd got to work, helping individuals and businesses that had sustained economic and/or physical damages. Scott Summy, shareholder and head of Baron & Budd's water contamination litigation group, serves on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the oil spill litigation. The firm currently represents hundreds of individuals and companies in the litigation.

\$420 Million National MTBE Settlement

In May 2008, Baron & Budd helped negotiate a \$423 million settlement on behalf of more than 150 water providers in 17 states regarding Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) contamination in groundwater with many of the country's leading gas companies. The settlement requires gasoline refiners to pay water providers' costs to remove MTBE from public drinking water wells and for refiners to pay for treatment of qualifying wells that may become contaminated within the next 30 years.

Plaintiffs' cases were initially filed in their respective state courts before they were later transferred to a Multi-District Litigation (MDL) court in New York. Baron & Budd shareholder Scott Summy, who filed the first-ever MTBE case in the United States, served as national co-lead counsel. Baron & Budd shareholders Celeste Evangelisti, Cary McDougal, Laura Baughman, Carla Burke and Stephen Johnston also represented the plaintiffs.

In 2009, the attorneys who were involved in the MTBE litigation were recognized as finalists for the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award, an annual award given by Public Justice, a non-profit legal organization, for outstanding contributions to the public interest.

\$105 Million Atrazine Settlement

Baron & Budd served as Class Counsel in litigation regarding the contamination of approximately 1,200 public drinking water systems by the chemical atrazine. Atrazine is a widely used agricultural chemical that is commonly applied to crops throughout the United States to control weeds. Despite the threat of water contamination and industry knowledge of the environmental risks, approximately 77 million pounds of atrazine are sprayed on U.S. crops each year.

The firm represented over thirty water providers primarily throughout the Midwest, including Missouri, Kansas, Ohio and Illinois. In 2012, the Court approved a \$105 million settlement for water systems that have detected atrazine in their water supplies to reimburse the costs of removing the chemical from finished water.

In 2013, the attorneys who worked on the atrazine contamination litigation were recognized as finalists for the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award by legal non-profit organization Public Justice.

PCBs in Schools

In 2014, shareholder Scott Summy filed a lawsuit against the Monsanto Company and its corporate successors on behalf of the Town of Westport and Westport Community Schools in Massachusetts regarding the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in schools. According to the court documents, Monsanto allegedly knew about the dangers of PCBs for decades, but failed to warn people of these dangers. The goal of the lawsuit is to force Monsanto to pay for the removal of the PCBs from the schools.

PCBs are synthetic chemicals that were widely used in numerous construction materials from the early 1950s until the chemical was banned in the late 1970s. PCB-contaminated materials were primarily used in commercial construction, such as school buildings. Though PCBs have been used in a wide variety of materials, they have commonly been used in window and door caulking and light ballasts. Adding to the danger, PCBs can migrate out of their original position and into the adjoining walls, flooring, masonry and soil. PCBs can also be released into the air, posing a serious hazard to people who come in contact with it. Monsanto is the only known U.S. manufacturer of PCBs.

According to the EPA, PCBs are probable human carcinogens and can have serious toxic effects on a person's immune system, nervous system, endocrine system and reproductive system, particularly in developing school children.

Unfortunately, PCBs in Westport are only the tip of the iceberg. Thousands of schools across America likely contain PCBs. However, because there is no requirement to test, many schools aren't aware of its existence.

Clean Air for School Children

In 2008, Baron & Budd shareholder Laura Baughman and attorney Thomas Sims represented three San Francisco Bay-area environmental organizations in negotiating a settlement with Laidlaw Transit, Inc. In the settlement, Laidlaw agreed to invest a minimum of \$4.7 million dollars over five years to retrofit older buses in its California fleet with air pollution control devices to reduce harmful diesel exhaust. Laidlaw also agreed to invest \$23.6 million in its fleet over seven years to either retrofit additional buses or purchase new buses that meet the most stringent air pollution standards in the country, which would ultimately protect young children from being exposed to harmful diesel exhaust. The following year, the team settled with two additional bus companies, which helped ensure that even more polluting buses would be replaced with newer, cleaner models or retrofitted with pollution control devices.

Clean Groundwater in California

In 2004, Baron & Budd shareholders Scott Summy and Laura Baughman negotiated a string of settlements on behalf of California non-profit Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) that required several major oil companies to upgrade gas station storage tanks, clean up groundwater contamination and take steps to prevent gasoline leakage from thousands of underground storage tanks in California. Monetary and injunctive relief granted in this case was valued at \$107 million.

MTBE Settlement on Behalf of the City of Santa Monica

In 2003, Baron & Budd represented the City of Santa Monica in a MTBE contamination settlement with several major oil companies. MTBE had contaminated five of Santa Monica's eleven wells, forcing the City to import water for \$3 million a year.

In total, the oil companies paid \$250 million, which provided funds for the city to build a water treatment system to clean MTBE from their supply, to continue buying water until their own supply was clean, and to monitor groundwater quality during and after the cleanup.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

In 1993, Baron & Budd was awarded the Public Justice Award for "outstanding contribution to environmental protection and public interest" for its work on the rehabilitation of the damage caused by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

Much like in the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the cause of Exxon Valdez can be pointed primarily at the oil company for neglecting to properly adhere to safety regulations. Exxon failed to repair the tanker's Raycas radar system, which would have warned the crew of an impending collision with the Bligh reef, because it was just too expensive to fix and operate. The tanker had been operating for more than a year without a functioning Raycas radar.

As a result of the Valdez spill, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) was passed, allowing those who lost income or profits because of an oil spill to recover compensation from those responsible for the spill.

