BARON B BUDD®

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 forty-five years of experience, Baron & Budd has the expertise and resources to handle complex litigation throughout the United States. As a law firm that takes pride in 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 substantial national acclaim for its work on cutting-edge litigation:

- Shareholders Russell Budd, Scott Summy and Roland Tellis have frequently been selected to the *Best Lawyers in America*. Budd and Tellis have been selected to *Best Lawyers* every year since 2014 and Summy has been selected to *Best Lawyers* every year since 2006.

- Baron & Budd attorneys serve in prominent leadership roles in MDL 2804, In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation. To date, the litigation has recovered more than $60 billion dollars. In litigation, Baron & Budd attorneys and their co-counsel represented more than 700 local governments and nine state attorneys general. Baron & Budd shareholders Russell Budd, Burton LeBlanc, Daniel Alberstone, Roland Tellis, and Mark Pifko held key leadership positions in the MDL and served as co-lead trial counsel in proceedings outside the MDL.

- In several litigation practice areas, Baron & Budd attorneys rank among the top 5.7% of all attorneys in the United States, according to *Best Lawyers®*, which selects honorees through a meticulous process that includes peer reviews and nominations. For 2026, the following shareholders were recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*™ for their respective practice areas: Dan Alberstone, Mark Pifko, David Cannella, Christine Mansour, Catherine Dorsey and J. Todd Kale for plaintiff product liability litigation; Russell Budd, Steve Baron, John Fiske, Burton LeBlanc, Scott Summy and J. Todd Kale for plaintiff mass tort litigation -- class action; Russell Budd, Steve Baron, David Cannella, Christopher Colley, Bryan Green, J. Todd Kale and Chad Taylor for plaintiff personal injury litigation; Burton LeBlanc for environmental litigation; and Roland Tellis for commercial litigation. Notably, in 2025 the firm received special distinction from Best Lawyers for having the highest number of personal injury attorneys honored in Dallas, Texas.

- Baron & Budd was recognized again in 2026 as a Tier 1 firm, the fourteenth year the firm has received the distinguished designation in Best Lawyers' *Best Law Firms*® awards, a recognition highlighting only the top 3.8% of law firms nationwide in Best Lawyers' annual review process. Our Baton Rouge office received the 2026 Tier 1 designation for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs; our Los Angeles office for

Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs; our New Orleans office for Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs; our San Diego office for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs, and our Dallas office for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs, Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs, and Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs.

- Baron & Budd has also been recognized for its young lawyers who demonstrate exceptional promise early in their careers. Best lawyers recognized three Baron & Budd attorneys in 2025 in their list of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch,* which represent just 2% of attorneys nationwide. The 2025 Best Lawyers honorees were Nick Custred and Kris Thompson for plaintiff personal injury litigation, and Elizabeth Smiley for plaintiff mass tort litigation - class action. Those attorneys were recognized again in 2026, along with Mike Pacelli for plaintiff commercial litigation.

- In 2020, 2023 and 2024, Baron and Budd's Environmental Litigation Group (ELG) was named as Law360's Practice Group of the Year. The award honors law firms with significant litigation wins and major deals that resonate throughout the legal industry. In 2024 alone, The ELG protected America's drinking water by obtaining a record $12.5 billion nationwide class settlement with 3M -- the largest drinking water contamination settlement in U.S. history, obtaining a $1.1 billion nationwide class settlement on behalf of public water providers against DuPont and other manufacturers for PFAS contamination in drinking water supplies, and achieving a $750 million settlement agreement with Tyco Fire Products and a $312.5 million settlement with BASF Corporation for PFAS-related drinking-water contamination.

- Every year since 2024, Shareholders Scott Simmer and Andrew Miller have been recipients of the *Best Lawyers in America – Qui Tam Law* award. They have also been named to National Trial Lawyers' Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Lawyers every year since 2023. Shareholders Simmer, Miller and Will Powers have been designated Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers every year since 2024, and attorney Noah Rich in 2024 received the National Law Journal Elite Trial Lawyers Rising Stars of the Plaintiffs' Bar award for his work in the Baron & Budd qui tam practice.

- In 2024, Russell Budd was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement award by the prestigious *National Law Journal*.

- In 2024, Baron & Budd negotiated settements totaling over $15 billion for public water systems affected by PFAS --- so-called "forever chemicals" made by 3M, DuPont, Tyco, BASF, and others.

- In 2024, Baron & Budd was a national finalist in the categories of Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection and Pharmaceutical Litigation in the *National Law Journal's* 2024 Elite Trial Lawyer awards.

- In 2023, Baron & Budd recovered more than $600,000,000 to settle claims against Monsanto Company by more than 2,400 public entities whose stormwater and waterbodies are contaminated with PCBs made by Monsanto.

- In 2020, Shareholder Carla Pickrel was named to the National Trial Lawyers Top 10 Environmental Trial Lawyers, Top 25 Products Liability Trial Lawyers, and Top 25 Women Trial Lawyers. Shareholder Torri Sherlin was named to the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40 Civil Plaintiff Lawyers in 2022, and the top 100 civil plaintiff lawyers 2023-present. Attorney Taylor O'Neal has been named to the Top 40 under 40 list from 2022-present.

- Baron & Budd Environmental Group shareholders John Fiske and Jason Julius have been named to Super Lawyers San Diego – Environmental Litigation, John Fiske from 2015-present, and Jason Julius from 2023-present. Shareholder Torri Sherlin has been named to Super Lawyers San Diego – Environmental Litigation Rising Stars from 2021-present. Attorney Taylor O'Neal was named to the Super Lawyers San Diego – Environmental Litigation Rising Stars list in 2025. The Super Lawyers Rising Star award is given only to the top 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state under the age of 40 or who have been in practice for 10 or fewer years. John Fiske, Jason Julius, Torri Sherlin, and Taylor O'Neal lead the firms wildfire practice.

- Since 2018, Baron & Budd's wildfire team has resolved over $1.7 billion from utilities in wildfire cases. In 2020, Baron & Budd Shareholders John Fiske and Torri Sherlin were awarded the Daily Journal's California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year (CLAY Award) for their work on the historic $360 million Thomas Fire settlement achieved on behalf of 26 Public Entity clients, which included a historic first of its kind agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to recover federal funds as part of the settlement. Baron & Budd has represented more than 125 public entities – including some of the largest cities and counties in Caliornia – as well as thousands of individuals and families in cases against major utility companies like Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison. Baron & Budd's wildfire resolutions include include $582 million in the Camp Fire, $415 million in the North Bay Fires, $230 million in the Woolsey Fire, $150 million in the Thomas Fire, $100 million in the Bobcat Fire, an additional $43 million in the Camp Fire, $31 million in the Kincade Fire, $28.4 million in the Butte Fire, $24 million in the Dixie Fire, $12.36 million in the Zogg Fire, another $9 million in the Camp Fire, $7.25 million in the Mill Fire, an additional $5 million in the Camp Fire, and $3 million in the Butte Fire, among other

settlements. Additionally, Baron & Budd Shareholders Scott Summy, John Fiske, and Torri Sherlin have served as lead or liaison counsel for public entities in nine wildfire cases, including the 2017 North Bay Fires, the 2017 Thomas Fire, the 2018 Woolsey Fire, the 2020 Dixie Fire, the 2020 Mountain View Fire, the 2021 Marshall Fire, the 2022 Coastal Fire, the 2022 Fairview Fire, and the 2022 Mosquito Fire. In March of 2025, John Fiske and Torri Sherlin were appointed liaison counsel for public entities in the Eaton Fire litigation, currently pending in Los Angeles Superior Court, where they represent 16 public entities, including the County of Los Angeles, the Cities of Pasadena and Sierra Madre, and the Pasadena Unified School District among several others.

- Baron & Budd represents whistleblowers in a wide range of areas, including healthcare, government contracts and procurement, tax fraud, for-profit education fraud, small business fraud, customs fraud, insurance fraud, and more. The whistleblowers who come forward to bring qui tam cases have tremendous value to the U.S. government, and the whistleblower team at Baron & Budd plays a central role in helping them present their cases successfully. With more than 50 years of collective experience, the attorneys on Baron & Budd's whistleblower representation team have represented dozens of clients in government fraud cases returning more than $6.5 billion to federal and state agencies, with whistleblower recovery shares as high as 50%.

- Shareholder Scott Simmer, who heads the Baron & Budd Whistleblower Group in Washington D.C., has an over 25-year track record of bringing successful qui tam cases under federal and state False Claims Acts, state insurance fraud statutes, and the IRS whistleblower program.

- Shareholder Burton LeBlanc was a 2017 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Honor from America's Top 100 Attorneys for his career dedicated to the protection of America's civil justice system. LeBlanc has also been selected for inclusion in the *Louisiana Super Lawyers* list from 2012 to the present (Thompson Reuters). Together with co-counsel, LeBlanc and Baron & Budd represent more than 700 public entities and nine Attorneys General across the nation in litigation against prescription opioid manufacturers, distributors and dispensers.

- Shareholders Scott Summy, Carla Pickrel and John Fiske were honored to receive a 2017 Burton Award, which recognizes the finest law firm writers in the country. Summy, Pickrel, and Fiske were selected for their article, "Poison in the Well," which appeared in the August 2016 issue of Trial Magazine. The Baron & Budd team is one of only 25 winners selected from nominations submitted by the nation's top 1,000 most prestigious and largest law firms.

- In 2016, shareholders Russell Budd and Thomas Sims were appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in litigation involving health issues

linked to Fluoroquinolone use; Russell Budd was also appointed Plaintiffs' Co-lead Counsel in this litigation.

- Shareholder Carla Pickrel has been named to the *National Trial Lawyers* Top 100 Trial Lawyers List every year from 2016 to present for her tireless work representing hundreds of public entities over more than a decade in a wide variety of cases involving drinking water contamination from dangerous chemicals such as atrazine, PCE, MTBE and PCBs.

- Every year since 2016, shareholder J. Todd Kale has been named to *National Trial Lawyers* Top 100 Trial Lawyers List for his work fighting against companies that knowingly exposed people to asbestos. Every year since 2023, he has been named to the organization's list of Top 10 National Asbestos/Mesothelioma Lawyers, and every year since 2024, he has been named by *Best Lawyers* as one of The Best Lawyers in America in both Personal Injury Litigation and Product Liability Litigation. In addition, he has been amed one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers every year since 2024. Kale has spent more than 30 years helping victims of asbestos exposure and their families.

- In 2016, shareholder Roland Tellis was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in litigation involving the marketing and sales practices of Volkswagen's "clean diesel" vehicles. Volkswagen is in the process of settling these claims, with settlement values and fines totaling in the billions of dollars.

- In 2015, shareholder Russell Budd was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in litigation involving health issues linked to the drug Zofran.

- In 2015, shareholder Russell Budd was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committees in litigation involving health issues linked to Inferior Vena Cava Filters (IVCs).

- In 2014 Baron & Budd was named to the list of America's Elite Trial Lawyers by *The National Law Journal* in partnership with Law.com. This illustrious list is comprised of 50 law firms that have achieved significant results on behalf of plaintiffs within the previous year and have an established track record of delivering impressive results.

- Every year since 2013, Baron & Budd, P.C. has been recognized in the Best Law Firms® edition, ranked by *Best Lawyers*® regionally in three practice areas including mass tort litigation/class actions, personal injury litigation, and commercial litigation.

- 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 2013, shareholder Burton LeBlanc was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in litigation involving health issues linked to dialysis product GranuFlo and its sister product, NaturaLyte. Additionally, he served as president of the American Association of Justice (AAJ) in 2013. AAJ is the largest trial lawyer non-profit group in the United States.

- 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 September 2010, Baron & Budd was one of only four firms chosen to serve on both the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee and 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 more than 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 by the legal non-profit organization, Public Justice, for its work on Arizona groundwater contamination litigation that spanned 21 years, involved more than 1,600 plaintiffs, and resulted in a total recovery of more than $150 million.

- In 2004, *American Lawyer* named Baron & Budd one of the sixteen most successful plaintiffs' firms in the country.

- Baron & Budd attorneys are serving, or has served, on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committees for the following: Fluoroquinolones, GranuFlo, IVC Filters, Ethicon Power Morcellator, Transvaginal Mesh, Zofran, AFFF, BP Oil Spill, MTBE, Chinese Drywall, Takata Air Bags and Volkswagen Clean Diesel.

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

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF LITIGATION

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

Lead Role in the AFFF Multi-District Litigation

Baron & Budd Shareholder Scott Summy was appointed as Co-Lead Counsel by the court in AFFF MDL No. 2873 pending in federal district court in South Carolina. He also serves as Co-Chair of the General Liability Discovery Committee and the Science Committee and was appointed by the Court to participate in settlement discussions. Baron & Budd Shareholder Carla Pickrel serves as Chair of the Law and Briefing Committee. This litigation focuses on PFAS contamination of the environment from its use in fire-fighting foam. The litigation focuses on the manufacturers of AFFF and PFAS and seeks damages for the extensive contamination of water supplies. Baron & Budd represents numerous public entities in the AFFF MDL. In 2024, Baron & Budd, along with co-counsel, finalized settlements on behalf of public water suppliers totaling more than $15 billion with chemical companies including 3M Co., The Chemours Co., DuPont de Nemours Inc., Corteva Inc., BASF Corp., and Johnson Controls International PLC unit Tyco Fire Products LP. The firm continues to pursue settlements with the remaining defendants.

In addition, the firm represents dozens of airports, fire training facilities, landfills, wastewater operators, private property owners, and State governments who have claims against the AFFF manufacturers for contamination of their properties. And the firm represents individuals diagnosed with serious illnesses caused by exposure to PFAS compounds. Those cases were not part of the settlements and remain pending in the MDL. Additional information about these cases is available on the firm's Environmental Litigation Group website.

Other PFAS Litigation

Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group represents public water providers and individuals against E. I. du Pont de Nemours and The Chemours Company for decades-long contamination of the Cape Fear River, along with the air and groundwater near the Fayetteville, North Carolina, plant, from Gen-X compounds and dozens of other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the PFAS chemical family. For 35 years, DuPont and Chemours have contaminated the river and more than a hundred private wells around the plant. Baron & Budd represents Brunswick County, the Town of Wrightsville Beach, and the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority as they seek to recover the costs of removing all PFAS chemicals before the water is distributed to the public. Baron & Budd also represents the owners of most private wells around the plant that have been contaminated and is seeking damages for well filtration, all costs associated with filtration and property damage. This case is of national significance as focus has shifted to the prevalence of PFAS chemicals around the country. Additional information about these cases is available on the firm's Environmental Litigation Group website.

Wildfires

Baron & Budd, along with co-counsel Diab Chambers LLP, have represented individuals and public entities in some of the most destructive utility-caused wildfires in California history and obtained historic settlements amounting to more than $1.7 billion since 2018 alone. These fires were caused by the failure of electrical utilities to recognize the new normal caused by climate change. The utilities failed to maintain their equipment and to secure and maintain the foliage that surrounds their equipment. In 2019, Baron & Budd recovered a $1 billion settlement from California utility PG&E on behalf of 18 public entities, including the devastated town of Paradise and Butte County, to recover taxpayer losses caused by the 2015 Butte Fire, the 2017 North Bay Fires, and the 2018 Camp Fire. Shortly thereafter, in November 2019, Baron & Budd obtained a $360 million settlement from Southern California Edison on behalf of 23 public entities for taxpayer losses caused by the 2017 Thomas Fire, the 2018 Montecito Debris Flows, and the 2018 Woolsey Fire. In addition to several public entities, Baron & Budd represents thousands of families and businesses who lost everything due to the negligent maintenance, inspection, and operations of these investor-owned utilities.

In 2023, Baron & Budd, P.C., along with co-counsel, filed a lawsuit on behalf of Maui County against Maui Electric Company, Limited, Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., Hawai'i Electric Light Company, Inc., and Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. for civil damages to the County's public property and resources caused by the Maui Fires, including fires in Lahaina and in Kula. The lawsuit was filed in the Second Circuit under the case number 2CCV-23-0000238. The fires in Lahaina and Kula burned more than 3,000 acres and destroyed more than 2,200 structures, causing an estimated $5.5 billion in damage or more. The lawsuit alleges that defendants acted negligently by failing to power down their electrical equipment despite a National Weather Service "fire weather watch" on August 6, 2023, and a National Weather Service Red Flag Warning on August 7, 2023. In August 2024, a $4 billion global settlement was announced and final resolution is ongoing.

In 2025, Baron & Budd P.C., along with co-counsel Diab Chambers LLP and Ellis Riccobono LLP, filed a lawsuit on behalf of 16 public entities against Southern California Edison seeking compensation for damages to property and resources and other relief as a result of the 2025 Eaton Fire. The Eaton Fire burned more than 14,000 acres, destroyed approximately 9,400 structures, damaged more than 1,000 structures, and claimed 18 lives. The lawsuit seeks to hold Southern California Edison responsible for the fire and for damage to critical infrastructure and taxpayer resources that the fire destroyed. Baron & Budd Shareholders, John Fiske and Torri Sherlin are co-liaison counsel for Public Entity Plaintiffs in the Eaton litigation, which is ongoing. Additional information about these cases is available on the firm's Wildfire Recovery website.

Litigation Against Social Media Companies for Creating a Public Nuisance and Health Crisis Among Minors

In 2025, Baron & Budd filed public nuisance lawsuits against social media companies Meta, Snap, Google, YouTube, and TikTok on behalf of the people of the state of California in San Diego, Sacramento, Del Norte, Placer, and Shasta counties, alleging that the defendant social media companies have created a public nuisance and health crisis among minors living in those counties who have developed compulsive and addictive behaviors due to social media algorithms and user interface design intended to create repetitive uses. Social media companies strategically and intentionally implemented behavioral and neurobiological techniques responsible for addictive behavior in the development of their platforms knowing that children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the addictive effects. The lawsuits seek to hold the social media companies accountable for their role in creating or contributing to a public nuisance and enjoin them to stop their harmful actions while also seeking injunctive relief and abatement to fund education and addiction treatment. Additional information about Baron & Budd is available on the firm's Social Media Companies website.

Litigation Against JUUL Labs for Creating the E-Cigarette Epidemic

Baron & Budd attorneys have filed lawsuits on behalf of some of the largest school districts in California against JUUL for negligence and nuisance claims related to their role in creating the e-cigarette epidemic. Studies show that the 2018 spike in nicotine vaping was the largest for any nicotine substance recorded in 44 years. The lawsuits seek injunctions and abatement to stop the e-cigarette epidemic, which has severely impacted school districts by interfering with normal school operations. The Districts also seek compensatory damages to provide relief from the financial losses as a result of students being absent from school, coordinating outreach and education programs regarding the health risks of vaping, and enforcement actions – such as vape detectors, video surveillance, and staff to monitor the schools' property in an effort to combat the e-cigarette crisis. Additional information about Baron & Budd is available on the firm's School Vaping Crisis website.

TCP Litigation

The Environmental Litigation Group at Baron & Budd has represented numerous public water providers whose water supplies are contaminated with 1,2,3-Trichloropropane ("TCP"). TCP is a manmade chemical that has contaminated groundwater that many communities rely upon for drinking water. While there have been some industrial uses for TCP as a cleaning and degreasing solvent, the majority of TCP groundwater contamination is a result of the use of certain soil fumigants. Baron & Budd has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of water providers in litigation against the Dow Chemical Company and Shell Oil Company for TCP contamination. In 2018, Baron & Budd recovered the largest settlement for contamination of drinking water to date in TCP litigation on behalf of the City of Bakersfield and California Water Service Company. Such recoveries have provided water providers with the funds needed to install the expensive treatment required to remove TCP from drinking water and avoid passing such costs to ratepayers.

$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 more than 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 Stormwater

In 2015, Baron & Budd shareholder Scott Summy filed a lawsuit against the Monsanto Company and its corporate successors on behalf of the City of San Diego regarding the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that eventually wash into water bodies. The sole manufacturer of PCBs in the United States, Monsanto, allegedly knew about the dangers of PCBs for decades but failed to warn people of these dangers. Additional cases were filed across a number of states, and after many years of tedious discovery and legal motions, a $635.5 million settlement was reached with Monsanto on the eve of trial. The class settlement provides a range of monetary benefits to 2,447 public entities to manage PCBs in stormwater and waterbodies, including cash payments to monitor PCBs in stormwater and assist in the removal of PCBs from sediments. Additionally, Baron & Budd recovered $170.6 million on behalf of three attorney general clients in Washington, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia. When Baron & Budd filed these cases, there was no precedent for imposing liability on a product manufacturer for contamination of stormwater. This case established precedent that extends environmental tort law to benefit communities and natural resources harmed by contaminants carried through stormwater.

Lead Role in the BP Gulf Oil Spill Litigation

Immediately after the explosion that caused the massive BP Gulf Oil Spill in 2010, 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 environmental litigation group, was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the oil spill litigation. In 2012, a $1 billion dollar settlement was reached between BP and attorneys on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the litigation. The agreement was expected to pay an estimated $8 billion to resolve economic, property and

medical claims by more than 100,000 Gulf-area businesses and individuals, making it one of the largest class action settlements in U.S. history as of that date. $2.3 billion was earmarked for commercial fishermen, seafood boat captains and others. Another $57 million was set aside to promote the Gulf coast in hopes of bolstering tourism and the seafood industry.

$423 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. The settlement, reached with many of the country's leading gas companies, 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, Carla Pickrel, 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.

Clean Air for Schoolchildren

In 2008, Baron & Budd attorneys 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, Baron & Budd 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 shareholder Scott Summy 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 11 wells, forcing the City to import water for $3 million a year.

In total, the oil companies paid $250 million, which provided funds for Santa Monica to build a water treatment system to clean MTBE from its supply, to continue buying water until the supply was deemed 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.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill occurred in remote Prince William Sound, Alaska, on March 24, 1989, when the Exxon Valdez, an oil tanker bound for Long Beach, California, struck Prince William Sound's Bligh Reef, ran aground, and spilled nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil.

Similar to the 2010 BP Gulf Oil Spill, the cause of Exxon Valdez spill 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.

OPIOID LITIGATION

Baron & Budd has been leading opioid litigation against distributors, manufacturers, retailers, and now, pharmacy benefit managers. Nearly a decade ago, our firm filed the first lawsuit against a distributor and started the opioid multidistrict litigation (MDL). Since then, the litigation has led to the recovery of more than $60 billion. Over the course of the litigation, Baron & Budd, along with co-counsel, represented more than 700 local governments and nine state attorneys general. Baron & Budd shareholders Russell Budd, Burton LeBlanc, Daniel Alberstone, Roland Tellis, and Mark Pifko held key leadership positions in the MDL and served as co-lead trial counsel in proceedings outside the MDL.