Groundbreaking Water Contamination Case in Tucson, Arizona

In 1985, Baron & Budd filed a lawsuit on behalf of more than 1,600 Tucson-area residents against an aircraft manufacturer, the City of Tucson and the Tucson Airport Authority over TCE contamination of the community's groundwater. Since Tucson is the largest city in the United States that receives all of its drinking water from underground sources, the industrial solvents used at the airport and aircraft company were of particular concern. Spilled on the ground and seeping through the sandy soil into the groundwater, the invisible yet harmful contaminants caused several unusual forms of cancer and other diseases at almost epidemic levels, particularly among children in the area.

The firm's cutting-edge work on this case not only brought compensation to individuals to help them deal with the consequences of their injuries, it also helped define Arizona law on pollution coverage issues. The litigation spanned 21 years, involved more than 1,600 plaintiffs and resulted in a more than \$150 million total recovery for the people of Tucson.

As a result, the public interest legal organization Public Justice presented the Baron & Budd legal team with its Trial Lawyer of the Year Award in 2006. The award recognizes the trial attorney or attorneys who have made the greatest contribution to the public interest each year by trying or settling a precedent-setting case or group of cases.

Toxic Exposure Litigation

Closing Down the West Dallas Lead Smelter

In the West Dallas Lead Smelter case, Baron & Budd took on local environmental contamination to protect future generations of children from exposure to lead. One of Dallas' largest public housing projects sat in a low-income neighborhood directly across the street from a secondary lead smelter. For many years, the smelter converted used automotive batteries into lead components for resale.

Particulate emissions from the factory smokestacks literally blanketed the surrounding community with lead-bearing soot.

Baron & Budd represented more than 200 families in a lawsuit that ultimately closed the lead smelter and paid sizable confidential settlements to court-supervised trusts for 445 children affected by lead poisoning. Although the neurological damage to these children is irreversible, the funds recovered in the settlement have enabled them to move into adulthood with medical, rehabilitative and vocational assistance. Closing the lead smelter and requiring the company to fund a community soil clean-up project helped prevent future damage to other neighborhood children.

Settlement for Central Texas Residents Harmed by Lead Exposure

Baron & Budd shareholder Laura Baughman represented more than 130 people who were exposed to high levels of lead and other toxic substances while growing up in a small town in Central Texas. Baron & Budd obtained a sizeable confidential settlement for the firm's clients, providing them with the resources to help pay for rehabilitative, psychological and other medical expenses.

Settlement for Harms Caused by Chemical Leaks

Baron & Budd successfully represented more than 850 workers injured by exposure to ethylene dichloride (EDC) in Lake Charles, Louisiana as a result of the negligent and reckless conduct of Conoco, Inc., Condea Vista Chemical Company, and a number of contractors that caused one of the largest chemical spills in U.S. history. In addition to its status as a probable human carcinogen, EDC can cause serious damage to the heart, central nervous system, liver, kidneys, lungs, gastrointestinal system and commonly results in depression, memory loss and personality changes.

Deceptive Advertising

\$5 Million for Deceptive Advertising of Cytosport, Inc.'s Muscle Milk

Usually advertised to a health-conscious clientele, Muscle Milk advises consumers to fill up on these lactose-free drinks and bars prior to workouts, after workouts and as a meal replacement. Tapping into current health trends, Muscle Milk also promises that it can help consumers lose weight. And, of course, Cytosport, Inc. the company who makes Muscle Milk, can charge a high price for this supposedly high-performance product.

Yet, upon further investigation, it's been discovered that Muscle Milk products contain the same amount of calories, and nearly as much fat, as a Krispy Kreme Doughnut, making them nothing but fat-laden junk food.

In an effort to fight back against Cytosport's deceptive claims, our attorneys filed a lawsuit against the company in July 2011. The lawsuit claims that Cytosport is engaged in deceptive advertising techniques designed to boost profits by taking advantage of customers' growing desire for healthy food products. Many of the phrases the company uses to promote its products are intentionally misleading, which is against state and federal law. Our attorneys achieved a \$5 million settlement for consumers in this case.

\$3.2 Million for Deceptive Advertising of ConAgra's Alexia Foods Line

Similar to Muscle Milk, Baron and Budd continues to fight for transparency in food advertising, this time taking on ConAgra's advertising regarding their Alexia Foods line. Alexia Foods makes a variety of gourmet-style frozen side dishes designed to tap into the popular trend among many consumers seeking a healthier alternative without all the preservatives. Alexia takes the concept to next level, offering top-quality frozen foods that the company claims are "All Natural."

Though the words "All Natural" are proudly proclaimed on every package of Alexia brand foods, they may not be as natural as they appear.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the federal agency responsible for enforcing labeling, issued a warning to Alexia in Nov. 2011 about its all natural claims. Under the FDA's policies concerning the use of the word "natural," such statements can be used only when nothing artificial or synthetic is included in the products. Despite the company's claims, many of Alexia's products contain synthetic chemicals, thus negating the products' purported "All Natural" status.

Yet, even though Alexia is well aware of the FDA's policy, the company knowingly misleads consumers to increase revenue. Even after the FDA issued the warning, Alexia has not changed its packaging or advertising to increase transparency.

Baron and Budd challenged Alexia's "All Natural" labeling, claiming that, despite the company's representations, many of Alexia's products actually contain synthetic chemicals, and therefore, they violate a number of consumer protection laws. The resulting settlement required ConAgra to pay \$3.2 million and to stop using the phrase "All Natural" on their packaging.

Lancôme and Avon Anti-Aging Cream Multi-District Litigation

Baron & Budd attorneys are co-lead counsel for plaintiffs in class action lawsuits currently pending against Lancôme and Avon concerning certain anti-aging and wrinkle cream skincare products. According to the lawsuits, the companies market and advertise the purported unique age-defying benefits of the products to consumers using deceptive and misleading references to clinical studies, trials, tests, patents and other indicia of scientific credibility. But, as alleged in the

complaints, the products do not, and cannot, provide the specific age-negating effects they promise to provide.