In their leadership roles, Baron & Budd attorneys were instrumental in obtaining tens of billions of dollars in recovery from defendants in every channel in the chain of distribution. Baron & Budd attorneys led the prosecution of the case against the distributors that resulted in a landmark $26 billion national opioid settlement designed to resolve opioid claims brought by states, counties, cities, and other local governments against the "Big Three" drug distributors, AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson, along with drug manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. A few years later, Baron & Budd attorneys co-led a trial for their client, the State of New Mexico, that paved the way for similarly large multi-billion-dollar settlements from the retail chain pharmacies CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens. With respect to Walgreens alone, Baron & Budd and co-counsel recovered more than $900 million for three clients outside of the MDL.

Baron & Budd continues its efforts in opioid litigation, serving as part of a smaller team of attorneys who are prosecuting public entities' opioid-related claims against pharmacy benefit managers Express Scripts and OptumRx.

PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL DEVICE LITIGATION

<u>3M CAEv2 Combat Arms Earplugs</u>

Baron & Budd attorneys represented more than 1,400 United States military soldiers and veterans who developed hearing loss and tinnitus as a result of defective combat earplugs manufactured by 3M, which knowingly sold and distributed the defective earplugs to the United States Military. Baron & Budd attorneys prepared several veterans' cases for trial prior to a $6 billion Global Settlement being reached in *In Re: 3M Combat Arms Earplug Products Liability Litigation*.

Actos

Baron & Budd attorneys represented hundreds of individuals who were harmed by diabetes drug Actos. In April 2014, a landmark settlement was reached in this litigation, requiring Takeda Pharmaceuticals and Eli Lilly & Co. to pay a combined $9 billion in punitive damages after a jury found that the companies hid the cancer risks associated with Actos use.

Avandia

Baron & Budd represented more than 7,000 victims harmed by use of the diabetes drug Avandia. Shareholder Steve Baron was one of the lead negotiators of a nationwide settlement of Avandia cases favorable to victims.

$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 recorded for several of the involved states. These seven states courageously chose to opt out of the 2012 multistate settlement and, as a result, each state received a much higher settlement than they otherwise would have received. 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 and Burton LeBlanc served as co-lead counsel in the litigation, alongside co-counsel and each state's Office of the Attorney General.

Essure

Baron & Budd represented and litigated claims on behalf of more than 2,000 individuals who were injured by the Essure birth control device. Former Baron & Budd shareholder Sindhu Daniel was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for *Essure Product Cases*, JCCP 4887, coordinated in the Superior Court of California for the County of Alameda, and worked on discovery and other issues affecting Plaintiffs nationwide. Baron & Budd attorneys negotiated a favorable settlement for its clients injured by the Essure device.

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 settled Fen-Phen personal injury claims for approximately 3,300 individuals.

Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics

Baron & Budd represented many men and women who developed peripheral neuropathy as a result of Fluoroquinolone use. Baron & Budd and co-counsel filed the first lawsuits in the country against Johnson & Johnson and Janssen Pharmaceuticals. Baron & Budd shareholders Russell Budd and Thomas Sims were appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for *In Re: Fluoroquinolone Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2642, and Russell Budd served as Co-Lead counsel for Plaintiffs. Russell Budd and Thomas Sims were among the lead negotiators of a favorable settlement for plaintiffs.

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 represented hundreds of individuals who were harmed by the use of GranuFlo in their dialysis treatments, whose claims were settled with the products' manufacturer.

Hernia Mesh

Baron & Budd attorneys currently represent several hundred clients who have been injured by hernia mesh devices. Cases have been filed on behalf of Baron & Budd's clients in jurisdictions around the country including the United States District Courts for the Northern District of Georgia, the District of New Hampshire, and the District of New Jersey, and state courts in Massachusetts and New Jersey. Settlements have been reached on behalf of more than 400 clients and litigation is continuing against several defendants.

Inferior Vena Cava Filter (IVC)

Baron & Budd attorneys represented hundreds of individuals with health issues related to faulty IVC filters. Baron & Budd shareholder Russell Budd was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for *In re: Cook Medical, Inc., IVC Filters Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2570; and *In Re: Bard IVC Filters Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2641. Baron & Budd attorneys worked closely with other members of the PSC on many aspects of these two multi-district cases, including discovery assessments, document review, depositions, experts, and trials. The firm's attorneys investigated, litigated, and settled claims on behalf of hundreds of clients for IVC filter injuries.

Risperdal

Baron & Budd represented hundreds of clients who developed abnormal breast growth after taking Risperdal, a medication that was frequently marketed for "off-label" uses. Baron & Budd filed lawsuits for more than 200 clients adversely affected by Risperdal use in the 22nd Circuit Court in St. Louis, Missouri. In the months leading up to trial, the firm's attorneys negotiated a favorable settlement on behalf of hundreds of individuals harmed by Risperdal.

Roundup

Baron & Budd represents several hundred clients who developed Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma after being exposed to the herbicide Roundup. Baron & Budd shareholders Steve Baron and Holly Werkema negotiated a favorable settlement with the manufacturer on behalf of all of its clients injured by Roundup.

Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF)

Baron & Budd has investigated and filed cases on behalf of nearly 1,800 plaintiffs who developed bone and kidney injuries after taking HIV drugs containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF), including Truvada, Viread, Stribild, Complera, and Atripla. The lawsuits have been coordinated in *Gilead Tenofovir Cases*, JCCP 5043, in the Superior Court of California for the County of San Francisco, and the litigation is continuing.

Transvaginal Mesh

Baron & Budd managing shareholder and co-founder Russell Budd served on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in litigation regarding transvaginal mesh. Baron & Budd attorneys represented hundreds of individuals who were harmed by the use of transvaginal mesh. The firm's attorneys investigated and settled claims on behalf of hundreds of individuals.

Xarelto

Baron & Budd represented individuals who suffered severe internal bleeding as a result of ingesting the blood thinner Xarelto. Baron & Budd and its co-counsel investigated, filed, and settled cases for hundreds of clients. Former Baron & Budd shareholder Sindhu Daniel worked with the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for *In Re: Xarelto (Rivaroxaban) Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2592, on discovery and other issues affecting Plaintiffs nationwide.

Other Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices

Baron & Budd is at the forefront of pharmaceutical and medical device litigation and is continually adding new case areas to its litigation practice. Other areas of litigation and cases settled by Baron & Budd attorneys include (but are not limited to): Metal on Metal Hip Replacements, Invokana, Low Testosterone, Power Morcellator, Proton Pump Inhibitors, Talcum Powder and Taxotere.

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 was irreversible, the funds recovered in the settlement have enabled the children 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 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.

FINANCIAL LITIGATION

$423 Million Wells Fargo Settlement for Forced-Placed Automobile Insurance

Baron & Budd attorneys were appointed co-lead counsel in an MDL class action involving forced-placed automobile collateral protection insurance. In less than two years, Baron & Budd attorneys successfully negotiated a $423 million non-reversionary common fund settlement, which provided payments to consumers without the need for claim forms or documentary proof.

$250 Million Bank of America Settlement for Inflated Appraisals

Baron & Budd attorneys led the prosecution of a nationwide class action against Bank of America and LandSafe Appraisals over inflated home appraisals. Baron & Budd attorneys secured class certification of a nationwide claim for violations of the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act as well as fraud. Baron & Budd attorneys successfully negotiated a $250 million non-reversionary common fund settlement, which provided full refunds for appraisal fees paid by consumers.

$50 Million Wells Fargo Settlement Regarding Improper Markup for Broker Price Opinions

Baron & Budd attorneys reached a $50 million settlement with Wells Fargo Bank, resolving a case alleging improper markups of fees for broker price opinions (BPOs). A BPO is an informal type of home appraisal prepared by a real estate broker that a lender will typically demand once a borrower defaults on a residential loan. Baron & Budd attorneys secured class certification of a nationwide claim for violations of the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act and common law fraud. Under the terms of the settlement, Wells Fargo was required to automatically mail checks to more than 250,000 mortgage holders, and class members without the need for documentary proof.

$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 most of these charges, but it also led to widespread changes in the banking system. Because of this lawsuit, many large banks changed their overdraft fee policies, no longer “reordering debits” and not offering “courtesy” overdraft services without customer consent.

$110 Million Settlement with JP Morgan Chase Over Overdraft Fees Plus $150 Million in Business Practice Changes

Baron & Budd lawyers 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 JP Morgan Chase regarding the bank’s manipulative overdraft fee policies. The case alleged that JP Morgan Chase, along with a number of other banks, intentionally reordered debit card transactions to promote overdraft fees. The litigation led to changes throughout the banking industry, including a permanent change to overdraft fee policies, a prohibition against sorting the order

of debits to cause an overdraft, obtaining consumer consent before implementing "courtesy" overdraft services, and repayment of most of the overdraft charges incurred by consumers. 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.

Predatory Credit Card Practices

Baron & Budd represented the states of West Virginia, Mississippi and Hawaii in litigation against national banks and other financial institutions regarding their unfair and deceptive marketing practices related to their credit card service plans, including payment protection plans. These defendants have preyed upon unsuspecting consumers, including the elderly and the disabled, by charging them for products ancillary to their credit cards when the consumers either did not authorize such charges or could never qualify to benefit from them. The firm settled the state of West Virginia's claims in this litigation in 2013 for more than $12.5 million. In 2014, the firm settled the claims of the state of Mississippi for more than $15 million. The firm also settled the claims of the state of Hawaii in 2014 for more than $15.5 million.

Stock Option Back-Dating

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 resulted 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 that 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 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, the lawyers at Baron & Budd were able to obtain $69 million in additional compensation for ACS public shareholders.

WHISTLEBLOWER REPRESENTATION

Small Business Fraud

Baron & Budd represented the whistleblowers in a $2.5 million customs fraud settlement, announced by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in December 2023, with ADCO Industries, Xiamen Atlantis MFC Co., Raymond E. Davis, and Calvin Chang. The Baron & Budd team represented the whistleblowers who uncovered a double-invoicing scheme between ADCO—a seller of commercial products like shelves, dollies, and safety cutters—and their Chinese supplier, Xiamen. According to the FCA suit, ADCO conspired with the Chinese manufacturer to fraudulently underreport the value of the imported goods on the invoices in order to pay duties on the fraudulently deflated product values rather than the actual value of the products. The settlement was the largest customs fraud case in which the government intervened that involved a scheme to avoid payment of tariffs enacted during the Trump administration.

In a 2023 announcement, the DOJ listed the top settlements in various fraud categories, including small business contract fraud. Baron & Budd's case against TriMark USA, LLC was listed among the top settlements and recognized as the largest non-health care False Claims Act recovery in 2022. The TriMark matter also represents the largest-ever False Claims Act settlement based on allegations of small-business set-aside contracting fraud. The TriMark recovery surpasses the previous small business contract fraud record settlement of $37 million against Atlantic Diving Supply, which also resulted from a whistleblower lawsuit filed by Baron & Budd.

In May of 2022, the DOJ announced a $2.8 million settlement against Hensel Phelps Construction Company in a False Claims Act case involving allegations of small business subcontracting fraud. Baron & Budd represented a whistleblower in that action who alleged that Hensel Phelps falsely certified to the government that it had subcontracted portions of a $68 million construction project involving the Armed Forces Retirement Home—a retirement community in Washington, D.C. that houses veterans and active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces—to a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. In what is believed to be historic timing, the DOJ intervened and settled the qui tam matter a mere 21 days after the complaint was filed.

In 2019, the DOJ obtained more than $20 million in settlements to resolve a federal whistleblower lawsuit against Virginia Beach-based defense contractor Atlantic Diving Supply's (ADS) former CEO, President and Founder, Luke M. Hillier, and ADS' former General Counsel, Charles M. Salle. The lawsuit, filed by Scott Simmer and the Baron & Budd Qui Tam Group in 2017, alleged that Hillier and Salle violated the federal False Claims Act (FCA) by illegally obtaining government contracts set aside for small businesses and businesses owned by minorities, women, and veterans. The settlements were the culmination of a multi-year enforcement effort against ADS, its executives, and related entities. In 2017, the DOJ secured a settlement with ADS for $16 million related to the same conduct. In 2018, the DOJ obtained settlements totaling $620,000 with MJL Enterprises, LLC; SEK Solutions, LLC; and Karda Systems, LLC—three of the businesses alleged to have participated in the fraud. In total, the defendants agreed to pay nearly $37 million—the largest recovery to that date involving alleged small-business contracting fraud. Hillier's settlement of $20 million is among the largest ever secured against an individual in the history of the FCA.

Insurance Fraud

In 2022, the Whistleblower Group at Baron & Budd obtained a settlement of $23.8 million in a whistleblower lawsuit filed against eyeglass lens manufacturer, Essilor Laboratories of America, for violations of the California Insurance Frauds Prevention Act. The lawsuit alleged the company paid hundreds of millions of dollars in kickbacks and other incentives to eye care providers in exchange for selling its expensive lens products. This followed a $22 million False Claims Act settlement against Essilor in August 2022 in which Baron & Budd also represented the whistleblower client.

Healthcare

In 2012, Baron & Budd attorneys represented a relator in one of four cases alleging that Abbot Laboratories engaged in a multifaceted scheme of aggressive off-label promotion for its anti-epileptic drug Depakote. These cases and the government's investigation led to an $800 million civil settlement, as well as a criminal guilty plea and a $700 million criminal penalty. Abbott Laboratories allegedly targeted nursing homes for these off-label uses and paid kickbacks to long-term care institutional pharmacy providers, including Omnicare and PharMerica, under the guise of rebates based on increases in the use of Depakote in nursing homes serviced by the providers.

In 2009, six whistleblowers revealed that Pfizer and its subsidiaries paid kickbacks and engaged in off-label marketing campaigns that improperly promoted numerous drugs. To resolve these allegations, Pfizer agreed to pay $2.3 billion in the then-largest healthcare fraud settlement in history, including a $1.195 billion criminal fine—at the time, the largest ever imposed in the United States for any matter. Pfizer's alleged fraudulent conduct involved the unlawful promotion of its drugs Aricept, Bextra, Celebrex, Geodon, Lipitor, Lyrica, Norvasc, Relpax,

Viagra, Zithromax, Zoloft, Zyrtec, and Zyvox. Baron & Budd attorneys represented the relators in two of the six cases that led to this historic settlement. Additional information about these cases and others is available on the firm's Whistleblower-Qui Tam website.

CONSUMER RIGHTS

Asbestos

Years ago, 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 still 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 reached 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 another significant 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).

In Pustejovsky v. Rapid-American Corp., Baron & Budd represented an ironworker who filed a lawsuit for asbestosis decades previously and was later diagnosed with mesothelioma. Even though Texas law prevented him from recovering additional compensation, Baron & Budd took the case all the way to the Texas Supreme Court in 2000, which ruled that a person who previously achieved compensation for an asbestos-related disease should have the opportunity to pursue additional compensation if they are later diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Baron & Budd also led the battle to convince the Iowa Supreme Court and an appellate court in Florida to recognize the right of asbestos victims to pursue two separate asbestos-related lawsuits if their situation permits. Today, many states around the country allow asbestos patients to file a second lawsuit if they develop a separate, asbestos-related disease like mesothelioma.

Baron & Budd has been instrumental in negotiating bankruptcy trusts. Founder Russell Budd led the negotiation of the 2002 Halliburton $4 billion national asbestos trust fund. This trust fund can now be accessed by individuals all over the United States for mesothelioma claims, even if they are not clients of Baron & Budd, and has provided compensation for countless injured people. The agreement reached between Halliburton and Baron & Budd created the largest asbestos trust fund of its kind anywhere in the world.

Significant settlements for Baron & Budd on behalf of asbestos victims include a $9 million mesothelioma verdict the firm achieved against Dow Chemical in 2011 (*Henderson v. Dow Chemical Dallas County District Court, No. 10-07003*), which was recognized by legal publication *Texas Lawyer*, and a $48 million jury verdict for the family of a mesothelioma victim against Union Carbide Corp., Riverside Cement, CalPortland and other defendants which was recognized by *The National Law Journal* as one of the Top 100 verdicts in the nation in 2012.

In 2019, Baron & Budd's asbestos trial team compelled a Louisiana jury to award an asbestosis victim's family $17.2 million after 36 minutes of deliberation against Asbestos pipe manufacturer Ameron *(Kevin F. Chabaud v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, et al., St. James Parish, Case No. 37286)*. This was a particularly challenging case, evidenced by the defendant's offer of a modest $5,000 before trial. Prior to this case, the highest Louisiana asbestos verdict stood at $12 million.

Baron & Budd continues to lead the fight for asbestos victims' rights, as the firm obtained the largest asbestos-related judgment to date in Louisiana in 2022 when a jury found Level 3 Holdings, Inc. (formerly known as Peter Kiewit Sons' Co.) liable for giving a pipefitter-welder mesothelioma and awarded the victim $36.7 million in damages, the largest asbestos verdict for a single client in Louisiana history. Not surprisingly, Level 3 appealed the judgment. The Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit in the State of Louisiana ruled in a unanimous opinion on May 3, 2023 that the trial court's finding in July 2022 was correct and proper and should be upheld. Not only is the appellate court's affirming opinion significant for being the largest jury verdict in the history of Louisiana asbestos cases ever to survive appellate review, but also because the appellate court ruled that the plaintiff could collect what he was due from non-settling/non-party joint tortfeasors named as defendants in the case. Additional information about these and other significant Baron & Budd asbestos cases can be found on our *Asbestos Case Results* page at BaronandBudd.com.

Vehicular

ARC Airbags

Baron & Budd shareholder Roland Tellis is co-lead counsel in a Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) class action case concerning tens of millions of defective airbag hybrid inflators manufactured by ARC Automotive Inc. The inflators pose a grave safety risk to drivers and passengers because the affected inflators can explode and

rupture in a crash and expel metal shrapnel at vehicle occupants. The litigation is ongoing.

ZF-TRW Airbags

Baron & Budd shareholder Roland Tellis is co-lead counsel in a Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) class action case concerning a dangerous safety defect in airbag control units (ACUs) and application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs) manufactured by ZF-TRW that are supposed to control the passenger safety systems in more than 15 million vehicles. The defect has caused the airbags and/or seatbelts to malfunction in dozens of crashes and crash tests resulting in nine deaths. To date, Baron & Budd attorneys have reached common fund settlements with Toyota, Mitsubishi, Hyundai and Kia totaling more than $200 million.

$445 Million Settlement Involving Hino Truck Emissions Litigation

Baron & Budd secured a $445.5 million class settlement with Hino Motors, Ltd., in a lawsuit alleging that Hino deceived consumers about the emissions and performance of its trucks. The company is alleged to have manipulated emissions certification for tens of thousands of Hino-branded trucks in the U.S. that exceeded federal emissions standards, causing excess air pollution and diminished fuel economy and vehicle performance for consumers. Baron & Budd Shareholder Roland Tellis served as settlement class co-lead counsel.

$200 million Settlement with Hyundai and Kia in Engine Immobilizer Litigation

Millions of certain Kia (2011-2021) and Hyundai (2015-2021) vehicles equipped with the traditional insert-and-turn type key-based ignition systems were not fitted with an engine immobilizer that prevents the vehicle from being started without the vehicle's specific smart key, resulting in vehicles being easily stolen by opening the steering column and using any metal object, typically a USB, to start the engine. In September 2022, Baron & Budd filed a class action lawsuit alleging that the failure of Hyundai and Kia to install this common safety component resulted in an increase in thefts of the affected vehicles. Other class actions followed and the cases were ultimately consolidated in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. In February 2023, Baron & Budd shareholder Roland Tellis was appointed co-lead counsel in the Multi-District Litigation class action lawsuit and quickly achieved a common fund settlement valued at more than $200 million.

$1.5 Billion Settlement Involving Defective Takata Airbags

Baron & Budd filed the nation's first lawsuit regarding the recall of tens of millions of Takata-brand air bags. The defect caused the airbag's metal housing to explode and propel metal shrapnel into the vehicle occupants. Baron & Budd shareholder Roland Tellis was one of three lawyers appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in a multi-state class action lawsuit against Takata involving vehicles equipped with a defective airbag inflator, the largest automotive recall in

U.S. history. In 2017, Tellis helped to negotiate $1.5 billion in settlements from seven automaker defendants.

$14.5 Billion Settlement Involving Volkswagen ”Clean Diesel” Scam

Baron & Budd attorneys were appointed to the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee and represented millions of owners of Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” vehicles in cases concerning allegations that Volkswagen installed software in these cars that allowed the vehicles to “cheat” emissions tests. Baron & Budd shareholder Roland Tellis and the team of attorneys representing plaintiffs secured settlements in excess of $14.5 billion and helped consumers obtain repairs for more than 50,000 vehicles impacted by the scheme. The settlement required Volkswagen to buy back certain class vehicles at pre-scandal values, provide restitution payments of approximately $6,000 per class member, pay an additional $225 million to mitigate the environmental effects of excess NOx emissions and also pay $25 million to support the use of zero-emissions vehicles in California.

$500 Million Settlement In Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep “EcoDiesel” Litigation

Baron & Budd attorneys were appointed to the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee and represented millions of owners of Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep “EcoDiesel” vehicles. The case alleged that the Defendants secretly installed software in these vehicles that allowed them to improperly evade emissions regulations. Baron & Budd helped a achieve a settlement valued at more than $500 million.

CATASTROPHIC VEHICLE INJURIES

Baron & Budd continues to investigate and represent clients who have been harmed in serious truck wrecks and collisions involving commercial and other vehicles. These cases are often complex in nature and can involve multiple entities in the transportation cycle. For instance, Baron & Budd has experience pursuing cases against motor carriers, shippers, brokers, and other transportation companies involved and responsible for putting dangerous trucks or truck drivers on the road.

At trial, former Baron & Budd shareholder Bryan Green successfully obtained multiple multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements, including verdicts recognized as top 10 trucking verdicts in Texas in 2018 and 2019 by Top Verdict. Baron & Budd’s trucking attorneys team represents individuals who have lost loved ones or suffered a wide range of catastrophic injuries, including traumatic brain injuries, amputations, spinal cord injuries, and various fractures and surgeries. Having represented a number of families of victims who were killed in truck crashes involving underride events, Mr. Green serves on the American Association of Justice (AAJ) Trucking Litigation Group’s Underride Committee.

3-Wheeled Vehicle Litigation

Baron & Budd attorneys represent several plaintiffs who have suffered devasting injuries or lost loved ones who were involved while riding in 3-wheel autocycle vehicles. These accidents typically involve a seemingly unexplained loss of

control immediately before the crash. Baron & Budd is investigating potential defects in the vehicle manufacturer's design that may be contributing to this loss of control and the resulting crashes. Based on ongoing investigations, 3-wheeled vehicles may have design defects that compromise the stability of the vehicles, particularly when braking, including the lack of electronic stability control, an anti-lock brake system designed for a 4-wheeled vehicle that's been defectively deployed in the 3-wheeled autocycles, and poorly designed seat belt, seatback, and rollover safety systems. Baron & Budd's investigation indicates these vehicles are unreasonably dangerous and vulnerable to instability and loss of control during foreseeable operator use, which may cause the vehicles to veer or pull unexpectedly to the right when the brakes are applied.

THE FIRMS' SHAREHOLDERS

Russell W. Budd, a mainstay of the plaintiff's bar with more than forty-five years' experience representing victims of corporate wrongdoing, has been a trailblazer for the entirety of his career. Serving as a Baron & Budd shareholder since 1985 and president and managing shareholder since 2002, Mr. Budd presides over one of the nation's largest plaintiffs' firms. Founded in 1977, Baron & Budd has nearly 200 full-time employees and is headquartered in Dallas, Texas, with offices in Los Angeles, California; San Diego, California; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Washington, D.C.

Baron & Budd has achieved substantial national acclaim for its work on cutting-edge litigation, trying hundreds of cases to verdict and settling tens of thousands of cases for hundreds of billions of dollars in areas of litigation as diverse as pharmaceuticals and defective medical devices, asbestos and mesothelioma, water contamination, fraudulent banking practices, motor vehicles, the opioid crisis, , Qui Tam, and other consumer fraud issues. Mr. Budd's leadership among plaintiff's attorneys is unrivaled. Over the past four and a half decades, he has played a major role in many of the largest cases ever to be litigated in the United States court system.

Since the 1980s, Russell Budd has successfully protected the interests of asbestos victims across the country. He was appointed by United States Trustees in the early 2000s to serve on the creditors' committees of numerous asbestos manufacturer bankruptcies where he represented and advocated on behalf of individuals harmed by the debtors' asbestos-containing products. Working in that role, Mr. Budd was instrumental in reaching settlements to fund and establish asbestos trust funds to protect present and future asbestos victims. Mr. Budd's efforts as a chief negotiator in the Halliburton bankruptcy resulted in a $4 billion national settlement and created the largest asbestos trust fund of its kind anywhere in the world. Additionally, Mr. Budd helped negotiate a $3.9 billion settlement with United States Gypsum to benefit asbestos claimants and a nearly $3 billion cash and stock equity settlement with W.R. Grace to fund an asbestos trust for asbestos claimants. Mr. Budd's invaluable knowledge, expertise, and guidance at the inception of those bankruptcies established the foundation for the long-term successful administration of asbestos trusts.

Today, Mr. Budd sits on the Trust Advisory Committee (TAC) of the following asbestos trusts where he continues to protect the interests of injured individuals: ABB Lummus Global Inc 524(g) Asbestos PI Trust, Armstrong World Industries, Inc. Asbestos PI Settlement Trust, Babcock & Wilcox Company Asbestos PI Settlement Trust, Celotex Asbestos Settlement Trust, Combustion Engineering 524(g) Asbestos PI Trust, Federal-Mogul Asbestos Personal Injury Trust, Fuller Austin Asbestos Settlement Trust, JT Thorpe Successor Trust, NGC Bodily Injury Trust, Owens Corning/Fibreboard Asbestos Personal Injury Trust, Swan Asbestos and Silica Settlement Trust, United States Gypsum Asbestos Personal Injury Settlement Trust, and WRG Asbestos PI Trust. Additionally, Baron & Budd shareholders also sit on the following TACs where they too advocate for asbestos victims' interests: ASARCO, DII Industries, LLC Asbestos PI Trust, Flintkote Asbestos Trust, G-I Holdings Inc. Asbestos Personal Injury Settlement Trust, M.H. Detrick Co. Asbestos Trust, Manville Personal Injury Settlement Trust, NARCO Asbestos Trust, Pittsburgh Corning Corporation, Quigley Company, Inc. Asbestos PI Trust, Rapid American Asbestos Personal Injury Liquidating Trust, Rock Wool Mfg. Co. Asbestos Trust, Rutland Fire Clay Co. Asbestos Trust, and TH Agriculture & Nutrition LLC Asbestos Personal Injury Trust. In total, Mr. Budd and other members of his firm have served pivotal roles on both creditors' committees and trust advisory committees, collecting more than $30 billion in assets to fund asbestos trusts. In addition to his legal work, Mr. Budd has been a tireless leader in the political arena, fighting tort reform, including proposed state and federal legislation that would harm the rights of tort victims.

Russell Budd's landmark settlement work, however, is not limited to asbestos cases. His efforts have been instrumental in numerous other cases, spanning from the banking industry to the BP oil spill, along with his more recent work on the national opioid litigation. Mr. Budd was appointed by the Honorable Dan Aaron Polster (N.D. Ohio) to the Plaintiffs' Settlement Negotiation Team for In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL 2804. Together with co-counsel, Russell Budd and his firm represent more than 700 public entities and eight Attorneys General across the nation in litigation against prescription opioid manufacturers, distributors and dispensers. The Settlement Negotiation Team, comprised of seven elite trial lawyers from top plaintiffs' firms around the country, have been responsible for negotiating more than $46 billion in settlements with the nation's largest and most prominent drug distributors, manufacturers and dispensers. The settlement funds, which began flowing to communities across America in 2022, are providing abatement and relief to states, counties, cities, and native American tribes to combat the opioid crisis.

Mr. Budd also represented the state of New Mexico in its opioid litigation. He successfully negotiated settlements from pharmacies, distributors and manufacturers in New Mexico valued at a combined $538 million. He also supervised a seven-week trial for the state in Santa Fe resulting in a $500 million settlement with the last remaining pharmacy defendant, Walgreens. "These settlements represent a significant step toward holding opioid sellers responsible for their role in creating a public health crisis that continues to plague our country,"

said Mr. Budd. Nationally, Russell Budd and his colleagues on the Settlement Negotiation Team, along with state Attorneys General, continue to negotiate and mediate with remaining opioid defendants in MDL 2804.

Settlement negotiations of this scale are nothing new to Russell Budd. He was a chief negotiator for the 2012 settlement with JPMorgan Chase in In Re Checking Account Overdraft Litigation, which resulted in $110 million in cash and more than $100 million in business practice changes benefiting Chase customers. Mr. Budd was a leader in the Overdraft litigation which, in 2011, led to a $410 million settlement with Bank of America. He was also one of the negotiators of a $177 million settlement for litigation brought on behalf of seven states' attorneys general against GlaxoSmithKline regarding its fraudulent marketing of the diabetes drug Avandia.

Under Mr. Budd's leadership, Baron & Budd has garnered significant national recognition for cutting-edge litigation and settlements. The firm's Environmental Litigation group was named Law360's Environmental Group of the Year in 2020, for obtaining more than $1 billion in settlements with Pacific Gas & Electric for municipalities and individuals concerning wildfire damage in California, and $648 million in settlements with Bayer AG over water pollution caused by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The firm's environmental practice was named one of Law360's Practice Groups of the year again in 2023 and 2024 for a record $12.5 billion nationwide class settlement with 3M – the largest drinking water contamination settlement in U.S. history -- for knowingly manufacturing and selling products containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), as well as a $1.1 billion nationwide class settlement on behalf of public water providers against DuPont and other manufacturers for PFAS contamination in drinking water supplies.

Mr. Budd and his wife, Dorothy, are deeply committed to their community. The Budds were instrumental in establishing the Dallas Faith Communities Coalition (DFCC) with the Dallas Mayor's office in the early 2000s with the long-term goal of working with community partners toward eradicating systemic causes of poverty in low-income communities with greater access to affordable housing and community safety. The partnership led the Budds to personally contribute funds to build 100 affordable single-family homes as part of the "Building on Faith" project, a collaborative initiative between the Dallas Faith Communities Coalition (DFCC), the City of Dallas, and Habitat for Humanity. at Southern Methodist University in Dallas to create meaningful education collaboration with local public and charter schools located in the West Dallas area. In 2014, Mr. and Mrs. Budd donated $2.5 million to Southern Methodist University to endow The Budd Center for Involving Communities in Education, uniting the work of the DFCC and CCE in collective partnership to provide Dallas-area children the education, social and emotional tools they need to break the cycle of poverty. The Center leads a partnership of more than 30 nonprofits and 15 public, private and charter schools in Dallas. Mr. Budd continues to monitor the progress of The Budd Center as a member of the Advisory Board of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development at Southern Methodist University.

In 2017, Mr. and Mrs. Budd endowed $3 million to the University of Texas School of Law to create The Budd Innocence Center, with the goal of improving the criminal justice system by helping prevent injustice and protecting the innocent. The Center sponsors events to highlight issues related to wrongful convictions and, as its main project, supports the education of law school students through the Actual Innocence Clinic. Clinic students and experienced faculty work together to provide legal assistance to prisoners who claim they are innocent of the crimes for which they were convicted. Clinic students typically screen and investigate claims, interview witnesses, review transcripts, prepare motions and pleadings, and conduct factual and legal research.

Steve Baron, a Baron & Budd shareholder, is an accomplished litigator known for his tenacity in pursuing justice for victims of corporate misconduct. He currently heads Baron & Budd's mesothelioma and asbestos practice.

As lead of one of the nation's most aggressive litigation teams, Mr. Baron represents clients in cases that have resulted in some of the largest verdicts and settlements for people with mesothelioma and asbestos diseases, as well as clients who have been harmed by unsafe pharmaceuticals. He was the lead negotiator on 17,000 Avandia cases.

Over the past decades, Mr. Baron has been the lead negotiator on many of the firm's mesothelioma settlements and has also been the clients' representative on all major bankruptcy creditor committees. He has represented the firm's clients in major bankruptcy trust negotiations with asbestos companies including W.R. Grace, Owens Corning, Pittsburgh Corning, Babcock & Wilcox Co., and Halliburton.

Mr. Baron served as a lead negotiator in a landmark case against Halliburton that resulted in a $4 billion settlement, helping to bring financial compensation to tens of thousands of asbestos cancer victims. The Halliburton settlement is still one of the largest asbestos settlements on record.

As the head of Baron & Budd's asbestos and pharmaceutical litigation teams, Mr. Baron has helped build the firm's reputation as a watchdog for consumer protection.

Mr. Baron earned a business degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1986. He earned his JD from the University of Texas School of Law in 1988.

Scott Summy is the leader of the Environmental Litigation Group (ELG) and a shareholder at Baron & Budd. ELG was started by Mr. Summy in 2002 and comprises 30 attorneys and support professionals who concentrate on large environmental litigation across the country. In 2020, 2023 and 2024, Law360 recognized ELG with its highly prestigious Practice Group of the Year awards for the United States in the category of Environmental Law.

Mr. Summy has served in court-appointed leadership positions and directly represented clients in some of the country's largest environmental cases with national significance. It all began with a single phone call in August 1995 when Mr. Summy was a new lawyer. He received a call from a prospective client in North Carolina who had learned that he and his neighbors had been ingesting the chemical MTBE in their drinking water wells for years. Mr. Summy took the case, and after years of fighting for the residents' rights and going to trial, the case resulted in a record settlement.

Mr. Summy soon learned that MTBE was contaminating drinking water wells all over America. That case proved to be only the first of many to come. Mr. Summy was hired by public water providers all over the country whose water supplies were impacted by corporate-made contaminants. He became the "go to" lawyer for public entities facing environmental contamination which impacted their public resources. Mr. Summy has represented public entities from the east coast to the west coast and all across middle America. He and his ELG team have recovered billions of dollars on behalf of their clients in environmental litigation.

SIGNIFICANT CASES

PFAS/AFFF

AFFF MDL – The ubiquitous presence of PFAS chemicals is the hottest environmental issue in the United States today – and one that Mr. Summy is leading on a national level. Mr. Summy currently serves as Co-Lead Counsel by the court in AFFF MDL No. 2873 pending in federal district court in South Carolina. This litigation focuses on PFAS contamination to the environment by its use in fire foam known as "AFFF." The cases seek damages from the manufacturers of AFFF and PFAS for knowingly causing extensive environmental contamination. Mr. Summy represents hundreds of public entities in the MDL. They include states, cities, towns, water districts and airports. Mr. Summy is also serving as Co-Chair of the General Liability Discovery Committee and the Science Committee. Baron & Budd Shareholder Carla Pickrel is also serving as Co-Chair of the Law and Briefing Committee. With his decades-long experience in litigating and negotiating similar complex cases, Mr. Summy was a natural choice as one of the court-appointed Settlement Counsel for the MDL. In that capacity, he played a critical role in negotiating historic class settlements for public water providers, recovering $10.5-12.5 billion from 3M Company, $1.185 billion from the DuPont entities, $750 million from Tyco, and $312.5 million from BASF. Mr. Summy serves as Class Counsel for these settlements. Public water provider cases continue against the remaining AFFF manufacturers and the companies that sold PFAS to those manufacturers. In addition, ELG represents other categories of claimants including states, property owners (e.g., airports, wastewater systems, and fire training centers), and individuals.

GEN-X -- Mr. Summy and the Group are currently seeking relief on behalf of public water providers and individuals against E. I. du Pont de Nemours and The Chemours Company for decades-long contamination of the Cape Fear River,

along with the air and groundwater near the Fayetteville, North Carolina plant from Gen-X compounds and dozens of other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the PFAS chemical family. For 35 years, DuPont and Chemours have contaminated the river and more than a hundred private wells around their plant. Mr. Summy and the Group represent Brunswick County, Cumberland County, the Town of Wrightsville Beach, and the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority as they seek to recover the costs of removing all PFAS chemicals before the water is distributed to the public. The Group also represents the owners of most of the private wells around the plant that have been contaminated, and is seeking damages for well filtration, all costs associated with filtration, and property damage. This case is of national significance as focus has shifted to the prevalence of PFAS chemicals across the country.

PCBs

These cases were the first in the United States to seek damages from a chemical manufacturer whose product contaminated city stormwater and the waterbodies that receive that stormwater. ELG represented multiple public entities that sued Monsanto for the effects of legacy contamination from PCBs. Municipal public entities are being required to expend monies to lower the levels of PCBs from their stormwater systems. States are dealing with the effects of PCBs on precious natural resources including all forms of sea life, including fish and whales. These natural resources are being impacted by PCBs in part due to contaminated stormwater being released into some of the country's most precious waterbodies and impacting the sea life that lives there. Monsanto knew about the toxic effects of PCBs decades ago. It also acknowledged that its product had reached the status of "global contaminant."

After several years of contentious litigation against Monsanto in multiple jurisdictions, Mr. Summy helped negotiate a landmark $648 million nationwide class settlement with Monsanto on behalf of permitted stormwater operators who discharge into PCB-impaired waterbodies. The settlement was approved by Judge Fernando M. Olguin in the Central District of California. The Court appointed Scott Summy, John Fiske and Carla Pickrel, all of ELG, as Lead Class Counsel. Separate settlements totaling $167.6 million have also been reached on behalf of the States of Washington, the District of Columbia and New Mexico. ELG continues to represent states with contamination-related claims against Monsanto.

MTBE

Mr. Summy represented more than 200 public water providers (e.g., municipalities, water districts, utilities, and school districts) and private well owners whose water was contaminated by MTBE and/or TBA. Many of these cases were consolidated in an MDL, to which Mr. Summy was appointed Co-Lead Counsel and a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee. On behalf of these clients, Mr. Summy sought cost recovery for treatment facilities, operation and maintenance costs, out-of-pocket expenses, and administrative costs. Settlements in these cases totaled more than $1 billion. A separate settlement of particular note was for the City of Santa Monica, which was valued by the Court at $315.5 million.

Atrazine
Mr. Summy also represented all public water providers in the United States whose water was contaminated with atrazine, a common agricultural chemical used on corn and other crops. On behalf of these water providers, the Group brought claims against Syngenta, the company that makes atrazine and was aware that its normal use caused drinking water contamination. Mr. Summy negotiated a settlement awarding $105 million to more than 2,000 water providers. Mr. Summy served as Co-Lead/Class Counsel appointed by the Court on behalf of all class members.

California Wildfires
Mr. Summy and ELG currently represent more than 20 public entities in litigation resulting from the devastating 2015, 2017 and 2018 California wildfires. The firm also represents hundreds of individuals and businesses. These fires were caused by electrical utilities' failure to recognize permanent alterations in weather patterns caused by climate change. The utilities also failed to maintain their equipment and to adequately trim foliage surrounding their equipment. The cases are pending in four consolidated pieces of litigation – two in the North: Northern California Fires, JCCP 4955 and Camp Fire Cases, JCCP 4995; and two others in the South: Southern California Fires, JCCP 4965 and Woolsey Fires, JCCP 5000. Mr. Summy currently serves, along with Baron & Budd shareholder John Fiske, as Co-Lead Counsel for the public entities in Southern California and Woolsey Fire JCCPs. He was also appointed as Co-Lead Counsel for the public entities in the Northern California JCCP prior to PG&E filing bankruptcy. Those cases are now pending in the bankruptcy court.

Mr. Summy reached a settlement for the Northern California Public Entities of $1 billion. The clients include Butte County, Butte-Glenn Community College District, City of Chico, City of Clearlake, City of Cloverdale, Lake County, Mendocino County, City of Napa, Napa County, Nevada County, City of Santa Rosa, Paradise Recreation and Park District, Sonoma County, Thermalito Water and Sewer District, Town of Paradise, Town of Windsor and Yuba County.

He previously settled cases on behalf of several public entities for damages suffered as a result of the Butte Fire. Those entities include Calaveras County, Calaveras County Water District, Ebbetts Pass Fire District, San Andreas Fire District and West Point Fire District.

Mr. Summy also secured a $360 million settlement from Southern California Edison on behalf of 23 public entities for taxpayer losses caused by the 2017 Thomas Fire, the 2018 Montecito Debris Flows, and the 2018 Woolsey Fire. These clients include Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, City of Agoura Hills, City of Calabasas, City of Hidden Hills, City of Malibu, City of Santa Barbara, City of Thousand Oaks, City of Ventura, City of Westlake Village, Conejo Valley Recreation and Park District, Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Montecito Water Protection

District, Montecito Fire Protection District, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Santa Barbara County and several related agencies and Ventura County and several related agencies. In addition to public entities, Mr. Summy represents thousands of families and businesses who lost everything due to the negligent maintenance, inspection, and operations of these investor-owned utilities.

Gulf Oil Spill
Mr. Summy's experience with environmental litigation led to a leadership role in the litigation arising from the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2010, he was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee and Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the Gulf Oil Spill Multi-District Litigation in the Eastern District of Louisiana. In that capacity, he played a critical role in negotiating a settlement and claim procedure for the tens of thousands of individuals, businesses, and governmental entities injured by the oil spill. To date, the value of this settlement is estimated to exceed $14 billion. Mr. Summy and the Group also represented hundreds of businesses with claims against BP and have recovered in excess of $100 million on behalf of these clients.

Mr. Summy also represented a number of public entities that sustained loss of tax revenue due to the oil spill and assisted in the recovery of their significant damages. These entities include City of Anna Maria, City of Bristol, City of Holmes Beach, City of Marathon, City of Monticello, City of Niceville, City of Palmetto, City of Pensacola, City of St. Marks, City of Tallahassee, Collier County, Escambia County, Jackson County, Jefferson County, Lee County, Leon County, Manatee County, Monroe County, Okaloosa Gas District, Pensacola Downtown Improvement Board, Santa Rosa County, School Board of Calhoun County, School Board of Escambia County, School Board of Jefferson County, School Board of Leon County, School Board of Martin County, School Board of Miami-Dade County, School Board of Monroe County, School Board of Palm Beach County, School Board of Polk County, School Board of Santa Rosa County, School Board of Volusia County, School Board of Wakulla County, Town of White Springs, Village of Islamorada, and Wakulla County.

TCP
Mr. Summy and the Group were involved in developing successful product liability theories against the makers of nematicides applied to crops in California. These nematicides contained the scavenger chemical 1,2,3TCP. Over the past decade, Mr. Summy and the Group have represented many California public entities whose public drinking water wells were impacted by TCP. The public entities represented include California Water Services, City of Bakersfield, City of Delano, City of Livingston, City of Oceanside, City of Shafter, City of Wasco, Lamont Public Utility District and Montara Water & Sanitary District. Results to date exceed $200 million. The group continues to represent public entities in TCP litigation.

Santa Barbara Oil Spill
Mr. Summy represented the City of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara County against Plains All-American Pipeline. The company's pipeline ruptured, spilling

oil in the vicinity of Santa Barbara residents and the Pacific Ocean. These cases were successfully resolved.

Coal Ash – Duke Energy
Mr. Summy and the Group were part of the team that successfully resolved litigation for residents living near Duke Energy Coal Ash ponds in North Carolina. Chemicals leaked from these ponds and contaminated drinking water wells with hexavalent chromium and other dangerous chemicals.

Rilwan Adeduntan joined Baron & Budd as a shareholder in January 2026. He is part of the firm's Opioid Litigation Group, which represents clients in multidistrict and nationwide lawsuits addressing corporate fraud and misconduct, seeking to recover damages and provide restitution to victims affected by corporate wrongdoing.

Mr. Adeduntan is a highly accomplished trial attorney and leader who, before joining the firm, served for more than seventeen years as a federal and state prosecutor. He held senior prosecutorial roles in the United States Attorney's Offices for the Southern District of Florida and the District of Massachusetts, as well as in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston.

During his federal and state prosecutorial career, Mr. Adeduntan handled an exceptionally broad spectrum of cases, from complex financial crimes to violent offenses, and tried more than 60 jury trials to verdict. He conducted long-term investigations and prosecuted matters including money laundering, Ponzi schemes, securities and bank fraud, wire fraud, cyber intrusion, embezzlement, and tax evasion. He also tried cases involving violent crime, gang activity, narcotics trafficking, arms violations, espionage, and child exploitation.

Before joining the District of Massachusetts, Mr. Adeduntan successfully prosecuted, among other complex, high-stakes matters, a trial against the leaders of a violent drug trafficking and money laundering organization and one of their associates. The case involved a more than 40-count indictment, including charges of continuing criminal enterprise, money laundering, murders, and drive-by shootings, with dozens of witnesses and extensive exhibits. The trial, one of the most challenging of his career, demonstrates his ability to manage large, complex investigations and secure convictions in high-impact matters.