Vehicle Litigation

Over \$10 Million National Settlement with BMW Over Faulty Mini Cooper Transmissions

Mini enthusiasts have had a long love affair with the Mini Cooper design, low cost and fuel efficiency. But the car wasn't available for sale in the United States until 2002 when BMW Group decided to bring the Mini to the States. The company launched an innovative advertising campaign to help drive sales of America's first generation Minis. Advertisements showcased the Mini's curves, fashionable features, affordable cost and reliability, but the aggressive media campaign backfired. Demand for the Mini outgrew supply and the automaker was forced to churn out a substandard product.

Within the first year of its American launch, complaints began to flood into BMW about the Mini's faulty transmission. Internet forums for car enthusiasts were filled with similar stories of failing transmissions. The U.S. National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration collected more than 100 complaints.

Due to the vehicle's issues, owners were frequently forced to replace their Mini's transmission, the cost of which was sometimes greater than the cost of the vehicle. To help consumers affected by these issues, Baron and Budd attorneys stepped up and filed a lawsuit against BMW.

As a result of this case, a major national settlement, valued at more than \$5 million, was reached that would allow for Mini Cooper owners to receive a few thousand dollars each. The lawsuit also calls attention to continuing issues of deceptive advertising and how these issues harm consumers.

Baron and Budd shareholder Roland Tellis and of counsel Mark Pifko took the lead in the BMW case, working closely with other law firms to achieve the best possible result for consumers. As the litigation progressed, Tellis and Pifko remained dedicated to their clients, and helped secure a pathway for BMW owners to receive compensation for their faulty transmission issues.

THE FIRMS' SHAREHOLDERS

Russell W. Budd is a major force in the world of plaintiff's attorneys, having devoted his three-decade career to championing the rights of people and communities injured by corporate malfeasance. Currently Mr. Budd presides over one of the nation's largest plaintiff's firms, Baron & Budd, PC, headquartered in Dallas, Texas with offices in Austin, Texas; Los Angeles, California and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mr. Budd, a shareholder of Baron & Budd since 1985 and president and managing shareholder since 2002, has expanded the firm from its cornerstone asbestos practice to a national firm capable of tackling the biggest defendants in areas as diverse as pharmaceutical and medical device injury, water contamination, BP Gulf oil spill, financial fraud and various other areas of practice.

Over the last decade, Mr. Budd has played significant roles in asbestos litigation on a national level. As chair and member of several asbestos creditors' bankruptcy committees, Mr. Budd successfully resolved over 100,000 victims' claims with some of Wall Street's biggest companies. Mr. Budd was the chief negotiator of a \$4 billion national settlement with Halliburton that established a trust fund to protect present and future asbestos victims throughout the United States – the largest asbestos trust fund of its kind anywhere in the world. He was on the committee that negotiated a \$3.9 billion settlement with United States Gypsum to benefit asbestos claimants. And, he participated in negotiations that led W.R. Grace to agree to fund a bankruptcy trust on behalf of asbestos claimants with nearly \$3 billion in cash and stock equity.

Under Mr. Budd's direction, Baron & Budd provided the initial funding for the launch of the International Pleural Mesothelioma Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital to research curative therapy for Mesothelioma, a cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. The firm has also given generously to the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, Lung Cancer Alliance and to other asbestos awareness advocacy organizations.

Mr. Budd serves on the Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) and previously served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association (TTLA).

On July 13, 2010, Mr. Budd was awarded the prestigious Harry M. Philo Award Trial Lawyer of the Year Award from the American Association for Justice (AAJ) at the organization's annual conference in Vancouver, BC. The award was presented in recognition of his dedicated and consistent leadership in protecting the rights of individuals through the civil-justice system. In 2007, he earned the prestigious Wiedemann Wysocki National Finance Council Award from the American Association for Justice, an award honoring attorneys for their commitment to the legal profession and their efforts to improve the civil justice system.

Under Mr. Budd's leadership, Baron & Budd has won numerous awards. The firm was recently named by National Law Journal's to its "Hot List" of exemplary plaintiffs' firms in the United States and has been included in the Hot List eight times.

Mr. Budd and his wife are very involved in the community and one of the causes closest to his heart is Habitat for Humanity, which gives hardworking Dallas families a chance at first-time home ownership. He has personally contributed generously to the "Building on Faith" project, a collaborative initiative between the Dallas Faith Communities Coalition (DFCC), the City of Dallas and Habitat for Humanity to build 100 affordable single-family homes in West Dallas. In addition, Mr. Budd has donated land to the City of Dallas that enabled the completion of a massive bike and hike trail. Mr. Budd previously served on the Foundation Board of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN).

In 2014, Mr. Budd, along with his wife, donated \$2.5 million to Southern Methodist University in Dallas to endow The Budd Center for Involving Communities in Education. The Center is a radical concept that works closely with numerous non-profit organizations to help children exit poverty through education. Though the program is initially focused on West Dallas, the program hopes to create a template for the nation in promoting truly substantial change.

Scott Summy is a shareholder at Baron & Budd where he heads up the firm's water contamination litigation section, whose practice is dedicated to complex water contamination issues across the country. Mr. Summy primarily represents public water providers, such as municipalities, water districts and utilities, and school districts whose water has been contaminated. Mr. Summy seeks cost recovery on behalf of his clients for treatment facilities, operation and maintenance costs of the treatment facility, out of pocket expenses and administrative costs. Mr. Summy also represents private well owners around the country whose wells are contaminated. Mr. Summy has represented approximately 200 public water providers across the country with MTBE contamination, and he is designated co-lead counsel for all plaintiffs. Mr. Summy has reached settlements with most of the defendants in these cases totaling over \$450 million, including BP/Amoco.