Throughout his career, Mr. Adeduntan has held key supervisory roles. In the Southern District of Florida, he served as Deputy Chief of the International Narcotics and Money Laundering Section, leading prosecutors investigating and prosecuting high-level drug traffickers and money launderers, and as Deputy Chief of the Major Crimes Section, he oversaw prosecutors handling sex trafficking, violent gangs, Hobbs Act robbery, obstruction of justice, and other complex criminal matters. In Massachusetts, he served as Chief of the Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit, supervising the district's largest prosecutorial team while managing and serving as the district's opioid coordinator.

Mr. Adeduntan began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston. He later served as Special Counsel and Special Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, overseeing the Governor's Drug Lab Task Force. He was recognized with the Newman A. Flanagan Award for Outstanding Superior Court Prosecutor of the Year in 2014 and was also named a Boston Rising Star by the National Law Journal and Connecticut Law Tribune that year.

He is deeply committed to legal education and mentorship, serving as visiting faculty for trial advocacy programs at Harvard Law School, Emory University School of Law, and the University of Miami School of Law, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of New England Law Boston. "Teaching trial advocacy is a way to sharpen my own skills while giving back to the next generation of attorneys," Mr. Adeduntan says. His dedication to mentorship has been recognized with multiple awards, including the United States Attorney's Office Mentor of the Year Award. "The law, at its best, is a tool to hold people and institutions accountable and protect those who have been harmed," he adds.

Before pursuing the law, Mr. Adeduntan was a highly competitive athlete. He earned a full basketball scholarship at Brewton Parker College and later transferred to the University of Georgia with an academic scholarship, intending to continue his basketball career. Following a knee injury that ended his athletic aspirations, he redirected his drive and focus to the law. Mr. Adeduntan brought the same resilience, teamwork, and competitive spirit from athletics into prosecution and litigation, trading the basketball court for the courtroom. "Just as I once competed as an athlete, I approach every case with the same drive, teamwork, and focus," Mr. Adeduntan says. "For me, the courtroom is my hardwood, and every case, whether in federal prosecution or now at Baron & Budd, is a chance to step onto the biggest stage, where preparation, focus, and teamwork can make a real difference in people's lives." Drawing on nearly 20 years of trial experience, Mr. Adeduntan offers seasoned courtroom skill, proven leadership, and an unrelenting commitment to accountability. He is excited to bring that experience to Baron & Budd as the firm takes on powerful corporations that deceive the public, exploit consumers, and profit at the expense of people's lives.

When he is not focused on the law, Mr. Adeduntan enjoys spending time with his wife and family. He especially loves stacking days with his daughter, short daily agility workouts that, over time, develop skill, strength, and confidence.

Dan Alberstone co-manages Baron & Budd's Los Angeles law office. He has more than 30 years of broad experience prosecuting complex litigation matters, including extensive jury trial experience. He specializes in consumer class action litigation in the areas of consumer protection and financial fraud.

Mr. Alberstone's reputation for tenacious representation and zealous advocacy, as well as his proven track record, has led to his selection as lead trial counsel in numerous complex, high-stakes litigation cases, as well as his appointment as lead

class counsel in a number of high-profile class action cases, including cases against large national banks and multinational corporations. Some of Mr. Alberstone's notable consumer class action cases include *Payne v. Bank of America, N.A., et al*., involving manipulation of the LIBOR U.S. Dollar rate, *Bias et al. v. Wells Fargo & Company, et al.*, concerning illegal mark-ups of default related fees, *Ellis v. JP Morgan Chase* and *Stitt v. Citibank*, concerning unlawful charging of unnecessary default fees, *Waldrup v. Countrywide Financial Corporation*, concerning illegal charging for fraudulent appraisals, *Weiner v. Ocwen Financial Corporation*, involving illegal assessment of default-related service fees that contained undisclosed mark-ups, and *Ono v. Head Racquet Sports USA*, concerning false advertising of Head tennis racquets.

Mr. Alberstone also represents governmental entities in enforcement of their consumer protection laws. He is currently representing the states of Hawai'i and New Mexico against Bristol-Myers Squibb and Sanofi for unfair and deceptive business practices in the marketing of the antiplatelet drug Plavix. According to the allegations in the complaints filed, these pharmaceutical companies failed to disclose to prescribing physicians and patients that Plavix has diminished or no effect on a significant portion of the patient population in these states and that those patients for whom Plavix would not work could have been identified through a simple genetic test.

The Los Angeles Daily Journal has recognized Mr. Alberstone for obtaining one of the top plaintiff's verdicts in 2009. He has been repeatedly selected for inclusion on the Southern California Super Lawyers list since 2005 (Thomson Reuters) and served several years on the Board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

David Cannella is a shareholder in the Louisiana offices of Baron & Budd. As part of the Mesothelioma Litigation Group, he serves asbestos victims across the gulf state. After graduating from Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1999, Mr. Cannella served as a law clerk to the Honorable Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Following his service to Chief Justice Calogero, Mr. Cannella served as Assistant District Attorney for Orleans Parish. While working in Harry Connick's office, Mr. Cannella was assigned to the Narcotics Screening Division and the Felony Trial Division. In addition, he served as an advisor to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Since 2001, Mr. Cannella has focused on litigation pertaining to toxic torts, product liability, serious personal injury, and wrongful death, successfully handling multi-million dollar cases and numerous jury and bench trials, both in state and federal court. He continues to focus on mesothelioma and other product liability cases for Baron & Budd throughout the State of Louisiana.

In one such case, Mr. Cannella obtained a $6.4 million verdict against an asbestos product manufacturer for a 60-year-old nurse who was diagnosed with mesothelioma. David Cannella speaks passionately about how small a sum such verdicts bring when weighed against the horrors of suffering a slow, suffocating

death from mesothelioma cancer. "Twelve million, fifteen million…twenty-five million dollars cannot fill the terrible hole created in the lives of hard-working families whose loved ones have suffered and died as a direct result of the callous disregard that asbestos corporations held for workers. No one would exchange his or her health or the health of a loved one for twenty million dollars, knowing he, she or a family member will suffer the type of painful death caused by asbestos cancer."

Sterling Cluff works in Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office, where he takes on large-scale litigation as a shareholder in the firm's Class Action practice. He brings an astute knowledge of complex California commercial, consumer and real estate law to our expert team.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Sterling Cluff worked in the Class Action and Commercial Litigation practice groups of a Los Angeles boutique law firm. There, he was exposed to complex commercial and real estate litigation, consumer claims and high-profile class action lawsuits involving millions of plaintiffs. In the process of defending large national class actions, Sterling Cluff saw firsthand how defendants can take advantage of individual consumers and the benefit that individuals gain in their fight against formidable corporations by banding together to form classes with the force of "what's right" behind them. Mr. Cluff's experience re-ignited his desire to help people who have suffered at the hands of unscrupulous corporations obtain just reparation for their distress.

During his undergraduate studies, Sterling Cluff was a witness to the overreach of authorities imposing their will on an individual, despite a presumption of innocence until proven guilty, by pressing exaggerated and superfluous charges, issuing arrest warrants and conducting redundant and harassing searches. The overbearing actions of the prosecuting agency, which caused anguish and hardship for the individual and his family, brought home to Mr. Cluff the importance of having skilled and aggressive advocacy to protect individuals' rights. This formative experience instilled in Mr. Cluff a keen desire to ensure that the rights of all individuals are protected.

During law school, Sterling Cluff was fortunate to work on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for Judge Arthur L. Alarcon, Sen., prior to his retirement. Judge Alarcon instilled in all his clerks and externs strong ethics and a high regard for professionalism, with the goal of ensuring that every person coming before the court receive proper justice. Mr. Cluff heeded Judge Alcaron's mandate to use his legal training to ensure that individuals were not taken advantage of by powerful entities and were justly compensated when entities overstepped the boundary of legal business conduct. Throughout his career, these life events have intensified Sterling Cluff's drive to protect his clients from unprincipled individuals and ruthless corporations and to aggressively and efficiently pursue compensation for the harm they inflict.

After a full day at work, Sterling Cluff enjoys surfing in summer and snowboarding in winter. When he is at home, he likes to spend time in his garden growing vegetables and native California plants.

Christopher Colley is a shareholder in the Dallas offices of Baron & Budd. He began helping asbestos victims and their families in 2001, primarily along the Texas coast. He participated in hundreds of asbestos cases representing various trades of construction along with chemical and oil refinery workers, including pipefitters, boilermakers, carpenters, electricians and certainly those involved with insulation materials.

Starting in 2006 Mr. Colley began to work almost exclusively in the state of Louisiana. He utilized his extensive experience from having worked with individuals in the industrial settings of Beaumont, Houston, Galveston and Freeport and put that to work representing asbestos victims who live and work along the lower Mississippi River. Since 2006 Mr. Colley has successfully litigated or settled hundreds of asbestos cases in Louisiana representing victims and their families from Baton Rouge all the way down the river to New Orleans.

Christopher Colley handles an active docket in Louisiana and appears in courts across the state. He has managed cases in East and West Baton Rouge, Ascension, St. James, New Orleans, Calcasieu, Morehouse, Ouachita, Caddo, Iberville, Point Coupee, and St. Bernard parishes. Mr. Colley strives to help his clients make sense of what has happened to them and their families through his experience and keen understanding of toxic tort law. “The best thing I can do as a lawyer,” he says, “is help people in the most difficult time of their lives to find answers and seek justice.”

Catherine Hancock Dorsey is a senior appellate attorney and shareholder in the Washington D.C. offices of Baron & Budd, where she works in the firm’s Opioid Litigation Group. She brings almost 17 years of experience at the Department of Justice to Baron & Budd’s robust opioid practice and has briefed and argued an array of complex cases in her lengthy career. At Baron & Budd, Ms. Dorsey handles, advises, and strategizes on appellate and other issues. “I am excited to bring my appellate expertise to Baron & Budd to help strategize and be forward-thinking in our trial and appellate briefing. It is especially exhilarating to dig into an emerging area of the law with respect to opioid litigation.”

As an undergraduate at Harvard University, Ms. Dorsey majored in Russian Studies, which happened to coincide with the collapse of the Soviet Union. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree Magna Cum Laude in 1996, she worked for the Academy of Educational Development and the International Research & Exchanges Board, two nonprofit organizations which, at the time, were both engaged in educational and technical training programs for students and professionals from the former Soviet bloc countries, including on topics such as development of the rule of law. From her interest in watching Russia begin to rebuild its legal system from the vestiges of the old Soviet legal structure, Ms. Dorsey became keenly interested in our own rule of law. She headed off to law school, graduating Magna Cum Laude

from Georgetown University Law Center in 2001 with her Juris Doctor and a concurrent Master of Science degree in Foreign Service.

During her time at Georgetown, Ms. Dorsey worked as a summer associate at the U.S. Department of Defense in the office of General Counsel, International Affairs, sparking her initial interest in what would eventually become an almost two-decade relationship with the Department of Justice. She also served as Articles Editor on the Georgetown Law Journal and as research assistant to Professor Viet Dinh, whose distinguished expertise lay in law and economics and constitutional law.

After graduating from law school, Ms. Dorsey spent a year clerking for the Honorable Juan R. Torruella on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in San Juan, Puerto Rico. During her time in Puerto Rico, Ms. Dorsey delighted in her close proximity to the beach and savored Puerto Rican food (mofongo is still a favorite), as well as the warm and welcoming culture. She was fascinated by local politics, which revolved around Puerto Rico's status as a United States territory and the issue of whether Puerto Rico should seek to become a state.

In 2002, Catherine Dorsey joined the U.S. Department of Justice through the Attorney General's Honors Program, where she spent almost seventeen years arguing complex and significant statutory, administrative, immigration, tort, and employment discrimination cases before the federal courts of appeals. As part of the Civil Division's Appellate Staff, she argued cases which dealt with matters such as the Freedom of Information Act, national security, and Bivens actions, which are special 'implied causes of action' created by the Supreme Court to allow private individuals to sue federal employees for constitutional violations. Ms. Dorsey presented more than forty oral arguments on behalf of the Government, including arguments before every United States Circuit Court of Appeal.

As an attorney on the Appellate Staff, Ms. Dorsey served as lead counsel for the government in scores of cases, representing a diverse array of federal agencies. In addition to consulting and coordinating with client agencies and trial attorneys to develop the Government's legal strategy and defenses, she drafted numerous Supreme Court merits briefs, and she also served for a term on the Appellate hiring committee.

Ms. Dorsey joined the Justice Department right after the 9-11 terrorist attacks. As a result, she spent a number of years embroiled in litigation to assist the United States in its defense against terrorism, including litigation involving the detention of enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Ms. Dorsey found this litigation a captivating mix of law and history, as many of the legal issues were ones that had not been addressed by courts since World War II, and needed to be re-examined in light of novel concerns about modern-day warfare and terrorism. One of her most interesting and important cases was defending the Government against a First Amendment challenge seeking disclosure of classified government videos depicting a Guantanamo detainee.

In 2017, Ms. Dorsey took advantage of opportunities within the Department of Justice to broaden her experience by serving as Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, where she managed and coordinated some of the Civil Division's high-profile litigation. In addition to drafting filings and arguing motions in District Court, she developed litigation strategy and coordinated closely with DOJ leadership, the Office of the Solicitor General, and White House Counsel. She saw the Counsel position as an opportunity to work closely with incoming DOJ leadership at a time when the administration was short-staffed and needed help from long-term employees who "knew the ropes."

Moving to the private sector in 2019 was a decision Catherine Dorsey embraced as a prime opportunity to use her significant skills to make a worthy impact and serve the public in a new way. "Joining Baron & Budd is a great fit for me, where I can apply my legal writing and reasoning skills to the opioid epidemic and its associated litigation."

When Catherine Dorsey is not immersed in legal tomes or reading novels in their native languages, such as Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons. She likes to run, finding the rhythmic pounding on the pavement and solitary outside time to be a soothing counterpoint to the frenetic pace of a busy law practice. She is also a certified scuba diver who relishes the contemplative tranquility of life at ten fathoms in places like Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

Celeste Evangelisti has devoted more than twenty-five years of her career to representing individuals, municipalities, public water suppliers and states against chemical companies for cost recovery to clean up environmental contamination. A shareholder with Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group, Ms. Evangelisti currently represents clients in several states across the country who face a variety of contamination issues.

Ms. Evangelisti started her career at a large defense firm, representing some of the biggest corporations in the world in product liability cases. In 1999, Ms. Evangelisti used the knowledge she gained representing defendants in those cases and began working with Scott Summy, who represented corporate victims of wrongdoing. Mr. Summy was then expanding his groundwater contamination practice to California and other states. He brought his team to Baron & Budd in 2002, ultimately forming and expanding what is now the award-winning Environmental Litigation Group.

Through the years, Ms. Evangelisti has assisted in the representation of thousands of clients against the world's biggest corporations, with recoveries for her clients in the billions of dollars. Her practice focuses on companies that manufacture chemicals knowing they will cause water contamination if used as intended. She successfully litigated against the major oil companies on behalf of hundreds of water providers who sought cost recovery for contamination of drinking water supplies by the gasoline additive MTBE, obtaining more than $500 million in settlements for her clients. She took on Monsanto, the manufacturer of PCBs, securing a settlement of approximately $600 million for stormwater cleanup costs on behalf of

governmental entities. And she was one of the key players taking liability depositions and working with experts in the nationwide multi-district litigation (MDL) centered around PFAS contamination (colloquially referred to as "forever chemicals"), which resulted in a $12 billion settlement with 3M Company and a $1.185 billion settlement with DuPont. Ms. Evangelisti is currently litigating against DuPont and Chemours on behalf of public water providers and private well owners for costs due to contamination of the Cape Fear River and the surrounding community with GenX and other PFAS chemicals from the Fayetteville Works plant in North Carolina. Ms. Evangelisti's knowledge and skill have been put to work in many other water contamination cases as well, including those involving perchloroethylene (PCE), Trichloropropane (TCP) and Atrazine.

Although Ms. Evangelisti is involved in all phases of litigation, her expertise is working up the liability case, which involves putting the historical story together (what a company knew about its chemical's potential harm to human health and the environment and when), taking depositions of key players involved, and establishing defendants' wrongdoing. This also involves developing a legal strategy, working extensively with expert witnesses, and preparing the case for trial.

Hard-driving and tenacious, Ms. Evangelisti's legal prowess has earned her many professional honors and awards. Ms. Evangelisti is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, its top rating. She was part of the legal team representing Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) which was named "Attorneys of the Year" for Environmental Law in 2001 by California Lawyer (Daily Journal Corp.) 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 has been nominated twice for Public Justice's prestigious "Trial Lawyer of the Year" award (2009, 2013) for her work on MTBE and Atrazine respectively, and she was named a "Texas Super Lawyer" for three straight years (Thompson Reuters, 2003-2005). She has also been named among the Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers (National Trial Lawyers, 2017-present), Top 10 Environmental Trial Lawyers in Texas (National Trial Lawyers, 2020-present), and Top 25 Product Liability Trial Lawyers (National Trial Lawyers, 2021-present). In addition, the Environmental Litigation Group was twice named Law360's Practice Group of the Year for the United States in the category of Environmental Law (Law360, 2020 and 2023).

David Fernandes joined Baron & Budd's California office in 2014. He is a shareholder representing clients across the United States in class action litigation involving automobile safety, fraudulent banking practices, and deceptive advertising.

Mr. Fernandes was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He earned his J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California. During law school, he clerked at the Children's Law Center of California, which serves as appointed counsel for all abused and neglected children who come under protection of the Los Angeles county juvenile dependency court systems.

Since joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Fernandes has worked on a number of significant class action cases handled by the firm's Los Angeles office. These cases have yielded more than $16 billion for class members across the country.

Mr. Fernandes worked closely with Baron & Budd shareholder Roland Tellis and co-counsel in various automotive defect class action lawsuits which have secured billions of dollars for consumers across the country, including: (1) the Takata Airbag multidistrict litigation, a multi-state class action involving tens of millions of vehicles equipped with defective airbags; (2) the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions multidistrict litigation, a multi-state class action involving vehicles equipped with software designed to surreptitiously evade emissions regulations; and (3) the Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep EcoDiesel multidistrict litigation, a multi-state class action involving vehicles equipped with software designed to surreptitiously evade emissions regulations.

Mr. Fernandes was also instrumental in litigating and successfully negotiating, in less than two years, a $423 million non-reversionary common fund settlement on behalf of millions of Wells Fargo customers affected by Wells Fargo's force-placed automobile collateral protection insurance fraud in In Re Wells Fargo Collateral Protection Insurance Litigation, C.D. Cal. Case No. 8:17-ml-02797-AG-KES. More recently, Mr. Fernandes has been a key contributor to the Plaintiffs' leadership team In Re: ZF-TRW Airbag Control Units Products Liability Litigation, C.D. Cal. Case No. 2:19-ml-02905-JAK-PLA, a multi-state class action involving millions of defective airbag control units.

Despite being well-beyond his law school years and fully involved in a rewarding career with Baron & Budd, Mr. Fernandes finds time to mentor first-year law students at his alma mater. As a preceptor at Pepperdine Law School, Mr. Fernandes works with a group of first-year law students to provide mentorship regarding a variety of student decisions, from résumé preparation to interviewing techniques. By giving his time to these students, Mr. Fernandes uses his experience to prepare future colleagues for successful entry into the legal field. "Providing substantive feedback and support to these promising law students is very rewarding and allows me to give back to the school which shaped my world view about the legal field and what is possible."

David Fernandes has committed himself to a life of purpose, service, and leadership. His passion for public service and social responsibility drew him to Baron & Budd's mission, and his desire to make a difference in the lives of people harmed by corporate fraud and wrongdoing continues to motivate him every day.

John Fiske is California's leading public entity-as-plaintiff lawyer and a shareholder in the San Diego offices of Baron & Budd. Mr. Fiske has resolved more than $2.5 billion dollars for public entity clients since 2018. John Fiske was the 2020 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year in Environmental Litigation and is a ten-time consecutive Super Lawyer.

John Fiske has been instrumental in the wildfire litigation in California. He has resolved approximately $1.7 billion for more than 70 public entities statewide

against investor-owned utilities Pacific Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Edison. Since 2018, Mr. Fiske has been lead counsel to 104 public entities in wildfire cases, having successfully resolved more than 70 cases while the rest remain in active litigation. Mr. Fiske led the lobbying efforts in the California State Legislature in 2018 and 2019 to preserve California's inverse condemnation rights for public entities and wildfire victims. He has been court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel for Public Entities in multiple cases such as the North Bay Fires, the Thomas Fire, and the Woolsey Fire. Mr. Fiske has been featured on CNN and HBO's Vice News for wildfire policy, litigation, and legislation.

Mr. Fiske's public entity wildfire settlements and awards include $582 million in the Camp Fire, $415 million in the North Bay Fires, $230 million in the Woolsey Fire, $150 million in the Thomas Fire, $100 million in the Bobcat Fire, an additional $43 million in the Camp Fire, $31 million in the Kincade Fire, $28.4 million in the Butte Fire, $24 million in the Dixie Fire, $12.36 million in the Zogg Fire, another $9 million in the Camp Fire, $7.25 million in the Mill Fire, an additional $5 million in the Camp Fire, and $3 million in the Butte Fire, among other settlements.

Against PG&E, Mr. Fiske was lead counsel for the Town of Paradise, Butte County, Paradise Recreation and Park District, Sonoma County, City of Santa Rosa, Napa County, City of Napa, Lake County, City of Clearlake, Mendocino County, Yuba County, Nevada County, Calaveras County, Calaveras County Water District, West Point Fire District, Ebbetts Pass Fire District, San Andreas Fire District, City of Chico, Thermalito Water and Sewer District, Butte-Glenn Community College District, City of Cloverdale, Town of Windsor, Shasta County, Tehama County, Plumas County, Lassen County, City of Susanville, Placer County, El Dorado County, and many special districts. His representation covers the Camp, North Bay, Kincade, Zogg, Dixie, and Mosquito Fires.

Against Southern California Edison, Mr. Fiske was lead counsel for Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District, Orange County, City of Malibu, Santa Barbara County and several related agencies, City of Santa Barbara, Ventura County and several related agencies, City of Ventura, City of Thousand Oaks, City of Westlake Village, City of Agoura Hills, City of Hidden Hills, City of Calabasas, City of Hemet, Montecito Water Protection District, Montecito Fire Protection District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, and Conejo Valley Recreation and Park District. His representation covers the Thomas, Woolsey, Saddleridge, Bobcat, Fairview, Silverado, and Coastal Fires.

Against Liberty Utilities in the Mountain View Fire cases, he represents Mono County, Antelope Valley Fire Protection District, Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc., Lone Pine Shoshone Tribe, and Bridgeport Indian Colony.

Against Pacific Power in the Slater and McKinney Fires, Mr. Fiske represents Siskiyou County.

Against XCEL Energy in Colorado, Mr. Fiske represents Boulder County, Town of Superior, City of Louisville, and special districts.

In 2019, Mr. Fiske announced a historic agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services that reimburses federal and state disaster relief funds. This is the first accord of its kind in the nation.

Mr. Fiske also strives to protect public education. He was court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel for public entities and school districts in the California JUUL litigation. He recovered more than $270 million while representing 300 school districts and public entities across the nation, including some of the nation's largest districts like Los Angeles Unified.

Mr. Fiske represents the largest group of California's litigating public entities in the case against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and national retailers. Mr. Fiske created the California Opioid Consortium, consisting of 37 California counties and cities, which collectively serve more than 11 million Californians. He represents San Diego County, Sacramento County, Contra Costa County, City of San Jose, City of Chula Vista, Mendocino County, Calaveras County, Nevada County, Yuba County, Butte County, Imperial County, Shasta County, Placer County, El Dorado County, Sutter County, San Benito County, Trinity County, Lassen County, Tuolumne County, Fresno County, Inyo County, Glenn County, Modoc County, Amador County, Del Norte County, Siskiyou County, Merced County, Mariposa County, Monterey County, Plumas County, Mono County, Madera County, Tehama County, Yolo County, City of Lakeport, City of Clearlake, City of Chico, and also the City of Portland in Oregon.

Mr. Fiske has resolved more than $800 million of PCB water contamination lawsuits for over 2,400 public entities against Monsanto and Bayer. Mr. Fiske was appointed Lead Class Counsel in the national PCB class action, and he represents states, counties, cities, and port districts. For example, Mr. Fiske represented Los Angeles County, Baltimore County, City of Baltimore, City of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, City of Long Beach, City of San Jose, City of Oakland, City of Berkeley, City of Portland, Port of Portland, City of Tacoma, City of Spokane, the District of Columbia, the State of New Mexico, and the State of Washington as a special assistant attorney general.

Mr. Fiske has been named a Super Lawyer in 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, and 2015. In 2013, San Diego Metro Magazine named John Fiske to its list of "40 Under 40." He was named a "Top Influential" by The Daily Transcript in 2012, a "Top Young Attorney" by the Daily Transcript in 2009, and one of "50 People to Watch" by San Diego Magazine in 2007. He has authored two legal articles, including "Unnatural Disasters" and "Poison in the Well," which won a Burton Award for Legal Writing. Mr. Fiske appears regularly on national television and radio programs discussing legal and legislative matters affecting national and state policy.

Mr. Fiske has a long history of charitable work. The Fiske Family Foundation actively supports educational and recreational opportunities for all. In 2016, he founded the San Diego Farm Animal Rescue, a 501(c)3 corporation which rescued, housed, and/or re-homed approximately 100 horses, pigs, and chickens at his family farm in Elfin Forest, California. He is a past-president of the San Diego Brain Injury Foundation, a former advisory board member of UC San Diego's Bannister Family House, a former board member of Solutions: Exploring Success Post-High School, a Red Coat of the San Diego Bowl Game Association (Holiday and Poinsettia Bowls), and a former Big Brother.

Ann Harper has spent her career representing workers who have developed mesothelioma and other serious illnesses caused by exposure to asbestos. She is a shareholder in Baron & Budd's settlement department, where she works through the issues necessary to get the firm's clients compensation in their lawsuits and to pursue their claims through bankruptcy trust funds.

Ms. Harper says, "In my job, I am sometimes able to get people compensation that offers some security for their families and brings them some peace of mind. It's wonderful when I can do something like that for a client." When Ms. Harper is not working for her clients, she enjoys reading and traveling to new destinations.

Stephen C. Johnston puts his degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences to good use as a shareholder with the firm's Environmental Litigation Group, representing individuals and communities seeking clean-up costs for contaminated water supplies.

Mr. Johnston began his career with Baron & Budd in 1997 as part of the firm's asbestos litigation group. Mr. Johnston's time in the asbestos group was marked by his respect for the individual client and a reputation for thoughtful attention to their cases and their lives. His advocacy resulted in the recovery of millions of dollars for those injured by asbestos exposure.

Mr. Johnston brought his hard work and determined advocacy to the Environmental Litigation Group in 2004. Since that time he has represented hundreds of public entities seeking clean-up costs for water supplies contaminated by MTBE, Atrazine and TCP. He has also represented hundreds of individuals and businesses along the Gulf Coast impacted by the BP oil spill which resulted from the sinking of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

For the past several years Mr. Johnston has led the firm's litigation arising from TCP contamination of drinking water supplies. Under his leadership the firm has successfully resolved numerous TCP contamination cases.

For Stephen Johnston, Baron & Budd was a good match for his goals to bring about justice to those who have been wronged through no fault of their own: "I saw in Baron & Budd a law firm committed to helping those injured by corporate indifference and greed. I wanted to help those who could not otherwise help

themselves." His dedication to this mission and his legal talent earned him recognition as a Super Lawyers "Rising Star" (Thomson Reuters, 2006).

Jason Julius, a shareholder with Baron & Budd, joined the firm's Environmental Litigation Group in 2017. Bringing those who pollute our precious natural spaces to justice is what drives Mr. Julius' passion every day.

Mr. Julius played an extensive role in the firm's PCB litigation, seeking to hold Monsanto Company responsible for polluting America's waterways and other public resources with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a group of hazardous chemicals used in a number of products, including caulk, paint, and electrical equipment. There, he led the litigation on behalf of several large public entities - including the State of Washington, City of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, City of San Jose, City of Berkeley, City of Oakland, City of Portland, and Port of Portland. This work was integral in recovering more than a half billion dollars in resolutions to date for the firm's public entity clients, necessary to test, restore, and protect the nation's precious waterbodies and natural resources.

Mr. Julius has also performed an integral role in the firm's wildfire litigation, seeking to hold electrical utilities responsible for the devastation resulting from utility-caused wildfires throughout the western United States. This representation included both public entities, including the Town of Paradise, Butte County and Mono County, as well as hundreds of individual victims of the Camp Fire, Woolsey Fire and Dixie Fire. Mr. Julius has also led litigation on behalf of public entities in the Mountain View Fire and Holiday Farm Fire, among others.

Mr. Julius was appointed Class Counsel in the Southern District of California for a class of residents and school children impacted by TCE contamination of indoor air resulting from improper disposal practices at an adjacent factory. As a result of the Class resolution, impacted residents and students have been able to obtain necessary medical consultation to ensure their health has not been affected. Additional sampling in their homes is also being performed to identify any ongoing contamination.

Mr. Julius has also led litigation on behalf of dozens of school districts, cities, and counties against JUUL Labs, Inc., its individual management team, and cigarette industry giant, Altria, for their role in the manufacture, marketing and distribution of the JUUL e-cigarette device to children, resulting in the national youth vaping epidemic. Baron & Budd served in the leadership role on behalf of all public entity plaintiffs in the JUUL Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding (JCCP) in Los Angeles Superior Court. Mr. Julius served as the day-to-day litigation lead for this JCCP on behalf of the public entities. The litigation sought to recover costs expended by schools, cities and counties in dealing with underage vaping on their properties, as well as abatement of the nuisance created by the youth vaping epidemic for which JLI and Altria were directly responsible.

In 2002, Mr. Julius completed his undergraduate education at California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with a dual concentration in management and

marketing. He was an active member of the Cal Poly chapter of the American Marketing Association and served on the board as a chapter representative to the AMA national conference. Following graduation, Mr. Julius worked in the private sector for several years before attending law school.

Mr. Julius obtained his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from California Western School of Law in 2007. While enrolled, he was named to the Dean's List, was a board member of the Entertainment & Sports Law Society, and participated in international law programs in Prague, Czech Republic, and London, England. Mr. Julius is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association, Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, and Consumer Attorneys of California. He is licensed to practice law in both California and Texas.

J. Todd Kale, a shareholder at Baron & Budd, has dedicated his career to fighting the companies that knowingly exposed people to the deadly carcinogen known as asbestos. Mr Kale enjoys partnering with patients and families and helping them navigate the legal process during the most difficult time in their lives. He 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, Mr. Kale enjoys meeting with these patients and families. Through these meetings, he 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 Kale has worked on numerous asbestos lawsuits, managing thousands of cases from start to finish. Through his many years as an asbestos lawyer, he 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. Mr. Kale 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, he is proud to have fought on behalf of mesothelioma and asbestos clients for his entire career.

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

Peter Klausner joined the Los Angeles offices of Baron & Budd in 2016. He is a shareholder in the firm's Class Action Group and has spent the entirety of his career representing victims of fraud, malpractice and negligence, advocating on behalf of numerous injured clients and state agencies at all phases of complex litigation, including multiple jury trials that have gone to verdict. The breadth of his work has spanned cases involving big pharma, opioids, banking fraud, auto-defects, surgical devices, hazardous materials, and birth injuries.

Most recently, Mr. Klausner was instrumental in securing a $916,012,000 judgment on behalf of the State of Hawai'i (the largest judgment in Hawai'i history), following a four-week trial against the manufacturers of the anti-platelet drug, Plavix, in State of Hawai'i ex rel. Clare E. Connors, v. Bristol-Myers Squibb, et al., resulting in a $700,000,000 settlement. During the 2023 trial, Mr. Klausner prepared, examined, and defended the state's medical and scientific experts, cross-examined the defendants' key medical and scientific expert, and made numerous important decisions regarding trial strategy. For his work on the Hawai'i Plavix case, Mr. Klausner was a finalist for Public Justice's "Trial Lawyer of the Year" award in 2022.

Presently, Mr. Klausner represents a number of states and municipalities in several of the large-scale opioid cases being litigated around the country against the responsible drug manufacturers, big chain pharmacies, and pharmacy benefit managers. These cases include City of Rochester v. Purdue Pharma, L.P., State of Washington v. Rite Aid Corp., et al., and County of Monterey v. AmerisourceBergen Drug Corp., et al. Mr. Klausner also participated in in a two-month opioid trial against defendant pharmacies Walmart, Walgreens, and Kroger, in State of New Mexico ex rel. Hector Balderas, Attorney General, v. Purdue Pharma LP, et al., resulting in eight and nine-figure settlements before closing arguments.

Further, Mr. Klausner represents school districts and young victims of addictive algorithms deployed by social media companies Meta, Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube to increase screentime, resulting in mental health disorders and suicidal ideation, in the federal multidistrict litigation known as In Re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction. Mr. Klausner also represents a government whistleblower in a federal qui tam suit against various CVS entities, alleging Medicare fraud, in US ex rel. Ellsworth Associates, LLP, v. CVS Health Corp., et al., and a class of musicians alleging artificial streaming fraud in the federal class action case Collins v. Spotify USA Inc., et al.

Mr. Klausner has also participated in several nationwide class action lawsuits involving banking fraud, including Bias v. Wells Fargo & Company et al., which resulted in a $50 million settlement, as well as Weiner v. Ocwen Financial Corporation, et al., in which Mr. Klausner served as class counsel in a nationwide fraud case against the country's one-time largest mortgage servicer.

Mr. Klausner obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California and earned his J.D. from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. In his second year at Loyola, he competed on behalf of the school's nationally-ranked Byrne Trial Advocacy Team, winning the 2009 AAJ regional tournament, while also serving as a chair of his school's Public Interest Law Forum, where he helped disadvantaged Los Angeles residents obtain their public assistance benefits. In his final year, Mr. Klausner interned at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (hardcore gang division), while simultaneously competing on Loyola's Moot Court team, where he ranked among the top three oralists in the nation at the ABA's 2010 National Moot Court Competition.

Following law school, Mr. Klausner worked as an associate at Waters, Kraus & Paul, LLP, where he represented numerous victims of toxic exposures and faulty surgical devices. While there, he obtained several multi-million-dollar verdicts at trial on behalf of clients who had been exposed to asbestos while serving in the United States Navy. In addition, he obtained several multi-million-dollar settlements in cases involving birth defects that resulted from exposure to industrial solvents, while also litigating on behalf of cancer survivors whose illnesses could be linked to PCBs manufactured by the Monsanto Company.

When not practicing law, Mr. Klausner enjoys running marathons and exploring the cosmos with his two daughters.

Brett Land is a shareholder in Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group. Since joining the Environmental Litigation Group in 2014, he has represented individuals and public entities harmed by toxic contaminants, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), and trichloroethylene (TCE).

Mr. Land is actively litigating cases involving the contamination of drinking water and other properties by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). He represents more than 1,200 private well owners and multiple public water providers in lawsuits against DuPont and Chemours to address those companies' pollution of the Cape Fear River and North Carolina drinking wells with numerous toxic PFAS compounds.

Brett Land is also leading Baron & Budd's effort to seek justice for veterans and their family members who were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. For decades the water supply at the base was contaminated by dangerously high levels of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds.

Mr. Land has also litigated cases seeking to hold Monsanto Company responsible for pollution of American schools and waterbodies caused by their polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a group of hazardous chemicals used in a number of products, including caulk, paint, and electrical equipment. Mr. Land has represented more than a dozen public entities along both coasts in PCB cases, and he has assembled an elite team of PCB experts to assist his clients. Settlements in these cases have totaled more than $800 million.

J. Burton LeBlanc, a Baron & Budd shareholder, 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. His lifelong commitment to service through the legal system was fostered by family as a child in his home state of 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, Mr. LeBlanc knew that his life mission would be to seek justice for the downtrodden.

Burton LeBlanc's passion for championing the rights of individuals extends to the national stage where he has served as president of the American Association for Justice (AAJ). As president of AAJ, the largest trial lawyer non-profit group in the United States, Mr. LeBlanc advocated for protection of America's civil justice system and rallied resources when corporate interests attempted 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.

Mr. LeBlanc's 2013 appointment as AAJ president followed 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, Mr. 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. Mr. LeBlanc has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the AAJ Political Action Committee (PAC), 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.

Burton 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.

Mr. LeBlanc's extensive accomplishments are equally renowned in the courtroom, paving the way for his designation as one of the top 75 plaintiff's attorneys in the United States by *The American Lawyer* (ALM Media, 2010), and his inclusion on the Louisiana Super Lawyers list (Thomson Reuters, 2008, 2012-2019). Today Mr. LeBlanc concentrates his practice in the areas of pharmaceutical, environmental law, securities and asbestos litigation. In addition to his work representing individuals, Mr. LeBlanc has successfully represented many governmental entities, including the States of Hawaii, Mississippi, Louisiana, and West Virginia in complex consumer fraud litigation.

He was part of the Baron & Budd team that pursued litigation on behalf of eight states' attorneys general against GlaxoSmithKline regarding its fraudulent marketing of the diabetes drug Avandia, litigation which settled in 2013 for $229 million. In July 2013, Mr. LeBlanc was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for *In re: Fresenius Granuflo/Naturalyte Dialysate Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 1:13-md-2428 (U.S.D.C. D. Mass.). Also, Mr. LeBlanc, together with co-counsel and Baron & Budd represent more than 700 public entities and eight Attorneys General across the nation in litigation against prescription opioid manufacturers, distributors and dispensers. The Settlement Negotiation Team, comprised of seven elite trial lawyers from top plaintiffs' firms around the county, have been responsible for negotiating more than $46 billion in settlements with the nation's largest and most prominent drug distributors, manufacturers and dispensers. The settlement funds, which began flowing to communities across

America in 2022, are providing abatement and relief to states, counties, cities, and native American tribes to combat the opioid crisis.

Burton 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 and 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.

Mr. LeBlanc is a frequent lecturer and interviewee on the issues of environmental law, asbestos litigation, chemical exposure cases and the importance of access to the civil justice system. In November 2013, he testified before the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules regarding proposed amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

In addition to numerous radio and television appearances covering such diverse topics as racism, the environment and opioids, including WNDC Radio in Baton Rouge in 1997 ("*Environment and Race*"), and Money 101 on KFWB Radio Los Angeles in 2014 (*"General Mill's decision to impose forced arbitration on its customers"*), Mr. LeBlanc was featured in a December 2018 production of CBS's 60 Minutes, where he was interviewed by Bill Whitaker for the segment "*Opioid Crisis: the Lawsuits that Could Bankrupt Manufacturers and Distributors*".

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

Jay M. Lichter is a shareholder in Baron & Budd's Pharmaceutical Litigation Group, having joined the firm's Los Angeles office in 2018. He knew his strong drive to fight for victim's rights would be well-suited to Baron & Budd's aggressive "fight for what's right" approach to seeking justice for those harmed by pharmaceutical malfeasance.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Lichter worked as a litigator in a boutique Los Angeles law firm where he divided his time equally among the firm's various practices, representing businesses and entrepreneurs in a wide array of industries throughout southern California. There, Mr. Lichter handled all phases of litigation in actions involving real estate, financial services, entertainment and technology. Mr. Lichter successfully brought hundreds of breach of contract actions on behalf of multiple local businesses from initiation to dispositive motion practice and settlement, and successfully defended suits involving new and changing business marketing technologies and strategies.

Mr. Lichter began his career and received his training as an associate at a class action law firm in Beverly Hills. While there, he helped bring nationwide, multi-

million dollar litigation to settlement. Mr. Lichter also worked as a law clerk for the District Attorney's Offices of San Diego County and Ventura County, where he gained valuable experience in criminal prosecution and developed his passion for victim advocacy.

Mr. Lichter received his J.D. from the University of California, Davis, School of Law in 2009. As a law student, he served as a staff editor for the U.C. Davis Business Law Journal and the U.C. Davis Journal of International Law and Policy. During the course of his studies, Mr. Lichter clerked for both the Office of the Attorney General of California and Legal Services of Northern California, receiving awards for his pro bono and public service work. He received his B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2004, graduating *cum laude*.

In his free time, Mr. Lichter enjoys international travel, hiking, caring for animals, and cooking with his wife. His favorite travel destination is the Cambodian temple complex of Angkor Wat, which he visited for the first time in 2016.

Christine Mansour has spent the better part of her career advocating for justice and working to protect the rights of the less fortunate. In 2017 she joined Baron & Budd's Pharmaceutical Litigation Group to bring her appellate advocacy and briefing experience to Baron & Budd's work on behalf of clients who have been harmed by the rampant opioid epidemic that has wreaked havoc on so many communities in the United States. She is now a shareholder in our Opioid Litigation Group.

As part of Baron & Budd's Opioid Litigation Group, Ms. Mansour represents states, cities and counties in their quest to hold the drug industry responsible for its malfeasance in causing our nation's opioid epidemic. Ms. Mansour is one of the co-chairs of the Law & Briefing Committee for the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in the federal multi-district litigation. In both the firm's federal and state court cases, Ms. Mansour researches complex legal issues, responds to motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment, drafts complaints and discovery motions, and works collaboratively to develop litigation strategies. Ms. Mansour's briefing has prevented the defendants from having these cases dismissed in both federal and state court.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Chris Mansour worked for almost ten years at a Dallas non-profit representing immigrants who had been victims of violence. These included survivors of domestic violence, violent crime and child abuse, as well as those who had suffered human rights abuses in their home countries. Her accomplishments included numerous successful trials and appeals that led to hundreds of immigrants obtaining legal status in the United States. Before that, she spent seven years at major law firms in Wisconsin and Ohio practicing commercial civil litigation. During this time, she cultivated her appellate and trial advocacy skills, obtaining significant experience authoring appellate briefs on a variety of topics and handling all aspects of litigation including drafting pleadings, conducting discovery, motion practice and preparing for trial.

Chris Mansour grew up in Rochester, Minnesota. She received her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame. After working as a journalist, she entered law school with the goal of using her skills to give a voice to those in need and achieve positive change in national policies that impact a wide range of people, especially those lacking economic or political power. Ms. Mansour graduated from the University of Michigan in 1998 after serving on the Law Review and representing neglected children in the Child Advocacy Clinic.

In her free time, Ms. Mansour enjoys spending time with her family, running, cooking and traveling. She loves returning to the beautiful lakes of Minnesota every summer where she can water-ski and escape the Texas heat.

Cary L. McDougal, a shareholder with Baron & Budd, has served as lead attorney in more than 75 jury trials in state and federal court. Over the mpore than two decades that he has practiced law, Mr. McDougal has proven to be a formidable trial lawyer with unflinching resolve to serve his clients. He has tried cases involving such diverse areas of the law as premises liability, product liability, general personal injury, medical malpractice, insurance litigation and environmental litigation.

For the first 14 years of his legal career, Mr. McDougal handled the defense of matters involving complex litigation throughout Texas and Oklahoma as a partner at two Dallas firms. He focused his practice on civil litigation, and he managed and tried all litigation for several North Texas health care agencies. He co-founded the law firm Aldous and McDougal, which gained recognition for its trial successes on behalf of plaintiffs in medical malpractice, contractual disputes and other matters. Mr. McDougal joined Baron & Budd in 2005.

A shareholder and manager of Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group, Mr. McDougal currently represents more than 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 Litigation (MDL) MTBE water contamination litigation, which is considered one of the most complex pieces of litigation in the country. He also manages other environmental contamination cases involving chemicals such as TCP, TCE and dioxin.

Mr. McDougal oversees Baron & Budd's representation of public entities and individuals harmed by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), and trichloroethylene (TCE), including GenX. He manages the firm's lawsuits against DuPont and Chemours for poisoning North Carolina drinking wells and the Cape Fear River with numerous toxic PFAS compounds. In addition, he oversees the firm's cases involving firefighting foams that release toxic perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) into drinking water supplies nationwide. Most recently, he has directed Baron & Budd's effort to seek justice for veterans and their family members who were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.

Mr. McDougal completed his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law and attained a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs. He continues to serve as a consultant to the LBJ school on issues concerning public policy. He has authored numerous legal papers on civil litigation and trial practice and has spoken at seminars before health care professionals, consumer groups, the insurance industry and attorneys on issues relative to civil litigation.

Mr. McDougal has been inducted into the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), a recognition by his peers for his jury trial experience, commitment to the jury process, and ethics. He also holds the top rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory and was named a Texas Super Lawyer (Thomson Reuters 2005-2006).

John Meyer joined Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group as an associate in 2025. Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Meyer honed his skills in eDiscovery, developing a deep affinity for protecting the health and safety of others. In his work, Mr. Meyer analyzes, categorizes and coordinates complex discovery challenges for the ELG team on cases involving wildfire damage, groundwater contamination, and exposure to harmful chemicals.