Mr. Summy is continuing to file new MTBE cases across the country. He was also lead counsel in landmark environmental cases in California designed to protect natural resources. These cases were brought against all major oil companies and were successfully resolved, earning Mr. Summy and his legal team the "Attorney of the Year" award from *California Lawyer* in 2001.

Mr. Summy also represented over 30 water providers in atrazine litigation. Baron & Budd is the largest firm in the United States representing public water providers and private well owners on a contingency fee basis. Through his work in water cases across the country, Mr. Summy has obtained recoveries in excess of a billion

dollars against major oil companies, including BP. Mr. Summy has been selected to be included in The Best Lawyers in America from 2006-2014. He and his team were also Finalists for the Public Justice Trial Lawyer of the Year Award in 2009. Mr. Summy currently serves on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the Deepwater Horizon litigation.

Steve T. Baron oversees Baron & Budd's asbestos litigation section and is one of the law firm's chief negotiators. Mr. Baron's efforts have helped provide compensation to thousands of asbestos victims. Along with Russell Budd, Mr. Baron participated in the Halliburton and W.R. Grace negotiations that set aside billions of dollars for the benefit of asbestos victims. Mr. Baron also serves on advisory and claimants committees for various asbestos bankruptcy trusts to protect the rights of asbestos victims.

Dan Alberstone co-manages Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office. He has nearly 30 years of broad experience prosecuting and defending complex litigation matters, including extensive jury trial experience. His practice focuses on financial and other business torts, consumers class actions, environmental contamination cases, real estate disputes and entertainment cases.

Alberstone has been selected as lead trial counsel by both institutional and individual clients in their most significant and high-profile matters, including partnership cases, real estate cases, breach of contract cases, entertainment cases, environmental cases, and cases alleging unfair business practices.

In the real estate sector, Alberstone has successfully prosecuted a case for the American Skiing Company, the owner of the Canyons Ski Resort in Park City, Utah, in an action to force the resort's landlord to agree to an assignment of ground lease in a \$123 million transaction. He also obtained a more than \$14 million award for a major real estate developer in connection with the purchase and sale of an historic bank building in downtown Los Angeles. Alberstone achieved a more than \$8 million award for the owner of the Edison Bar in downtown Los Angeles in an action involving the purchase and sale of a large commercial building and successfully defended the Estate of Jonathan Ritter in an action brought to compel specific performance of a contract to purchase three citrus farms owned by the estate.

In the entertainment area, he has successfully defeated an action by a union president and three board members against the Screen Actors' Guild and 41 other members of its national board and successfully defended screenwriter in work-for-hire action brought by employer claiming ownership of screenplay. He also represented ESPN and Good Morning America reporter Erin Andrews in connection with the prosecution of a stalker who had surreptitiously videoed Ms. Andrews in the privacy of her hotel rooms.

The *Los Angeles Daily Journal* recognized Alberstone for obtaining one of the top plaintiff's verdicts in 2009, and he was selected for inclusion in the *Southern California Super Lawyers* list from 2005-2007 and most recently in 2010 (Thompson Reuters).

Alberstone earned a J.D. from the Southwestern University of Law in 1982 and a B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Laura Baughman's position at Baron & Budd calls upon her to exercise her knowledge as an attorney and environmental engineer.

Ms. Baughman manages the firm's pharmaceutical litigation filed on behalf of individuals and public entities. Ms. Baughman represented seven public entities (the states of Mississippi, West Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Maryland, New Mexico and Utah) against GlaxoSmithKline regarding misrepresentations made in the marketing of the diabetes drug Avandia. This litigation recently settled for \$177 million. Currently, Ms. Baughman represents individual personal injury and wrongful death victims and public entities regarding harm caused by Granuflo, used during dialysis. Ms. Baughman is also actively working on Lipitor and Transvaginal Mesh litigation.

As managing shareholder of the firm's Qui Tam litigation team, Ms. Baughman focuses on strategies to ferret out and litigate against those who have perpetrated fraud against the government. Sometimes called "whistleblower" cases, Ms. Baughman's team handles a variety of cases in which the government has been defrauded of Medicare, Medicaid, defense and other monies. Ms. Baughman is a member of Taxpayers Against Fraud, a non-profit organization dedicated to combating fraud and educating taxpayers about the realities of fraud.

In addition, Ms. Baughman leads the firm's work in California involving Proposition 65 litigation. She served as co-lead counsel in a California Proposition 65 water contamination case that required several major oil companies to clean up groundwater that had been contaminated by gasoline leaking from storage tanks and to take steps to prevent similar leaks in the future. The settlement was valued at \$107 million. Ms. Baughman settled another Proposition 65 case which required the retrofitting of school buses with devices to reduce diesel engine exhaust emissions, a known human carcinogen. Ms. Baughman is currently counsel on cases seeking to require the disclosure of elevated levels of lead in certain brands of children's fruit juice, canned fruits, baby food, and protein supplements.

In addition to her legal advocacy, Ms. Baughman has a long history of community service. She has represented several clients on a pro bono basis through the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program and over the years has served as co-chair of several committees for Attorneys Serving the Community. Formerly a member of the Dallas Bar Association's Community Involvement Committee, she was the chair of the group's "Lawyers Have Heart" 5-K run benefiting the American Heart

Association. While in law school, Baughman was the vice president of Texas Law Fellowships, a non-profit public interest organization.

Carla M. Burke, a shareholder in Baron & Budd's water contamination litigation section, began her legal career with the firm's appellate section. Ms. Burke has taken a prominent role in the briefing and legal analysis of MTBE Multi-District Litigation cases. She has also authored and presented numerous papers and presentations on the topics of toxic tort and water contamination litigation and premises liability law. In addition to her responsibilities at the firm, Ms. Burke has served as an adjunct clinical instructor of law at the Southern Methodist University School of Law Legal Clinic and, before law school, an English professor at a local college.

Denyse Clancy focuses on the litigation and appeals process for asbestos cancer cases, primarily mesothelioma.

In 2009, Ms. Clancy won two \$8.5 million dollar verdicts in Philadelphia on behalf of two asbestos victims that were included in the top 100 verdicts of the year in the United States and the top 25 largest settlements and awards in Pennsylvania in 2009 by Pennsylvania Law Weekly. In 2007, Ms. Clancy won a substantial verdict from a Galveston jury on behalf of a retired pipefitter suffering from asbestos-mesothelioma.

Ms. Clancy has also achieved substantial appellate victories on behalf of asbestos sufferers and their families. She was lead appellate counsel in a case in which the California Court of Appeals decision upheld a \$20 million verdict on behalf of a California asbestos sufferer and her family. In 2010, Ms. Clancy was lead appellate counsel in a case in which the Pennsylvania Court of Appeals upheld a verdict against an asbestos wire manufacturer. In 2011, she was lead appellate counsel in a case in which the California Court of Appeals reversed a summary judgment that was granted in favor of Kaiser Gypsum Company and remanded the case to the trial court.

Ms. Clancy lectures around the country on the issues of asbestos and asbestos cancer. In 2011, she was invited as Visiting Faculty to speak at the Harvard Medical School's course on "Current Concepts and Controversies in Asbestos-Related Disease."

Ms. Clancy graduated Valedictorian of the Southern Methodist University School of Law and was an Editor of the SMU Law Review.

Celeste A. Evangelisti has devoted her career to representing individuals, municipalities, and water suppliers seeking funds to clean up contaminated community water supplies. Along with Baron & Budd shareholder Scott Summy, Ms. Evangelisti was part of the legal team for Communities for a Better Environment that received the *California Lawyer* “Attorneys of the Year” Award for Environmental Law for the resolution of a precedent-setting case requiring major oil companies to clean up more than a thousand sites contaminated by the gasoline additive MTBE. Ms. Evangelisti is a frequent speaker and presenter on legal topics concerning the prosecution of water contamination cases involving the gasoline additive MTBE and other water contaminants.

Stephen C. Johnston is a shareholder in Baron & Budd’s water contamination litigation section. Prior to joining the water group, Mr. Johnston spent several years in the firm’s asbestos litigation group, representing victims of mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. He earned his law degree at Texas Tech University.

J. Todd Kale is a shareholder at Baron & Budd and has dedicated his career to fighting the companies that knowingly exposed people to the deadly carcinogen known as asbestos. Todd enjoys partnering with patients and families and helping them navigate the legal process during the most difficult time in their lives. Todd works on the front lines with the firm’s Asbestos Litigation Team. He meets with mesothelioma patients and their families across the country to gather the information necessary to successfully pursue their cases. More than any other aspect of his job, Todd enjoys meeting with these patients and families. Through these meetings, Todd becomes part of each of these families and becomes involved in the family’s specific struggles, needs and hopes. He is honored to be trusted by so many patients and families as they deal with the diagnosis and prognosis of mesothelioma. His 20 years of experience in this field make him a valuable resource for any information the family may need—both legal and medical.

For more than two decades, Todd has worked on numerous asbestos lawsuits, managing thousands of cases from start to finish. Through his many years as an asbestos lawyer, Todd has developed an in-depth understanding of the legal system and how to best navigate that system on behalf of clients. Since 1993, he has helped clients recover hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements. Todd also has experience pursuing not only asbestos manufacturers, but also equipment manufacturers and employers who are responsible for a client’s exposure to asbestos. Never one to back down from a fight, Todd is proud to have fought on behalf of mesothelioma and asbestos clients for his entire career.

Todd earned his J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1990 and his B.B.A. from the University of Texas.

John Langdoc was a scientist before he was a lawyer. At Baylor College of Medicine, Langdoc researched human neuroscience. Earlier, in graduate school, he researched how prescription drugs like Prozac can cause brain defects in babies born to mothers taking the medications.

Today as a lawyer, much of Langdoc's practice remains focused on scientific issues, particularly dissecting industry funded "studies" that inevitably show that industrial toxins are safe.

Langdoc was elected a shareholder and lead trial lawyer faster than any lawyer in Baron & Budd's history. He's been honored as one of the nation's Top 40 Lawyers Under 40, a Super Lawyer and a Top 100 National Trial Lawyer.

Langdoc's trial successes during the past 5 years include:

- A \$48 million verdict against Union Carbide for mining asbestos and causing a construction worker's cancer in California.
- A \$9 million verdict against the Dow Chemical Company for exposing a worker to carcinogens at its Freeport, Texas chemical plant.
- A \$12 million verdict for a man who was exposed to carcinogens at a paper mill in Pennsylvania.
- An \$8 million verdict for the wife of a man who was unknowingly exposed to carcinogens from chemical giant Ashland's for its Hercules pipe.
- An \$11 million verdict for a man who was exposed to carcinogens as a painter.
- A \$5.5 million verdict for the families of gentlemen who were exposed to asbestos. The verdict was upheld on appeal against the Swedish Company, Ericsson. The Appeals Court ruled that Ericsson's wire and cable "contained asbestos, and that exposure was a substantially contributing factor in causing cancer and death."
- A \$20 million verdict for a woman who was unknowingly exposed to carcinogens when she helped her husband clean up on some home remodeling projects. The verdict was upheld on appeal in California.

Langdoc has recently been recognized for The Nation's Top Mesothelioma Verdict of 2012, for both the First and Second Place Top Product Liability verdicts in Texas of 2011, and for the Top California Toxic Exposure verdict of 2012.