In 2016, Mr. Meyer graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a degree in forensic science. Science has always been of keen interest to Mr. Meyer. While at Loyola, he developed a fascination with the connection between science and the legal system. He pursued this passion by attending Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Prior to receiving his juris doctor in 2019, Mr. Meyer studied several intersections of law and science, such as intellectual property, personal injury, medical malpractice, healthcare, and compliance.

During his time in law school, Mr. Meyer worked as a senior editor for the Annals of Health Law & Life Sciences, where he was published in the student journal, Advance Directive, and served as an associate editor for the student-run blog, Inside Compliance. There, he contributed posts covering a wide range of regulations by EPA, CSB, FDA, FTC, and more. His work eventually earned him the opportunity to publish a note in the American Health Law Association's Journal of Health and Life Sciences Law. These experiences fostered an appreciation for developing a compelling narrative with an eye for detail and a focus on research, skills he brings to his eDiscovery work for the ELG group.

When not at work, Mr. Meyer enjoys spending time with family and friends. He never passes up an opportunity to see a new show at the theater or try a new restaurant.

Andrew Miller joined Baron & Budd's Washington, D.C. office in 2018, where he focuses on bringing fraud and abuse litigation throughout the United States under such statutes as the federal False Claims Act, state False Claims Acts, the Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law. A shareholder in our Washington D.C. office, Mr. Miller also represents clients with claims filed with the Whistleblower Offices of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Internal Revenue Service.

Before Mr. Miller joined Baron & Budd, he was a partner at a law firm in in Washington D.C. He has significant experience representing whistleblowers in qui tam cases against defense and government contractors, drug manufacturers, and healthcare providers.

Early in his legal career, Mr. Miller defended government contractors against liability under the FCA. He also represented government officials in Congressional investigations and participated in numerous internal investigations involving complex civil and criminal issues. Mr. Miller's long experience at both ends of the FCA litigation spectrum makes him an invaluable component of the Baron & Budd team.

During law school Mr. Miller served as editor-in-chief of the Houston Law Review. He was also one of only four students who received the Distinguished Service Award for extraordinary contribution to the University of Houston Law Center. Mr. Miller also received the American Jurisprudence Award for Legal Research and Writing.

After interning for the Honorable David Hittner at the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas in 2002, Mr. Miller clerked for the Honorable Harold R. DeMoss, Jr. at the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit from 2003 through 2005. During that time, he also worked as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center.

Highlights of Mr. Miller's work include the following:

- In February 2022, the Department of Justice announced a nearly $50 million False Claims Act settlement against TriMark LLC and others. In that case, Mr. Miller represented a whistleblower who alleged that TriMark—the nation's largest restaurant supply company—violated the False Claims Act by illegally obtaining government contracts set aside for small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. The TriMark case was listed by the Department of Justice as among the top settlements in 2022 and recognized as the largest non-health care False Claims Act recovery in 2022. At the time, the TriMark matter also represented the largest-ever False Claims Act settlement based on allegations of small-business set-aside contracting fraud.

- Mr. Miller represented the whistleblowers in a $2.5 million customs fraud settlement, announced by the DOJ in December 2023, with ADCO Industries, Xiamen Atlantis MFC Co., Raymond E. Davis, and Calvin Chang. Mr. Miller represented the whistleblowers who uncovered a double-invoicing scheme between ADCO—a seller of commercial products like shelves, dollies, and safety cutters—and their Chinese supplier, Xiamen. According to the FCA suit, ADCO conspired with the Chinese manufacturer to fraudulently underreport the value of the imported goods on the invoices in order to pay duties on the fraudulently deflated product values rather than the actual value of the products. The settlement was the largest customs fraud case in which the government intervened that

involved a scheme to avoid payment of tariffs enacted during the Trump administration.

- In May of 2022, the DOJ announced a $2.8 million settlement against Hensel Phelps Construction Company in a False Claims Act case involving allegations of small business subcontracting fraud. Mr. Miller represented a whistleblower in that action who alleged that Hensel Phelps falsely certified to the government that it had subcontracted portions of a $68 million construction project involving the Armed Forces Retirement Home—a retirement community in Washington, D.C. that houses veterans and active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces—to a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. In what is believed to be historic timing, the DOJ intervened and settled the qui tam matter a mere 21 days after the complaint was filed.

Growing up in West Texas, Mr. Miller knew from an early age that he wanted to dedicate himself to a career that would allow him to advocate for those who might not otherwise have a voice, whether they are individuals who bravely blow the whistle on fraud or are people being accused of misdeeds. Joining the legal profession gave Mr. Miller an ideal platform for ensuring that the rights of individuals are protected, no matter how powerful their opponents. “Knowing that I can help others stand up for what's right is its own reward and serves as my motivation to come to work each day”, he says. This dedication is further reflected in Mr. Miller’s extensive pro bono work in child custody matters, where he has represented low-income families and vulnerable children living with abuse, neglect and other difficult circumstances.

Mr. Miller resides in Northern Virginia with his family. They enjoy traveling to the beach, cooking together, and golfing.

Staci J. Olsen, a Baron & Budd shareholder, manages electronic discovery for firm’s Environmental Litigation Group, where she specializes in the management of electronic information and people in mass litigation. This skill makes her a critical part of the Group, which focuses on large-scale complex environmental torts. She leads an internal team of four dedicated eDiscovery attorneys and oversees all contract reviewers. She particularly enjoys putting her talents to work for public entity clients facing contamination issues. “Organizing all the evidence to support a client’s case is rewarding because I know that my work provides a tangible result for the client.”

Ms. Olsen has almost 15 years of experience at Baron & Budd overseeing the compilation of evidence necessary to prepare a solid environmental case. Her extensive eDiscovery experience includes management of electronic information, document management, corporate governance, document review, and training of staff and attorneys to make best use of electronic resources. In addition, Ms. Olsen oversees every phase of document management from intake of documents, scanning, coding, searching, bates-stamping, substantive review, production, creation of privilege logs, and identification/development of trial exhibits.

Ms. Olsen also conducts substantive review of client, defendant and third-party subpoena documents for creation of damages models, including all records of expenses and costs associated with contamination, assessments of impacts to natural resources, and any other evidence necessary for damages calculations. She manages in-house electronic discovery and document review teams and works with client and litigation teams to develop keyword searches, issue tags, redact privileged information and sleuth out interesting case facts for use in litigation.

In addition, Ms. Olsen assists public entities with document identification, preservation and tracking, data mapping, document location and storage, custodian interviews, document production, and compliance with public records requests and subpoenas. She also assists in negotiation of electronically stored information (ESI) protocols to be used in litigation, and specifically structures tasks to relieve the litigation burden placed on clients of all sizes, including public entities, agencies, and public employees.

Ms. Olsen is currently serving on a three-person committee that leads the document review for the nationwide aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) litigation and oversees the eDiscovery for the firm's own numerous AFFF clients. She has worked on environmental matters such as atrazine, perchloroethylene (PCE), trichloropropane (TCP), methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), perfluorinated chemicals (GENX and PFAS), the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). The PCB case resulted in a $648 million settlement-in-principle in June 2020 for public entity plaintiffs in a nationwide class action against Monsanto related to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination of stormwater systems. Ms. Olsen also oversaw the eDiscovery for the firm's JUUL e-cigarette litigation and participated in the MyFord Touch document review.

Ms. Olsen has managed the ESI process for more than 100 of the firm's wildfire cases. In one case, she led the eDiscovery team that resulted in a $360 million settlement-in-principle on behalf of 23 cities, counties and special districts against Southern California Edison for taxpayer losses caused by the 2017 Thomas and Koenigstein fires, the 2018 Montecito debris flows, and the 2018 Woolsey fire. She is now actively engaged in coordinating, organizing and evaluating discovery pertaining to Hawaii's Lahaina and Kula fires as Baron & Budd, along with co-counsel, represents Maui County in the devastating conflagration of August 2023.

Since 2021, Staci Olsen has been recognized as one of the Nation's Top One Percent by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. NADC is an organization dedicated to promoting the highest standards of legal excellence. Its mission is to objectively recognize attorneys who elevate the standards of the Bar and provide a benchmark for other lawyers to emulate.

Staci Olsen wanted to be an attorney ever since she was a young girl growing up on a ranch in rural Colorado, where the quality of the water and the environment impacted her life every day. Ms. Olsen loves the outdoors and spends her

summers fishing in Alaska. She also devotes her spare time to charity work, in particular a local organization dedicated to saving exotic large cats.

Marco A. Palmieri joined Baron & Budd's Washington, D.C. office as a shareholder in 2025. Mr. Palmieri represents public entity clients in complex litigation matters, including state and local governments in lawsuits to recover damages for those harmed by the opioid crisis. Mr. Palmieri also represents whistleblowers bringing qui tam actions under the False Claims Act (FCA).

Mr. Palmieri is a seasoned trial attorney and litigator who, before joining the firm, served for more than twelve years as a federal prosecutor at the Department of Justice—first at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and then at the Department of Justice's Criminal Division—where he served as first chair on more than 40 trials and led over 300 criminal investigations. Most recently, Mr. Palmieri was a Deputy Chief at the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section where he investigated, tried, and supervised some of the Department's most sensitive and high-profile matters.

During his time at the DOJ, Mr. Palmieri investigated and prosecuted a wide variety of cases, including fraud, national security, cybercrime, public corruption, and money-laundering matters. Those matters included theft, fraud, and bribery by individual actors, corporate entities, and senior executives, as well as waste, fraud, corruption, and abuse by public and elected officials. Mr. Palmieri also served as a Senior Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Appellate Section at the U.S. Attorney's Office in D.C. where he handled several appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Before joining the Department of Justice, Mr. Palmieri worked at an international law firm in Washington, D.C. where he handled complex commercial litigation and white collar matters on behalf of Fortune 500 companies, including representing a Fortune 100 company in an intervened qui tam False Claims Act litigation, a Fortune 500 company in an investigation concerning the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and a Fortune 500 company in a multidistrict, antitrust litigation.

Mr. Palmieri graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Berkeley where he double-majored in English and Rhetoric, and later received his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from The American University, Washington College of Law, where he served on the American University Law Review, and received the Mussey-Gillett Fellowship and the Marshall-Brennan Fellowship for academic achievement and for public service, respectively.

Mr. Palmieri is a California native and the son of Italian and Mexican immigrants. Prior to law school, he taught an English course to individuals incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison in Northern California. Mr. Palmieri entered law school with the belief, which he still holds today, that the law—while not perfect—can be used as a positive instrument to bring justice and change to where it is needed, and to those who may lack equal access to our judicial and political systems.

When not at work, Mr. Palmieri can be found at a local field coaching any one of his three children's soccer or baseball teams and planning the next family vacation. In his spare time, Mr. Palmieri enjoys travelling and cooking for his family and friends.

Carla Pickrel joined Baron & Budd in 2000, and as a shareholder helped pioneer the Environmental Litigation Group in 2004. In that role, she develops innovative legal strategies for cases arising from chemical contamination of drinking water supplies and natural resources. Ms. Pickrel shines as a writer who is able to distill complex scientific and legal concepts into simple and powerful words. "I take difficult, technical-sounding concepts and tell a simple story --- how pollution prevents a neighborhood from using its favorite fishing spot or how pesticides that run off from a crop can increase drinking water costs in a town a mile away."

Ms. Pickrel works on all of the ELG's many cases, including those arising from methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE), atrazine, perchloroethylene (PCE), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) contamination of drinking water supplies. In her time with the Group, she has represented hundreds of public entities — villages, towns, cities, utilities, school districts, and states.

She is currently on the front lines of litigation against the manufacturers of firefighting foams that release toxic perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) whenever used. Recent testing has detected these chemicals in drinking water supplies nationwide. "The manufacturers of these foams knew about the potential for contamination, yet sold the products for use at military and civilian airports all across America without warning users of the potential harm caused to communities", she says.

Baron & Budd represents water providers dealing with firefighting foam contamination now. These and all similar cases pending in federal courts across the United States were recently consolidated in multidistrict litigation (MDL) 2873 before Judge Richard Gergel in Charleston, South Carolina. Litigating in MDL 2873 allows Ms. Pickrel to contribute her experience in environmental contamination cases to the complex issues that arise. She brings a nuanced understanding of the legal, scientific, and practical problems that water providers and individuals face on a nationwide scale.

Ms. Pickrel also represents cities and states along both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts including Baltimore, San Diego, Long Beach, San Jose, Oakland, Berkeley, Chula Vista, Portland, Port of Portland and Spokane in actions against Monsanto Company for polluting America's waterways with PCBs. After reaching a momentous settlement with Monsanto, the parties moved to certify a nationwide class of similarly-situated public entities, and Ms. Pickrel was named Class Counsel alongside Baron & Budd ELG's Scott Summy and John Fiske. The case, pending before Judge Olguin in the Central District of California, is City of Long Beach v. Monsanto Co., 2:16-cv-03493-FMO-AS. The settlement has begun to distribute approximately $530,000,000 to a class of more than 2,500 public entities affected by Monsanto's PCBs.

Ms. Pickrel's current work rests on her long experience with nationwide environmental litigation. For more than 20 years, she has been a leader in nationwide litigation arising from MTBE contamination on behalf of more than 200 water providers in more than 20 states. She also played a major role in a nationwide class action settlement for providers whose water supplies are contaminated with atrazine, an agricultural chemical.

Putting her experience to work in new areas is an energizing part of Ms. Pickrel's job, and she is motivated by the prospect of restoring natural resources for future generations. "In some areas, people are advised not to swim in contaminated water or eat fish from certain areas. We are working to restore those resources so that they can be used again." And she is driven by the results she sees at Baron & Budd. "The work we do helps entire communities. Baron & Budd makes people's everyday lives better," she says.

Her work has earned her recognition by professional organizations. Ms. Pickrel has been named to the National Trial Lawyers' Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers every year since 2016, the Top 10 Environmental Trial Lawyers every year since 2020, the Top 25 Products Liability Trial Lawyers every year since 2020, and the Top 25 National Women Trial Lawyers every year since 2020. She was also selected as a Super Lawyers "Rising Star of Texas Law" (Thomson Reuters) in 2006 and, with her colleagues, was twice-nominated for Public Justice's Trial Lawyer of the Year Award in 2009 and in 2013.

While in law school at Southern Methodist University, Ms. Pickrel was on a team from the school's Civil Clinic that successfully represented a disabled man whose lack of medical treatment while in the custody of the Dallas county jail amounted to cruel and unusual punishment. After graduation, she returned to SMU as an adjunct clinical instructor of law to brief and argue the appeal of Lawson v. Dallas County, 112 F.3d 257 (5th Cir. 2002) before the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

Mark Pifko, a Shareholder at Baron & Budd, specializes in the prosecution of high-profile class action cases against multi-national corporations. Mr. Pifko's cases have addressed corporate fraud and wrongdoing across a broad array of business areas, including in the financial services, pharmaceutical, and automotive industries. Since joining the Los Angeles office of Baron & Budd in 2011, Mr. Pifko's efforts have led to the return of significant sums of money to victims and have affected changes in corporate behavior.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Pifko spent nearly a decade representing some of the world's largest companies in high-stakes litigation. In connection with that corporate defense work, Mr. Pifko worked with advertising agencies who helped sell his clients' products and services, and Mr. Pifko recalls that the tag line for one such agency was, "while life is busy happening, we get people to do stuff!" Corporations spend billions of dollars a year to get people to buy their offerings. But when things go wrong, where can injured parties go to get corporations to "do stuff," like refund money and stop unlawful practices from continuing? In 2010, Mr. Pifko left his position at a top-ranked D.C.-based international law firm so that

he could devote his entire practice to his passion — representing the interests of plaintiffs. Mr. Pifko is a resource to get recalcitrant companies to make things right.

Mr. Pifko believes class action and mass-tort lawsuits provide an important way for people to protect themselves from powerful corporations. Instead of one person taking on a billion-dollar company, complex litigation allows groups of people to fight back with a collective voice. In addition to his litigation work, Pifko has been called upon to be a speaker on class action topics at legal industry conferences. Mr. Pifko is also a talented writer whose articles on class action law and consumer advocacy have been published in California Lawyer magazine and the Daily Journal newspaper.

Since 2017, Mr. Pifko has devoted a substantial amount of time working on litigation related to the opioid crisis. Mr. Pifko is part of a team of lawyers who represent approximately 700 cities and counties and nine states in cases brought against manufacturers, distributors, and dispensers of opioid products. A September 13, 2019 article published in the Washington Post, titled Inside the Drug Industry's Plan to Defeat the DEA, discussed evidence uncovered by Mr. Pifko in connection with his deposition of the pharmaceutical distribution industry trade association known as the Healthcare Distribution Alliance. Additionally, Mr. Pifko was part of a team who, in March 2019, successfully obtained an order disqualifying an international law firm and a former U.S. Attorney from the bellwether cases brought by Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and the City of Cleveland.

William G. Powers joined Baron & Budd's Washington, D.C. office in 2018, where he represents clients in a broad range of legal issues at all stages of litigation in state and federal courts across the country. He brings a substantial breadth and depth of experience to the firm.

As a shareholder at Baron & Budd, Mr. Powers is part of our robust qui tam practice, specializing in litigation to combat civil fraud under the federal False Claims Act, state False Claims Acts, the Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law. Mr. Powers also represents clients with claims filed with the Whistleblower Offices of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. Mr. Powers has experience representing whistleblowers in qui tam cases against a variety of healthcare companies, as well as defense and other government contractors.

In addition to his qui tam practice, Mr. Powers has extensive experience with complex civil litigation. He is an integral part of the Baron & Budd team representing hundreds of cities and counties and numerous state Attorneys General in cases brought against manufacturers, distributors, and dispensers of opioids. He has worked on all aspects of the firm's opioid cases including formulating case theory, briefing and arguing numerous issues, deposing key witnesses, and participating in multiple trial teams.

Before Mr. Powers joined Baron & Budd, he was a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington D.C. At DOJ, he defended the United States in high-stakes mass tort and toxic tort litigation in federal courts

nationwide. Mr. Powers has researched, drafted, and argued motions to dismiss in multiple federal district courts, including successfully arguing before the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. Mr. Powers was awarded DOJ Civil Division Rookie of the Year for his exceptional performance and notable contributions toward the Division's mission.

In addition to his case duties, Mr. Powers trained other DOJ attorneys on issues such as governmental privileges, authentication of evidence, and Federal Tort Claims Act legal issues. Mr. Powers also was part of the Civil Division E-Discovery Committee where he provided input and drafted guidance on e-discovery issues. In addition, he was recognized as an outstanding mentor and managed his office's summer law intern program.

Prior to DOJ, Mr. Powers worked in the City of Philadelphia's Law Department. Mr. Powers also has worked as an intern for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Sandra Mozer Moss in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, and a private law firm.

During law school, Mr. Powers served as a staff editor for the Temple Journal of Science, Technology, & Environmental Law. He also received the Albert H. Friedman Writing Award and was a Rubin Public Interest Law Honor Society Fellow. In addition to his J.D., Mr. Powers earned a Certificate of Trial Advocacy and was recognized for his trial advocacy abilities as the Outstanding Oral Advocate in Trial Advocacy I and with the Barrister's Award in Trial Advocacy II.

Mr. Powers resides in Washington, DC. In his spare time, he can be found watching Georgetown basketball and New York Yankees baseball. He also enjoys cooking and skiing.

Torri Sherlin is a shareholder in Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group, which she joined in 2018. She practices in the firm's San Diego Office with a team that has resolved more than $1.7 billion for wildfire victims, including public entities, individuals, and businesses.

In 2020, Ms. Sherlin received the prestigious California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award from the Daily Journal for her work on the most comprehensive public entity wildfire resolution in the state's history. The settlement was reached on behalf of 23 public entities that suffered losses as a result of the 2017 Thomas fire and Montecito Debris Flows, and the 2018 Woolsey fire with Southern California Edison for $360 million. The resolution involved a historic agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services that reimburses federal and state disaster relief funds. Ms. Sherlin was instrumental in crafting and managing this first of its kind program with FEMA and Cal OES.

Ms. Sherlin's favored niche is in public entity representation, which is a natural fit as several members of her family dedicated their careers to public entities, most notably her father, for the county of San Diego for more than 40 years, and her

mother, for the San Diego Unified School District for more than 30 years. Continuing this rich heritage of public service, Torri Sherlin is proud to represent public entities, individuals, and businesses as plaintiffs in litigation.

Ms. Sherlin and Baron & Budd's wildfire litigation team have been selected by more than 100 public entities to pursue litigation against utilities in wildfire claims, having resolved the claims of more than 70 public entities for over $1.7 billion, with the remaining in active litigation. She actively represents and has resolved cases on behalf of public entities of all sizes against utility companies such as Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), PacifiCorp, and Public Service Company of Colorado d/b/a XCEL Energy (XCEL). In addition, Ms. Sherlin is serving or has served as lead or liaison counsel for public entities in several judicial counsel coordinated proceedings or consolidated actions throughout the State of California and out of state, including four fire cases: the Mosquito Fire, Marshall Fire, Fairview Fire, and Eaton Fire.

Her public entity clients include: the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Shasta, Tehama, Plumas, Butte, Lassen, Siskiyou, and Boulder; the cities of Santa Barbara, Malibu, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Santa Rosa, Chico, San Buenaventura; and special districts such as Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Ventura County Fire Protection District, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District, Mountains and Recreation Conservation Agency, Conejo Recreation and Park District, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency, Montecito Water District, Calaveras County Water District, Thermalito Water and Sewer District, and several fire districts, among others. Ms. Sherlin also represents non-profit agencies, community associations, and community college districts in wildfire litigation.

In addition, Ms. Sherlin represents numerous school districts in litigation against JUUL Labs, Inc., the leading e-cigarette manufacturer, for creating an epidemic of youth vaping that has infiltrated schools across the nation, impeding student learning and putting the health and safety of students at risk. Ms. Sherlin represents more than 75 school districts across the nation in the JUUL litigation. As the mother of a young toddler, she cares deeply for the future of our next generation, and is dedicated to "Protecting What's Right."

The steadfast determination Torri Sherlin now brings to Baron & Budd once drove her competitive spirit as an NCAA collegiate athlete for three athletic programs. Ms. Sherlin competed on the women's soccer, cross country and track teams at Concordia University in Austin, Texas, concluding her athletic campaign with a conference championship, regional rankings and individual American Southwest Conference All-Conference awards. In her free time, Ms. Sherlin enjoys exercising in the great outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Ms. Sherlin received her undergraduate degree in Behavioral Sciences from Concordia University in Austin. She received her law degree from the University of San Diego.