Though personally soft spoken and understated, when Langdoc believes in a case he is a tireless advocate. He was once forced to choose between a contempt of court jail sentence, or abandoning a family's case. Langdoc famously chose to stand by his client.

J. Burton LeBlanc is a powerhouse advocate for individuals who have been harmed by corporate wrongdoing, having begun his legal career representing victims of toxic exposure and workplace hazards in his home state, Louisiana. His lifelong commitment to service through the legal system began as a child in Louisiana, a state where danger in the workplace was commonplace and expectations for most workers were of a life shortened by the necessity of making a living. Seeing this, LeBlanc knew that his life mission would be to seek justice for the downtrodden.

Today LeBlanc's passion for championing the rights of individuals extends to the national stage where he serves as president of the American Association for Justice (AAJ). As president of AAJ, the largest trial lawyer non-profit group in the United States, LeBlanc advocates for protection of America's civil justice system and rallies resources when corporate interests attempt to infringe on individual rights. He is an adamant crusader for the abolition of forced arbitration and a supporter of the fundamental right to a trial by jury.

LeBlanc's current appointment as president follows a long history of involvement on both the local and national levels of AAJ and its affiliate organizations. He previously served as president-elect, vice president, treasurer and parliamentarian of AAJ. In addition, LeBlanc has been a member of AAJ's Executive Committee and the Board of Governors, where he was awarded the Wiedemann Wysocki National Finance Council Award two separate times, most recently in July 2010. LeBlanc has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the AAJ PAC Committee, chairman of the AAJ National Finance Council, a sustaining member of the AAJ and a member of the Leaders Forum. He is also a member of the AAJ's Section on Toxic Torts and Business Torts.

LeBlanc has also served the Louisiana Association for Justice (LAJ) as past president, member of the Council of Directors, Board of Governors and the Committee for the Environmental Law/Toxic Tort Section. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the LAJ.

LeBlanc's extensive accomplishments are equally renowned in the courtroom, paving the way for him to be named as one of the top 75 plaintiffs' attorneys in the United States by *The American Lawyer*. In addition to his work representing individuals, LeBlanc has successfully represented many governmental entities, including the States of Hawaii, Mississippi, Louisiana, and West Virginia in complex consumer fraud litigation.

Today LeBlanc concentrates his practice in the areas of pharmaceutical, environmental, securities and asbestos litigation.

LeBlanc is a member of the American Bar Association's (ABA) State Attorney General and State Department of Justice Issues Committee as well as a committee member of the ABA's Section on Toxic Torts. He is also a member of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys (NAPPA) the National

Association of Shareholder & Consumer Attorneys (NASCAT), the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Texas State Bar Association, American Bar Association, College of the State Bar of Texas, the Louisiana Bar Foundation and a supporting member of the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice Foundation. He is a frequent lecturer on the issues of environmental law, asbestos litigation, chemical exposure cases and the importance of access to the civil justice system.

LeBlanc and his wife are active in the Baton Rouge community and serve on multiple boards, including Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge, where he served as president.

Cary L. McDougal has served as lead attorney in over 75 jury trials in state and federal court. He has tried cases in diverse areas of the law such as premises liability, product liability, general personal injury, medical malpractice, insurance litigation and environmental litigation. As manager of Baron & Budd's water contamination litigation section, Mr. McDougal currently represents over 200 municipalities and water providers across the country that are seeking clean-up costs for the contamination of their water supplies. His practice includes management of Baron & Budd's cases in the Multi-District (MDL) MTBE water contamination litigation, which is considered one of the most complex pieces of litigation in the country. He also manages the firm's involvement in the BP Oil Spill litigation.

Roland Tellis co-manages Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office. His practice focuses on complex, high-profile litigation, including consumer class actions, financial fraud, business torts, corporate misconduct, automobile defect, food labeling, false advertising, securities fraud, and environmental contamination.

Tellis has represented clients in numerous jury trials, including several multimillion dollar disputes. In 2005, Tellis received commendation from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for his assistance in the successful prosecution of a \$120 million securities Ponzi scheme perpetrated by foreign currency traders. Tellis also represented a multinational food company in litigation directed at the theft of its trade secrets by competing scientists. Tellis represented the owner of a commercial real estate portfolio in a litigation seeking hundreds of millions of dollars. And, Tellis also represented the Screen Actors' Guild and members of its national board.

Tellis has become a leader in representing plaintiffs in multidistrict class action litigation and has become a formidable force in protecting consumer rights. Tellis

is lead class counsel in several complex class action cases, including cases in the financial services sector, the automobile industry and the food and beverage group. Tellis' experience exemplifies the depth and breadth of resources that Baron & Budd provides for its clients.

Some of Tellis' consumer class actions include *Bias et al. v. Wells Fargo Bank*, a putative class action concerning fraud in the setting of default related bank fees; *Stitt et al. v. Citibank et al.*, putative class action concerning fraud in the setting of default-related bank fees; *Ellis et al. v. JPMorgan Chase et al.*, a putative class action concerning fraud in the setting of default-related banks fee; *Payne et al. v. Bank of America, et al.*, a putative class action involving manipulation of the LIBOR U.S. Dollar rate; *In re L'Oreal Wrinkle Cream Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation*, a putative class action involving fraudulent marketing of skin care products; *In re: Avon Anti-Aging Skincare Creams and Products Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation*, a putative class action involving fraudulent marketing of skin care product); *In Re: Brazilian Blowout Litigation*, class counsel in the certified class action concerning issues of fraud in connection with the sale of Brazilian Blowout hair products; *Delacruz v. Cytosport, Inc.*, a putative class action concerning false advertising, fraud, and misrepresentations regarding dietary supplement products; *Aarons et al. v. BMW of North America, LLC et al.*, a putative class action concerning premature transmission failure in MINI Cooper vehicles; and in *In re: Alexia Foods, Inc. Litigation*, a putative class action concerning false advertising, fraud, and misrepresentations concerning frozen food products.

Tellis served on the Board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers and is a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Tellis is Co-Chair of the Settlement Panel of the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Tellis is a faculty member of the Practicing Law Institute and was Chair of an annual program entitled "Taking and Defending Depositions." He was recognized by as a "Rising Star" from 2004-2007 (Thompson Reuters) and a "Super Lawyer" from 2008-2012 (Thompson Reuters).

Tellis earned a J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1996 and a B.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1992.

Of Counsel

Alicia Butler has worked with Baron & Budd in numerous roles, ranging from major toxic exposure cases to other widesweeping consumer cases. Currently, Ms. Butler focuses on pharmaceutical litigation, as well whistleblower/qui tam cases and Medicare fraud cases.

Allen Vaught is a decorated U.S. Army veteran and former Texas State Representative. A member of the U.S. Army Reserve from 1997 until 2005, Mr. Vaught took leave from Baron & Budd in 2003 to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He commanded one of the Army's first units to enter Fallujah and served as the city's de facto mayor. Mr. Vaught heads the firm's FLSA litigation section, where he spearheads new litigation against employers who are not fairly compensating their employees.

S. Ann Saucer's practice focuses on appellate advocacy and briefing in complex litigation. She has successfully argued before the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, state appellate courts, and federal and state trial courts. Ms. Saucer was a key author of the federal court briefing defending the rights of Fen-Phen victims in the renegotiated AHP class action settlement, and was asked to speak at Fen-Phen litigation seminars. She also has spoken and published on federal procedural issues, and her background covers the spectrum of environmental law, consumer protection, product liability, and toxic torts. Ms. Saucer graduated first in her class from Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans and clerked for the Chief Judge of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Associates

Stephen Blackburn is an attorney in Baron & Budd's pharmaceutical litigation group, where he represents patients who have experienced the devastating effects of transvaginal mesh implants. In the beginning of his career, he honed his legal theory skills as an intern with the American Civil Liberties Union where he worked on an amicus brief for the case of *Chavez v. Martinez*, 538 U.S. 760 (2003). The arguments set forth in the amicus brief helped form the basis for Justice Souter's important Part II opinion for the Court. Blackburn previously worked for Baron & Budd's environmental litigation group representing communities and individuals facing environmental contamination caused by pollutants such as MTBE as well as with the firm's appellate section. Blackburn earned his law degree from the University of Michigan School of Law.

Jeremiah Boling works at the Louisiana office of Baron & Budd. Boling is a Georgia native and attended Mississippi State University where he received a degree in Political Science. He then moved to Louisiana to attend law school at Tulane University. During law school, Boling served as managing editor of the Sports Lawyers Journal. After finishing his law degree, Boling began his career at Barrios Kingsdorf & Casteix where he gained experience working on Chinese drywall, Actos and Vioxx litigation.

Ben Braly is an attorney with Baron & Budd's mesothelioma litigation group. He was moved to practice law at a young age after learning of the story of an Oklahoma teenager named Sean Marsee, who was killed from his use of smokeless tobacco products in the 1980s. The family's struggle against the

tobacco industry moved Braly to pursue a career in defending the rights of the people against the interests of big business. After finishing his undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University, Braly returned to his hometown of Dallas, Texas to attend law school at Southern Methodist University. While working on his law degree, he served as the president of the Student American Civil Liberties Union and as chair of the Student Judicial Commission.

Brittany Clark works closely with clients suffering from serious health problems after using various pharmaceuticals, such as Risperdal, Lipitor, Testosterone therapy drugs, Zoloft, GranuFlo, transvaginal mesh and several others. Ms. Clark remains at the forefront of the firm's growing pharmaceutical litigation practice, often spearheading investigation into new drugs or devices that may be causing serious physical harm to patients –and most importantly, what Baron & Budd can do to help these people.

Prior to her work at Baron & Budd, Ms. Clark represented ten of thousands of patients suffering from harmful pharmaceutical products against numerous multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical corporations. She worked closely with countless clients and their families throughout the litigation process to fully understand each client's needs, as well as fulfill the legal needs of each client's case.

Ms. Clark graduated *cum laude* with her J.D. from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston. She also holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Baylor University.

Christopher C. Colley works with Baron & Budd clients who suffer from mesothelioma, primarily out of the firm's Baton Rouge office. Mr. Colley worked with the Dallas-based law firm Silber Pearlman until the firm consolidated with Baron & Budd in 2008. He earned his law degree from the Texas Tech University School of Law.

Chad Cotton is an attorney with Baron & Budd's asbestos litigation section, representing individuals with mesothelioma and other asbestos cancers. He concentrates his practice on the liability of employers and the owners of the facilities where his clients were exposed to asbestos. Mr. Cotton earned his J.D. from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law.

Irma Espino is an attorney with Baron & Budd's water contamination litigation section, where she works primarily with clients who have been harmed by the Gulf Oil Spill. Espino originally joined the firm in 2002 as a case manager and later paralegal for pharmaceutical cases. In 2004, she left the firm to attend law school at the University of Miami School of Law, where she received honors in Litigation Skills and Trial Advocacy Program and was a member of the Business Law Review. She rejoined Baron & Budd in 2010.

Ann Harper has spent her career representing people who have developed mesothelioma and other serious illnesses caused by asbestos exposure. She works in Baron & Budd's settlement department, where she oversees the firm's Client Care department and works closely with the firm's clients to pursue claims through asbestos bankruptcy trust funds.