Scott Simmer is a recognized expert at routing out fraud in government programs, including for-profit education, healthcare (pharmacy benefit managers, drug and device manufacturers, Medicare Part D, Medicare Advantage), customs, and defense contractors. Joining with Baron & Budd as a shareholder in 2018 to form our Washington D.C. office, Mr. Simmer continues to represent whistleblowers bringing qui tam cases of fraud under federal and state False Claims Acts as well as IRS and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) whistleblowers.

Scott Simmer has led the investigation and prosecution of numerous precedent-setting fraud and abuse cases on behalf of whistleblowers and private insurance payors. He has written and spoken widely on legal issues related to the federal False Claims Act (FCA), the Anti-Kickback statute, 340B, Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA); as well as on healthcare fraud and abuse, antitrust violations and issues related to Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) contracting.

Among the many cases that Mr. Simmer has brought to a successful conclusion is a $350 million settlement in 2025 with the chain pharmacy Walgreens involving its fraudulent dispensing of opioids, which followed a $409 million settlement with chain pharmacy Rite Aid and an $8.4 million settlement with Food City, both in 2024. Those cases also alleged claims regarding the retail pharmacies' fraudulent opioid dispensing.

Mr. Simmer has received several notable accolades while at Baron & Budd. Every year since 2024, he has been a recipient of the Best Lawyers in America – Qui Tam Law award. He has been named to National Trial Lawyers' Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Lawyers every year since 2023. Lawdragon has named him one of their 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers every year since 2024. He was recognized as a Distinguished Attorney by Martindale-Avvo in 2026.

His dedication to "doing what's right" drives every case he takes on behalf of whistleblowers. "Scott Simmer is an outstanding attorney and I am pleased to have him at Baron & Budd," said President and Managing Shareholder, Russell Budd. "Scott and his team bring a strong record of success pursuing complex litigation which closely aligns with the breadth and scope of Baron & Budd's existing practice areas."

Lindsay Stevens joined the San Diego, California, offices of Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group as a shareholder in 2025. Ms. Stevens' desire to utilize her lifelong passion for writing as a tool for advocacy eventually led her to pursue a legal career where she is honored to have a positive impact on the lives of the people she represents.

Ms. Stevens' practice has focused on protecting what's right by holding some of the largest corporations in the world accountable for harming everyday consumers.

Through the years, she has represented clients in various mass tort litigations against pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers, including the Taxotere®/docetaxel chemotherapy litigation, 3M military earplug cases, Zantac, Allergan breast implants, fluoroquinolone antibiotics (Levaquin, Cipro and Avelox), Fitbit, and the Granuflo Dialysate litigation, as well as other matters. She has also assisted in representing individuals who have suffered devastating losses from wildfires, holding electrical utility companies responsible for the harm caused by their utilities in the Woolsey and Butte fires. Before joining the firm, Ms. Stevens collaborated with Baron & Budd on the firm's polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) litigation in representing the City of San Diego against Monsanto for polluting San Diego Bay with these forever chemicals.

Ms. Stevens was eager to join Baron & Budd's environmental litigation team to continue her representation of public entities in PCB water contamination lawsuits against Monsanto and Bayer. She is also part of the team representing the largest group of California's litigating public entities in the case against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and national retailers. Along with other matters, Ms. Stevens represents the counties of San Diego, Sacramento and Del Norte in representative actions on behalf of the people of the state of California for public nuisance lawsuits against social media giants Meta, Snap, Google, YouTube and TikTok, alleging the creation of a health crisis among minors in developing compulsive and addictive behaviors due to social media algorithms and user-interface design intended to create repetitive uses.

Ms. Stevens was born and raised in Southern California. In 2003, she completed her undergraduate education at the University of California at San Diego, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in human development from Thurgood Marshall College. She was an active member of the Order of Omega Honor Society and received provost's honors. Upon graduation, she began pursuing a legal career, working as a volunteer intern in the San Diego District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division.

Ms. Stevens obtained her Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from California Western School of Law in 2007. She was the recipient of an academic merit scholarship for the entirety of her law school career and was named to the dean's honor list all three years, as well. While at California Western, she developed a passion for alternative dispute resolution and served as a student mediator at Juvenile Hall and Small Claims Court. Ms. Stevens received an academic achievement award for placing first in her class in both Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution and served on California Western's Law Review as both an associate writer and associate editor.

In her spare time, Ms. Stevens enjoys cooking, trying new restaurants and attending country music concerts. She values giving back to her community and volunteers as an advisory member of Las Patronas and as a patroness of the Seaside Chapter of the National Charity League. She also loves spending every moment she can with her husband and two teenage daughters.

Adam Tamburelli joined Baron & Budd in March 2020 and is a shareholder in our Class Action Litigation Group's Los Angeles office. Mr. Tamburelli chose to dedicate his career to seeking justice for victims of corporate greed after graduating law school in the midst of the late-2000s recession and witnessing the devastating impact that the predatory corporate conduct responsible for the recession had upon the lives of so many people. He has served as lead or co-lead counsel in many national and statewide class action cases against some of the largest corporations and law firms in the country, where he has recovered tens of millions of dollars for consumers and employees through his passionate representation.

A Michigan native, Mr. Tamburelli began his career in Chicago representing plaintiffs in consumer fraud, false advertising, product defect, and environmental class actions, as well as in personal injury and civil rights cases. He also represented professionals, such as physicians, dentists, nurses, insurance producers, and real estate brokers, in professional disciplinary proceedings before state and federal agencies. After moving to California in 2015, Mr. Tamburelli continued his work on behalf of consumers and employees at a prominent plaintiff-side employment litigation firm, leading teams of law firms in the fight against wage theft and other employer misconduct. Mr. Tamburelli also has substantial appellate experience, as he has successfully litigated numerous state and federal appeals.

Mr. Tamburelli earned his law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. During law school, he received academic awards and appeared on the Dean's List multiple times. He also served as a summer law clerk for a district court judge in Michigan and completed an externship with Justice Margaret O'Mara-Frossard of the Illinois Appellate Court.

Mr. Tamburelli's passion for fighting for individuals is predicated upon his belief in economic and social justice for all and the fact that class actions are often the only check on rapacious corporate malfeasance. In his free time, Mr. Tamburelli can be found in the mountains hiking, watching baseball, and exploring California.

Roland Tellis is the Chair of Baron & Budd's Los Angeles-based Class Action Practice Group and co-manages the firm's Los Angeles office. His practice focuses on complex, high-profile litigation, including consumer class actions, financial fraud, business torts, corporate misconduct, automobile defects, securities fraud and environmental contamination. He has held leadership roles in numerous multi-district, complex class action cases, including:

•Appointed Co-Lead Counsel in In re: ZF-TRW Airbag Control Units Products Liability Litigation, a multi-state class action involving millions of defective airbag control units.

•Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation, a multi-state mass tort action filed by governmental entities against the manufacturers and distributors of opioids widely believed to be the largest MDL case in U.S. history. Achieved a $26 billion settlement against three opioid distributors and an opioid manufacturer.

•Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in In re: Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation, a multi-state mass tort action filed against Meta Platforms, Instagram, TikTok, ByteDance, YouTube, Google and Alphabet alleging that defendants' social media platforms are defective because they are designed to encourage addictive behavior in adolescents.

•Appointed Co-Lead Counsel for the Class Action Track in Southern California Gas Leak Cases, a coordinated class action filed by property owners against a gas utility for causing the largest natural gas leak in U.S. history. Achieved a $40 million non-reversionary common fund settlement for area residents.

•Appointed Co-Lead Counsel in In re: Wells Fargo Collateral Protection Insurance Litigation, a nationwide class action case involving forced-placed automobile collateral protection insurance. Achieved a $423 million non-reversionary common fund settlement which provided payments to consumers without the need for claim forms or documentary proof.

•Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in In re: Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, a multi-state class action involving hundreds of thousands of vehicles equipped with "defeat devices" designed to evade emissions laws. Achieved a settlement worth more than $14.5 billion.

•Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in In re: Takata Airbag Products Liability Litigation, a multi-state class action involving millions of vehicles equipped with a defective airbag inflator resulting in the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. Achieved a $1.5 billion settlement against seven automaker defendants.

•Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in In re: Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep EcoDiesel Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation, a multi-state class action involving vehicles equipped with "defeat devices" designed to evade emissions laws. Achieved a settlement worth more than $500 million.

Mr. Tellis has also represented clients in numerous jury trials, including several involving hundreds of millions of dollars. In 2005, Mr. Tellis received commendation from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for his assistance in a successful parallel prosecution of a $120 million securities Ponzi scheme perpetrated by foreign currency traders. Mr. Tellis also represented the owner of a multi-billion-dollar commercial real estate portfolio in a lengthy jury trial over claims of an alleged oral partnership and the Screen Actors' Guild and members of its national board in a leadership battle.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Tellis practiced with the international law firms of Bingham McCutchen LLP and Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP. There, he litigated complex cases on behalf of corporate defendants and tried multi-million-dollar cases to verdict.

In 2018, Mr. Tellis was honored with the Daily Journal's 2018 "California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year" award for his role in the Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" MDL. Mr. Tellis has also been named among the Best Lawyers in America every year since 2014, a Super Lawyer every year since 2009 and was a faculty member of the Practicing Law Institute and Chair of its annual program entitled "Taking and Defending Depositions."

He was elected to serve on the Board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers and was appointed to serve as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. He was the Chair of the United States District Court for the Central District of California's Attorney Settlement Officer Panel Committee and was appointed by the Chief Judge of the Central District of California to the Board of Trustees for the Central District's Attorney Admission Fund. Additionally, Mr. Tellis serves on the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Along the way, Mr. Tellis has devoted time to the pro bono representations of indigent clients and has mentored young lawyers and law students in association with the South Asian Bar Association.

Michael Thakur joined Baron & Budd as a shareholder in 2025. Mr. Thakur is part of the firm's Opioid Litigation group, which represents state and local governments in lawsuits to recover damages caused by corporate wrongdoing in the opioid crisis.

Michael Thakur is an experienced trial attorney who, before joining the firm, served for almost 15 years as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida. "My work at Baron & Budd is in many ways a continuation of the type of work I did as a prosecutor, holding corporations and people accountable for clear violations of the law and helping protect the rights of victims and the public."

At the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Thakur prosecuted a wide range of cases: wire fraud, credit card fraud, and investor fraud; international narcotics trafficking; and numerous violent crime and gun trials. He also worked on global money laundering investigations~~;~~ and sensitive national security matters involving terrorism and foreign espionage.

For two years, Mr. Thakur was a deputy chief of Major Crimes, supervising prosecutors in the most trial-intensive section of the U.S. Attorney's Office. He then spent eight years in the National Security section, where he successfully led a trial team in a case against an unlicensed exporter who violated commercial and military export controls. Mr. Thakur has briefed and argued multiple cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. From 2023 to 2024, he was on detail to a Special Counsel's Office involved in the investigation and prosecution of a former head of state. In an opinion article published in the *Miami Herald* in February 2025, a former U.S. Magistrate Judge praised Mr. Thakur as "one of Miami's finest federal prosecutors" and "one of the best to appear before me and my colleagues on the bench."

Michael Thakur graduated from Harvard College, *magna cum laude*, with a degree in economics, and received the *John Harvard scholarship for academic achievement*. He was also a *National Hispanic Scholar*. He graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he was an Editor of the *Harvard Law Review* and a recipient of the *Dean's Award for Community Leadership* by then-Dean Elena Kagan. After law school, Mr. Thakur clerked for the Honorable Stanley Marcus on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mr. Thakur's interest in the law began early on. He was not yet a teenager when he began poring over the U.S. Constitution and American history to help quiz his father, who was studying to pass the U.S. citizenship test. "The law, at its best," Michael Thakur says, "is a force for good. The law lifts up Americans against injustices and provides a beacon of hope for those who have been harmed."

Michael Thakur was an inaugural trustee of Awesome Foundation Miami, a micro-grant program that supports local civic projects. He also was chosen for several leadership programs, including the Miami Fellows Program through the Miami Foundation and the statewide Connect Florida, hosted by Leadership Florida.

These days, when not focused on the law, Mr. Thakur enjoys traveling with his wife and visiting National Parks; playing amateur soccer with his two young sons; and trying to find his boys in occasionally intense rounds of hide and seek around the house.

Holly Werkema is a shareholder in our Dallas office who manages Baron & Budd's Pharmaceutical Litigation Group, where she represents clients and their families adversely affected by dangerous prescription drugs and defective medical devices. She joined Baron & Budd in 2012 in the firm's general litigation group, representing homeowners throughout the southeast affected by toxic Chinese drywall installations in their homes. Following the successful resolution of the Chinese drywall cases, Ms. Werkema has represented Baron & Budd's clients in complex multi-district and consolidated litigations involving Fresenius' GranuFlo/NaturaLyte dialysis products, DePuy Orthopeadics' ASR and Pinnacle hip implants, Stryker V-40 hip implants, Biomet Magnum hip implants, Janssen Pharmaceuticals' Risperdal, Johnson & Johnson's Power Morcellator, Gilead Science's tenofovir drugs, and Bayer's Essure birth control device, to name a few.

Ms. Werkema has always had a passion for bringing justice to people harmed by pharmaceutical companies that market their products as safe when they are not or when they have misrepresented the efficacy and toxicity of their medical commodities. Over the course of her career, Ms. Werkema has worked tirelessly representing clients in complex multi-district litigation involving a number of high-profile pharmaceutical defendants. She is dedicated to obtaining just compensation for the firm's clients from pharmaceutical corporations that put dangerous drugs and/or devices on the market.

In 2016, Ms. Werkema and the Baron & Budd pharmaceutical litigation team significantly contributed to obtaining a $250 million settlement In Re: Fresenius Granuflo/Naturalyte Dialysis Products Liability Litig. (D. Mass., MDL No. 2428), which involved sudden, fatal heart attacks caused by drugs used to neutralize the buildup of acid in the body during kidney dialysis. Plaintiffs alleged that Fresenius knew the risks to their patients but failed to warn or protect them from heart attacks, sudden cardiac arrests and other serious cardiovascular problems. That same year, she participated in negotiations leading to a successful settlement in In Re: Ethicon, Inc., Power Morcellator Products Liability Litigation (D. Kansas, MDL No. 2652), involving the manufacture of power morcellators, a device used during surgery to remove fibroids or the entire uterus during a hysterectomy which was found to increase the risk of spreading undiagnosed uterine cancer throughout the abdominal cavity.

Since 2016, Holly Werkema has managed the litigation of individual lawsuits and was an instrumental player in bellwether trial preparation against Bayer AG, manufacturer of the Essure permanent birth control device, which has been linked to several serious health complications in women, including device migration, fallopian tube perforation and vaginal bleeding. In 2020, Bayer announced it would pay $1.6 billion to settle 90 percent of the nearly 39,000 U.S. claims.

Ms. Werkema was also deeply involved in complex litigation against Janssen Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturers of the antipsychotic drug Risperdal, which was found to cause breast enlargement in adolescent males. Ms. Werkema and the Baron & Budd team successfully settled hundreds of lawsuits in this matter.

Since 2015, Ms. Werkema has also managed the firm's cases against DePuy Orthopaedics, Wright Medical, Biomet/Zimmer, Stryker, and Smith & Nephew, which involve injuries caused by design flaws in hip implants. These implants have been linked to serious health problems, including nervous system damage, metal poisoning and infections in thousands of patients. Ms. Werkema has successfully resolved defective hip implant cases on behalf of Baron & Budd clients totaling several million dollars.

Ms. Werkema also manages the firm's lawsuits against Gilead Sciences, Inc. for failing to warn thousands of HIV/AIDS patients about life-threatening physical harm, kidney problems and bone loss caused by emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, the active ingredients in Truvada, a pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, drug.

She likewise manages ongoing litigation against Bayer-AG for Monsanto's manipulation of studies on glyphosate, the active ingredient in its RoundUp weed killer. Plaintiffs allege that Monsanto doctored its research in order to make it seem that the chemical is safe to use, when the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research determined in 2015 that glyphosate was probably cancerous to humans. Litigation is ongoing in this complex action in which plaintiffs assert that Monsanto and Bayer-AG failed to warn consumers of the cancer risks associated with use of its weed killer. Recently Bayer-AG has announced its intention to settle RoundUp claims in the range of ten billion dollars.

Ms. Werkema also manages litigation on behalf of a large group of plaintiffs in cases involving severe and permanent injuries caused by hernia mesh implants. Ms. Werkema routinely navigates the intricate issues which frequently present themselves in complex mass torts. She works closely with other plaintiffs' attorneys to build consensus and bring a coordinated approach to litigation.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Werkema served the State of Florida Department of Financial Services as an attorney in the Prosecution and Enforcement Litigation Group. There she developed significant litigation skills representing the Department in enforcement proceedings, rule challenge proceedings, property claim denial proceedings and garnishment proceedings.

Evan Zucker joined Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office in 2014. He is a shareholder who specializes in class action cases, as well as banking and pharmaceutical litigation. Mr. Zucker is dedicated to fighting for the rights of consumers who have been harmed by the systemic, uniform and unscrupulous practices of corporations.

Before joining Baron & Budd, Evan Zucker represented clients in matters which had positive ramifications across the country for those who had been victims of improper mortgage and insurance practices. He has been appointed class counsel or co-class counsel in more than a dozen state and nationwide class action matters dealing with corporate malfeasance. During that time, Mr. Zucker also represented individuals in civil rights cases against various state and local law enforcement entities, receiving several favorable settlements for these citizens. Additionally, he worked with California senators to pass legislation protecting the privacy of Californians who were victimized by online extortion schemes which posted consumers' personal information online. Mr. Zucker was instrumental in furthering litigation aimed at shutting down these prolific cyber-extortionists.

In his work at Baron & Budd, Mr. Zucker was a participant in the trial team that won the largest verdict in the State of Hawaii against a pair of pharmaceutical companies who defrauded the public for more than a decade by failing to warn consumers about known risks associated with their cardiovascular medication. He was also part of the Plaintiffs' Leadership team in a case resulting from one of the largest methane leaks in the U.S., which forced tens of thousands of Southern California residents to relocate from their homes. Mr. Zucker was instrumental in securing a settlement in that case for well over a billion dollars on behalf of the impacted residents. Additionally, Mr. Zucker was the lead associate in a case holding Bank of America responsible for years of appraisal fraud that helped form the foundation of the 2008 housing market collapse, recovering in excess of a quarter-billion-dollar settlement for mortgagees.

Currently, Mr. Zucker is a participant in the trial team seeking to hold the opioid industry responsible for the devastating impacts of the epidemic it caused. He is proud to put his experience to work fighting for victims of the ongoing opioid crisis.

In 2022, Public Justice nominated Evan Zucker for Trial Lawyer of the Year. The same year, he was also nominated by the Consumer Attorneys of California for

Consumer Attorney of the Year. Both nominations reflect his strong affinity for protecting the rights of individuals.

Evan Zucker was in middle school when his family's home was devastated by the '94 Northridge earthquake. At the time, he saw the tremendous impact that industry-wide insurance and corporate practices could have on middle class families, especially after a natural disaster. As a result of this experience, even before deciding to attend law school, Mr. Zucker gravitated toward work in law firms that handled cases against large companies who sought to take advantage of those with less power.

Ultimately, Mr. Zucker found himself working to recover hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of commercial and residential policyholders faced with catastrophic losses after that same Northridge earthquake. As a result of these experiences, he was inspired to seek a career in law. He has been representing plaintiffs ever since, and has continued that work as a part of Baron & Budd's consumer protection team.

In his spare time, Mr. Zucker enjoys hiking in the mountains around his home with his wife and playing basketball. During the winter he finds time for skiing and snowboarding.

FIRM ATTORNEYS

Sean Affleck is an attorney in Baron & Budd's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups. He joined the firm in 2025.

Mr. Affleck is an alumnus of Florida State University and Florida Coastal School of Law. He furthered his legal acumen by obtaining a Master of Laws in Taxation from the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law in 2009.

Mr. Affleck brings more than a decade of experience representing financial services entities and corporate plaintiffs across a spectrum of litigation and real estate matters. Formerly serving as a managing attorney at a prominent law firm specializing in residential foreclosure, title, real estate-owned properties, and evictions, Mr. Affleck navigated the intricacies of banking's stringent regulatory framework. In 2014, he narrowed his focus to complex commercial litigation, where his proficiency yielded favorable outcomes for real estate and commercial finance enterprises, among others.

Outside of law, Mr. Affleck enjoys indulging several passions. Whether he's riding his vintage BMW motorcycle, exploring new destinations, experimenting with culinary creations, golfing (poorly) with friends, or (occasionally) hitting the gym, Mr. Affleck embraces a well-rounded lifestyle.

Molly Allen joined Baron Budd as an attorney in 2019. She is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

A Texas native, Ms. Allen played softball for University of Mississippi and Louisiana Tech University. During her time as a student-athlete, she earned Southeastern Conference (SEC) and Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Academic All-Conference Awards for each year of athletic participation. In 2011, Ms. Allen earned a bachelor's degree in business finance from Louisiana Tech University. After graduation, she worked in the commercial construction industry for five years.

Ms. Allen received her law degree from Marquette University in 2019. During law school, she earned a sports law certificate from the National Sports Law Institute and participated in the Marquette Sports Law Review. Additionally, she was involved in many different pro bono opportunities, including the Domestic Violence Injunction Hearings Project, Estate Planning Clinic, and Guardianship Clinic. Additionally, through the Sports Law Program, she interned with the legal team for the Milwaukee Brewers baseball club. In her free time, Ms. Allen enjoys attending Texas Rangers baseball games, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Sushma Bansal is an attorney at Baron & Budd. She joined the firm 2024 as part of the document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Ms. Bansal began her legal career as a human rights lawyer working for *Lawyers Collective*, a public interest legal service provider in Mumbai, India, offering legal aid and allied services in human rights advocacy by providing legal assistance to those living with HIV/AIDS. Ms. Bansal then worked as an assistant professor at the Government Law College in Mumbai and the Symbiosis Law College in Pune, India. During this time, Ms. Bansal was appointed by the Maharashtra Public Service Commission as a Class I Officer of the State.

Since moving with her husband and two sons to the United States, Ms. Bansal has worked in the litigation and immigration law fields. She also volunteers her time providing help to students and the community with visa applications.

Sushma Bansal says that competence, compassion, and integrity are the core qualities she brings to the practice of being a lawyer. When she is not at work, she enjoys experiencing unique cultures all over the world with her husband and sons. She also loves reading non-fiction books and practicing yoga.

Cody Bryner joined Baron & Budd as an attorney in 2024. He is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Bryner earned a bachelor's degree in marketing at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania in 2018. In 2021 Mr. Bryner received his juris doctor from the Thomas R. Kline Drexel School of Law in Philadelphia. During law school, Mr. Bryner volunteered at an estate planning clinic, interned for the Berks County District Attorney's Office, and clerked with a commercial law firm.