Brett Land joined Baron & Budd's Environmental Law Group in 2014 after graduating from Emory University School of Law. Prior to permanently joining the firm, Mr. Land spent several summers working at Baron & Budd as a summer associate. This work strengthened his resolve to help public entities seek justice for wrongful contamination and force the companies responsible to pay for the cleanup.

During those summers, he had the opportunity to work on a number of major water contamination cases. Mr. Land worked on cases related to PCE, TCP, MTBE and Atrazine groundwater contamination, where he performed diligent research and offered invaluable assistance in obtaining positive results for the firm's clients. He even had the opportunity to meet with and assist numerous victims of the 2010 Gulf oil spill in filing legal claims.

Mitchell McCrea is an attorney in the law firm's water litigation section. Growing up on his family's ranches and farm in southern New Mexico, Texas and California, Mr. McCrea was constantly aware of water's ever-increasing value and scarcity. Following graduate studies on environmental history and the history of the American West at the University of New Mexico, Mr. McCrea determined he could best make a positive impact on the world's natural resources if he was armed with a law degree. He graduated *cum laude* from Texas Tech University Law School.

Isaac Miller is an attorney at the Los Angeles office of Baron & Budd. His practice includes class action litigation involving consumer fraud. Prior to Baron & Budd, Miller worked at Milstein Adelman, LLP, where he focused on false and misleading advertising cases involving a range of dietary supplements and cosmetics. He represented clients in a variety of consumer fraud and antitrust actions against a multitude of companies including brand and generic pharmaceutical companies, interactive entertainment companies and online tax preparation services, among others.

Marty A. Morris works with the firm's asbestos litigation group, representing people with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. Mr. Morris was an attorney with a well-known commercial litigation firm for several years before joining Baron & Budd in 1999. He earned his J.D. at South Texas College of Law, where he was honored with the Order of the Coif. He was also a member of the South Texas Law Review and the Advocacy Program.

Mark Pifko has made a name for himself as a staunch advocate for consumers' rights. Mr. Pifko, who serves as Of Counsel at Baron & Budd, has more than ten years of experience litigating complex, multi-party, multi-district, and class action cases. Mr. Pifko spent the first seven years of his career representing some of the world's largest companies, but in 2010, Mr. Pifko left his position at Arnold & Porter LLP so that he could devote his entire practice to representing the interests of plaintiffs. Mr. Pifko brings his extensive defense side knowledge and a passion for plaintiffs to every case.

Since joining Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office in 2011, Mr. Pifko has taken on powerful corporations in class action cases concerning a wide range of products and services, including, banking, motor vehicles, food products, and cosmetics. Mr. Pifko's experience on both sides of the courtroom encompasses more than fifty significant complex and class action lawsuits. In addition to his litigation work, Mr. Pifko is a talented writer whose articles on class action law and consumer advocacy have been published in *California Lawyer* magazine and the *Daily Journal* newspaper.

M. Cristina Sanchez is an attorney with the firm's water contamination litigation section, representing municipalities, water providers and private well owners seeking clean-up costs for polluted drinking water supplies. She earned her J.D. at Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law, where she was the National Champion, recipient of the Best Brief Award and Second Place Oralist in the 2002 Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Competition. She also won First Place in the 2001 Southern Methodist University Client Counseling Competition and served as Chief Counsel for SMU's Criminal Defense Legal Clinic in 2002.

Thomas M. Sims has worked on a variety of environmental cases, ranging from water contamination to air pollution. In the Tucson, Arizona groundwater contamination case, Mr. Sims served as trial counsel in two lengthy bench trials that led to favorable verdicts for his clients. Mr. Sims also served on the legal team that was awarded the 2006 Public Justice "Trial Lawyer of the Year" Award for their work on this Tucson water contamination case. Mr. Sims earned his law degree, with honors, from the University of Texas School of Law.

Kirsten Soto joined Baron and Budd in August 2014 as a part of the firm's trucking litigation group, where she represents clients injured in catastrophic truck and bus crashes. Before moving to Dallas, Soto practiced at a boutique law firm in Washington, D.C. representing clients in multi-million dollar insurance coverage lawsuits.

Prior to and during law school, Soto worked as a research assistant for a firm that investigates serious truck and bus collisions. Soto gained invaluable experience assisting with crash scene and vehicle investigations. She was inspired to attend law school after interacting with many passionate plaintiffs' attorneys fighting for those who were injured or killed in commercial vehicle collisions. During law

school, Soto represented clients in family law matters as a student attorney. She also served as an Executive Board member and editor of the Administrative Law Review.

Soto is actively involved with the American Bar Association's Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section. She has held leadership positions on various committees, including those dealing with commercial transportation litigation, automotive litigation, outreach to law students and diversity in the legal profession.

Christine Tamer joined Baron & Budd following a summer clerkship with the firm. Since joining Baron & Budd, she has represented a family in obtaining a \$48 million mesothelioma verdict in California. Additionally, Tamer has worked alongside Baron & Budd attorneys to help the firm win an \$8.4 million verdict for the widow of a mesothelioma patient in Texas. During law school, Tamer was named a Chancellor at the University of Texas School of Law, an honor awarded to graduates with the top 16 grade point averages, and was an Associate Editor of the Texas Law Review.

Natalie J. Velasco began her career working as an administrative assistant at a plaintiffs' law firm, where she later discovered a passion for the law. Ms. Velasco works with clients throughout the settlement process. She earned her J.D. at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Holly Werkema works with Baron & Budd's pharmaceutical litigation group, where she represents clients and their families that have been adversely affected by Granuflo, a product used in dialysis that has caused countless deaths due to misleading and inadequate use instructions provided to health care professionals by its manufacturer. She joined Baron & Budd in 2012 to represent homeowners throughout the southeast affected by toxic Chinese drywall installations in their homes. Ms. Werkema graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Florida State University's College of Law.