Mr. Bryner believes in maintaining a wholesome work/life balance that brings him joy in both arenas. When he is not at work, he enjoys reading, watching movies, playing board games with his family, and relaxing with his senior yellow Labrador, Sandy.

Anna V. Cairns joined the Los Angeles offices of Baron & Budd in 2026. She is an associate in the firm's Class Action Litigation Group.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Cairns honed her litigation skills representing individuals in personal injury actions ranging from life altering impairments and tragic wrongful death actions to rideshare driver sexual assault proceedings. Ms. Cairns also spent several years managing a caseload of hundreds of wildfire victims as they struggled with devastating losses from fires caused by utility company equipment, including the Camp Fire, Woolsey Fire, and Lahaina Fire. In her spare time, Ms. Cairns also did pro bono work, including assisting an underage migrant apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status so he could progress on his path toward obtaining a Permanent Resident Card. Throughout her career, Ms. Cairns has never wavered from her passion for advocating for the less privileged and less valued voices in society.

Ms. Cairns's enthusiasm for the legal field began in high school when she first studied the United States Constitution in her Advanced Placement US History class. Her appetite for the law grew even stronger during her study of political science and economics at the University of San Diego. Ms. Cairns returned to the University of San Diego for law school, where she graduated *cum laude* in 2019.

While in law school, Ms. Cairns externed for the Honorable Anthony J. Battaglia at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California, and for Justice Richard D. Huffman at the California Fourth District Court of Appeal. She also co-authored, with Professor Virginia Nelson, a self-published text supplement, *Comparing Discovery Devices*, which compared California state and federal discovery rules, in her role as assistant to the professor during her class on civil discovery. In 2018, Ms. Cairns received a CALI Excellence for the Future Award for earning the highest grade in her Climate Change Law and Policy class, a prestigious scholastic honor administered by the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, a non-profit consortium of law schools.

When not working on behalf of Baron & Budd clients or advocating for the underprivileged, Ms. Cairns can be found paddleboarding at the beach or hiking in the mountains with her husband and rescue dog. She also enjoys live music and international travel.

Chris Campbell joined Baron & Budd's Dallas Environmental Litigation Group in August of 2016. He works with our west coast environmental team representing municipalities harmed by hazardous chemicals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and Trichloroethylene (TCEs), which have been allowed to leach into the soil and community drinking water systems by unscrupulous corporations.

Chris Campbell's affinity for the environment began at an early age, as he explored the riverbanks near his childhood home in Wichita, Kansas and later the wooded expanses near his Fort Worth area backyard, developing a love of the outdoors. After graduating from the University of North Texas in 2007 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice, Mr. Campbell enrolled in the Texas Wesleyan School of Law (now Texas A & M University School of Law), where he became vice president of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society and did pro bono work for Legal Aid of Northwest Texas.

After obtaining his law degree, Mr. Campbell honed his litigating skills by working in probate and estate planning, elder law, breach of contract, and employment law. He worked for a time at a firm in Corpus Christi representing vehicular accident clients whose cases had been turned down by other firms. Through his diligent and thoughtful investigation (talking to witnesses and police officers, carefully examining the opposing party's reckless driving and cell phone records), Mr. Campbell was able to establish solid cases and secure recoveries for many of those clients. "It felt good to know that I had obtained sizeable compensation for the suffering my clients had undergone through months of physical therapy and the stress of not knowing how they would pay their medical bills," he says. Mr. Campbell also gained experience in antitrust law, working on a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) probe into a major oil and gas company executive who was being investigated for possible fraudulent business activities.

It was while Chris Campbell was working in Corpus Christi that he first experienced what it was like to live in an area where the municipal water was not fit to drink – or bathe or wash clothes in. Over the course of two years, from 2015 to 2016, the City of Corpus Christi was forced to issue multiple "water advisories" warning its citizens to boil their drinking water because it was contaminated with bacteria, including on one occasion E. coli, and on another by an asphalt emulsifier called indulin AA86, which no amount of boiling, freezing, filtering or treating could eradicate.

It was this exposure to the hardships a community suffers when a resource as vital and elemental as drinking water becomes contaminated that led Mr. Campbell to seek employment with Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group. Now he coordinates discovery and e-discovery projects for our west coast environmental litigation team, helping the Group represent municipalities harmed by PCBs, TCE, TCB, MTBE and atrazine in groundwater and municipal water systems. He also leads document review teams hired by Baron & Budd on a contract basis.

When he is not fighting to clean up the water, air and soil, Chris Campbell still enjoys being outdoors more than anything else. As a youth he organized neighborhood sports leagues in football, baseball and basketball. He is a rabid Texas Rangers baseball fan, traveling throughout the country to attend games whenever possible. But protecting the environment is never far from his mind. "As a boy I played in the woods near my home, exploring the wilderness and building forts. Now, I work to undermine the fortresses built by big corporations to shield themselves from liability for contaminating our precious resources."

Kenneth D. Capesius Kenneth D. Capesius first joined Baron & Budd in 2018 as a paralegal. After earning his law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), he returned to Baron & Budd as an associate in 2022. Mr. Capesius works in the firm's robust Qui Tam practice, focusing on litigation to combat civil fraud under the False Claims Act, the California Insurance Frauds Prevention Act (IFPA), and other federal and state laws.

Mr. Capesius earned his bachelor's degree in politics from Cornell College, graduating *magna cum laude*. While at UCLA School of Law, Mr. Capesius fought for voting rights as a volunteer with the UCLA Voting Rights Project. He was also active in the mock trial and moot court programs, winning multiple national competitions. For his accomplishments, Mr. Capesius was inducted into the Order of Barristers, a national organization that recognizes excellence in advocacy and service. Prior to joining Baron & Budd, he worked as a paralegal at the Simmer Law Group in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Capesius was drawn to a legal career by its potential for creating change. "The law shapes so many aspects of our lives, even if we never stop to think about the impact it has." He recognizes that change can be elusive – a result of the law's propensity to protect those with power and resources. "But every case presents an opportunity to move the needle and make a difference for those who may feel they have no voice in challenging the status quo." For Kenny Capesius, the practice of law is about "seizing opportunities to stand up for what is right and pursuing justice."

Mr. Capesius resides in Southern California with his spouse. They enjoy taking walks with their dog, trying new cuisines, and exploring the southwest's natural beauty. Mr. Capesius also enjoys cooking, playing softball, and cheering on the Chicago Cubs.

Seth Casey joined Baron & Budd as an attorney in 2024. He is part of the document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Casey is an Arkansas native who grew up in the Mississippi River delta. He attended Arkansas State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 2012 and a master's degree in public administration in 2015. After working for several years as a non-profit manager, Mr. Casey was accepted to the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis in Tennessee.

During law school, Mr. Casey worked as an intern for his local public defender's office and the federal public defender's office for the Western District of Tennessee. After earning his juris doctor in 2021, Mr. Casey began his career at Legal Aid of Arkansas where he practiced consumer protection and family law while also utilizing his non-profit background as head of LGBTQ+ advocacy.

Mr. Casey is pleased to dedicate his talents to defending the rights of those harmed by corporate wrongdoing. When not "protecting what's right" at Baron & Budd, Mr. Casey enjoys spending time with his wife and their two rescue dogs.

Rebecca Currier is an associate with Baron & Budd's Practice Management Group. Prior to that, she worked in the firm's Legacy Case Management Group, advocating for our clients with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases.

Ms. Currier obtained her bachelor's degree from Cornell University in Industrial and Labor Relations. She worked for many years in human resource positions influencing and implementing workplace policies. In the evenings, she began pursuit of her law degree. In 2010, Ms. Currier graduated with her Juris Doctor from Texas Wesleyan School of Law (now Texas A&M School of Law). With law degree in hand, Ms. Currier relocated to her hometown in Upstate New York where she established a profitable solo practice.

In 2014, Ms. Currier joined the law firm of Baron & Budd, P.C. Her position with the Firm Management Group is an ideal platform from which to leverage her well-rounded experience in law and her industrial and labor relations background.

Nick Custred joined Baron & Budd in 2019 as an associate briefing and appellate attorney in the firm's Asbestos Litigation Group and Catastrophic Injury Group, where he advocates on behalf of clients with mesothelioma and other egregious injuries by utilizing research and writing skills to draft motions and court pleadings on issues specific to each client's case. Mr. Custred is dedicated to providing optimal legal representation to his clients, and he believes this level of representation begins with a thorough understanding of the law and facts pertaining to each individual case.

A native Texan, Mr. Custred attended college at the University of North Texas where he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 2013. Upon graduating from UNT, Mr. Custred attended law school at the Texas Tech School of Law in Lubbock, Texas, where he served as an editor on the Texas Tech Business & Bankruptcy Law Journal. During his time at Tech Law, Mr. Custred received awards for his outstanding editing and writing skills, while also excelling in the school's trial advocacy program.

Mr. Custred was inducted into the National Order of Barristers in 2016 for his skill as a trial advocate. He also served as a coach and mentor for young law students interested in learning the art of trial advocacy. While studying at Tech Law, Mr. Custred worked as a law clerk at a personal injury firm in Lubbock, Texas, where he was able to sharpen his legal research and writing skills to represent plaintiffs in various personal injury lawsuits across west Texas.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Custred worked as an associate attorney at a plaintiff personal injury firm in Dallas, Texas, where he gained valuable experience representing hundreds of clients injured as a result of major corporations and medical providers valuing profits over the well-being of their customers, patients, and employees. During this time, Mr. Custred was able to refine his legal writing

skills by providing legal representation to clients in various fields of law, including complex commercial litigation, personal injury, probate litigation, insurance litigation, products liability, medical malpractice, consumer/deceptive trade practice, and defamation.

In his position at Baron & Budd, Mr. Custred utilizes his legal writing skills to ensure that victims of catastrophic injuries and irresponsible manufacturers receive the legal representation they deserve. Through his understanding of complex motion practice and legal writing, Mr. Custred strives to produce the highest quality work product that will advance his clients' cases and enhance the value of their claims.

Katy Davis is an attorney in Baron & Budd's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups. She joined the firm in 2024.

Ms. Davis earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City in 2003. She went on to earn her law degree in 2007, with an emphasis in taxation, from the Chapman University School of Law in Orange, California, where she served on the Chapman Law Review. During law school, Ms. Davis interned at the United States District Court for the District of Utah and the tax division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California in Los Angeles. She also enjoyed an opportunity to represent low-income taxpayers in tax controversy cases before the IRS during her volunteer work at the Chapman University Tax Administration Clinic.

Following law school, Ms. Davis worked for firms in Illinois and Nevada with a focus on business transactions, estate planning and asset protection. The opportunity and ability to serve as an effective advocate for others is what initially attracted her to the practice of law and still drives her practice today.

When she is not at work, Ms. Davis is passionate about exploring national parks with her family. She also enjoys live music and watching Vegas Golden Knights hockey games.

Michael Dobbs joined Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office as an associate in 2024. He works in our Class Action Litigation Group. His life-long commitment to public service and social justice led Mr. Dobbs to litigate on behalf of victims of consumer fraud and manufacturer negligence.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Dobbs represented plaintiffs in class action lawsuits involving consumer fraud, environmental justice, and unlawful utility rates. At his previous law firm, Mr. Dobbs handled all phases of litigation to include drafting complaints, extensive motion practice, discovery, participating in settlement conferences, and management of expert witnesses in science, engineering, and economics.

Michael Dobbs received his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Irvine School of Law in 2021. As a law student, he clerked for the Office of the Attorney General of California writing responses to criminal appeals and for the Veterans

Legal Institute. Michael Dobbs successfully provided oral arguments for the State of California in two criminal appeals before the Fourth District Court of Appeal. He also served as a research assistant on comity between national legal systems and recovered VA benefits for veterans and their families while working in the school's advanced appellate clinic. Michael Dobbs was part of a team of students who developed early versions of the Parental Leave Rights App for the California Department of Fair Employment & Housing using AI-empowered software.

Prior to entering the legal profession, Mr. Dobbs served 22 years in the U.S. Navy and commanded a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. After leaving the U.S. Submarine Force, Mr. Dobbs worked as a system engineer designing, integrating, and testing military command, control, and communications systems and served as part-time and adjunct faculty for several San Diego universities and for the U.S. Naval War College. Michael Dobbs received his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of Grenoble, France, Institute of Political Studies.

Michael Dobbs is enthusiastic about children's literacy and military history and strategy. He is also active in the San Diego sailing community.
Samantha Dubiel joined Baron & Budd as an attorney in 2024. She is part of the document review team that works with our Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Ms. Dubiel earned her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where she graduated in 2015. Afterward, she attended Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Auburn Hills, Michigan, graduating in 2019. While attending law school on an honors scholarship, Ms. Dubiel served as president of her Student Bar Association in 2018 as well as the director of public relations in fall of 2017. Ms. Dubiel received the Leadership Achievement Award in 2019 for her substantial involvement in on-campus activities. Ms. Dubiel's paper, titled *Child Vehicular Hyperthermia: The Preventable Accidental Tragedy, the Current and Future Law Surrounding the Rising Epidemic, and Possible Solutions for the Future of our Children*, was published in the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Journal of Practical and Clinical Law in 2019.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Dubiel practiced regulatory law with a focus on licensing and compliance work. Ms. Dubiel has always had a passion for helping others and is excited about the opportunity that Baron & Budd has given her to truly change people's lives.

Natalie Ebolum joined Baron & Budd as an associate in 2026 in the firm's Pharmaceutical Litigation Group. Ms. Ebolum represents clients who have suffered catastrophic injuries or the death of a loved one due to defective medical devices or harmful medicines.

Ms. Ebolum graduated from the University of Tennessee Knoxville in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology and criminal justice, and a concurrent

Bachelor of Arts degree in Africana studies. She knew she wanted to be a lawyer early on, and to that end pursued a master's in criminal justice at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, graduating magna cum laude in 2014 having authored an ethnography-styled master thesis while concurrently serving as an adjunct professor in John Jay's Department of Law, Police Science, & Criminal Justice Administration. She found that teaching college students about the complexity of the criminal legal system was immensely satisfying and is an avocation she has continued for more than a decade, calling it a most "rewarding labor of love."

Ms. Ebolum entered law school at Louisiana State University's Paul M. Herbert Law Center in Baton Rouge in 2016, graduating with her juris doctor in 2019. During a year-long judicial clerkship for the Honorable Douglas H. Hurd in Mercer County, New Jersey, Ms. Ebolum served as lead law clerk for the court's civil division, authored its official clerk's training manual, sat on a COVID advisory board with the New Jersey Administration of Courts to perfect the flow and normalcy of judicial proceedings, and served on the trial training team for Phase I reopening, in addition to training all incoming Civil Division judicial law clerks.

Dearest to Ms. Ebolum's heart, however, was her work with the Court Appointed Special Advocate organization in the New Jersey Family Courts, Newark Vicinage. There, she advocated for children in foster care who were removed from their homes due to severe neglect and physical, and/or sexual abuse. As a case supervisor, she led training for the state's Department of Child Protection and trained hundreds of volunteers to serve as advocates for children. As a program director, she developed a strategy to connect teenage foster youth with extended family members and served as the community outreach and legislative liaison for CASA. In her multiple roles with CASA, Ms. Ebolum was deeply devoted to serving as the eyes and ears of the Court regarding the holistic wellbeing of the children assigned to her.

Beginning in 2021, Ms. Ebolum worked as a trial attorney for the Federal Public Defender's Office in the Northern District of Texas in Dallas, and then in 2024 for the Federal Defender's Office in the Middle District of Alabama. These stints provided extensive litigation and trial experience in handling federal criminal proceedings.

When she is not advocating justice for Baron & Budd clients, Ms. Ebolum enjoys traveling with her family to new destinations and eating good food. In her spare time, she mentors high school students and gets plenty of exercise by engaging in her twin loves of choreographed dancing and working out.

Chris Edwards joined Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group as an associate in 2016. He specializes in Electronic Discovery, which has been especially meaningful for advising numerous public entity clients in complex mass tort matters relating to environmental contamination and wildfires.

In addition to overseeing every phase of document management, Mr. Edwards works closely with his clients to craft damages models and analyze market share. Mr. Edwards also has years of experience in project management which he utilizes in the supervision of attorneys on his discovery teams. He leverages all his experience to provide sound advice for defensible best practices on corporate governance, policy, compliance, data management, process and technology.

Mr. Edwards is particularly proud of his role in helping to obtain historic $1 billion and $360 million settlements in 2019 from Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison, respectively, for damages resulting from the North Bay Wine Country Fires, 2018 Camp Fire, 2018 Woolsey Fire, the 2017 Thomas Fire, and the subsequent Montecito Debris Flow. He worked closely with our public entity clients in Northern and Southern California to determine and quantify the shared challenges facing those communities as they try to rebuild following the state's devastating conflagrations. In Northern California, these entities included the counties of Napa, Lake, Sonoma, Mendocino, Yuba, Nevada, Butte and Calaveras, the cities of Chico, Napa, Clearlake, Paradise, Santa Rosa, and several related agencies including fire and water districts. In Southern California, these entities included the counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura, the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Thousand Oaks, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Westlake Village, as well as a number of flood control and fire protection districts in the vicinity.

Mr. Edwards is honored to have worked with many public entity clients on their lawsuits against the Monsanto Corporation for contaminating stormwater and waterbodies across America with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCB contamination presents a devastating problem as it escapes into the environment during rain events, reaches stormwater systems owned by public entities, and is then discharged into larger waterbodies where it damages precious ecosystems.

Chris Edwards worked on a case in San Luis Obispo and El Cajon, California, to represent families who sued Ametek, Inc., an aerospace manufacturing company which operated in the area for several decades, for contaminating the area's air and drinking water with trichloroethylene, or TCE, a toxic, cancer-causing chemical. He also worked with drinking water suppliers in several states for successful resolution of price-fixing litigation against companies that make liquid aluminum sulfate ("alum"), a chemical that removes impurities and other substances from water before it is delivered for public consumption.

Chris Edwards is currently working with our clients in nationwide litigation pertaining to aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF). In addition, he is involved in the firm's lawsuits against Chemours and DuPont for contaminating communities and waters with perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) including GenX, a group of potent fluorochemicals. He has also taken an active role in litigation in New Jersey involving Sherwin-Williams Superfund Sites and cases in California where water supply wells were contaminated by the toxic chemical trichloropropane (TCP).

Mr. Edwards also works with numerous school districts in their lawsuits against leading e-cigarette manufacturer JUUL Labs, Inc., for obstructing learning

environments in schools across California by creating a youth e-cigarette epidemic. His clients in that action currently include Los Angeles Unified School District, San Diego Unified School District, Glendale Unified School District, Anaheim Elementary School District and the Compton Unified School District, among others.

Chris Edwards enjoys giving back to the communities in which he lives and works by advocating for clients through the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program. He has represented clients pro bono in family law and probate matters and derives much satisfaction from helping people in need and positively impacting the lives of others.

Kelsey Elling joined Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office as an associate in 2024. She works in the firm's Class Action Litigation Group.

Ms. Elling received her law degree from Michigan State University College of Law magna cum laude in 2019. During law school, she was a member of the school's distinguished Trial Practice Institute, an articles editor on the Michigan State International Law Review, a member of the Civil Rights Clinic representing prisoners who experienced constitutional violations, and a teacher's assistant for the school's course on Constitutional Law and the Regulatory State. In 2015, Ms. Elling received her bachelor's in social work cum laude from Delta State University in Mississippi, where she was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society and captain of the women's soccer team.

Following law school, Ms. Elling worked for a civil litigation firm in local government and employment matters, representing municipalities, private businesses, church organizations and insurance companies. More recently, she worked as an associate and senior associate for a firm where her practice focused on litigating complex consumer protection class actions brought under California consumer protection laws for violations of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Unfair Competition Law, and False Advertising Law. Her work there revealed to her a passion for seeking justice for everyday consumers across the nation. She is admitted to the State Bar of California and the State Bar of Virginia.

Ms. Elling developed her love for the law while in high school, when she became involved in an organization known as Teen Court, a diversion program operated by San Diego's Social Advocates for Youth that allows teenagers who have committed minor infractions to clear their records by completing a program in which their peers mount defenses and prosecutions as "teen attorneys," after which "teen jurors" mete out judgments and sentencing, all under the supervision of licensed attorneys and judges. Entering the program as a teen juror, Ms. Elling soon became a teen attorney, working with actual lawyers to defend or prosecute a case. In that role, she found her calling, and her future as an attorney was sealed.

In her free time, Ms. Elling loves to stay active by running, snow-skiing, and exploring new places. She also enjoys reading for fun and creating art and craft projects.

Lynnze English is an attorney in Baron & Budd's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups. She joined the firm in 2024.

Ms. English earned her Bachelor of Arts in Legal Communications from Howard University in Washington, DC, and went on to obtain her Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law. Afterward, she furthered her legal expertise by attaining a Master of Laws in Taxation from University of Florida Frederic G. Levin College of Law in Gainesville. During law school, Ms. English interned at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, as well as the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Ms. English worked on transactional tax matters.

An Ohio native, Ms. English remains connected to her community through her membership on the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board, where she supports 4-H youth across Ohio through programming, scholarships and awards. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Ms. English grew up with a passion for writing. She attended a performing arts high school where she majored in creative writing and authored her first novel at age sixteen. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, traveling and reading. Ms. English is committed to education excellence, lifelong learning, and creating positive social impact. This has led her to a fulfilling and enriching life, both personally and professionally.

Krystal Farias joined Baron & Budd in 2024, where she serves as an associate in the firm's Class Action Litigation Group. In this role, she is actively involved in opioid-related cases, which she believes uniquely intersect her academic background in consumer protection issues with her expertise in trademark law. Ms. Farias is dedicated to ensuring that consumers are adequately warned about the harmful and long-lasting effects of opioid products, using her skills to advocate for public health and safety.
Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Farias worked at a personal injury firm in Los Angeles, representing clients in tort law cases. Her exceptional negotiation skills led to favorable settlements with insurance companies and opposing counsel.

Krystal Farias began her legal career at a national, multidisciplinary law firm in Littleton, Colorado, focusing on trademark law. She advised clients on trademark selection, registration, and enforcement strategies and played a crucial role in analyzing and assessing trademark-related issues. She also obtained successful judgments in Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP) complaints to address instances of cybersquatting and domain name disputes.

Ms. Farias holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, with a focus on environmental science, policy, and management. As an undergraduate student, Ms. Farias had a strong interest in

consumer protection law, which was reflected in her academic pursuits and research. She authored a thesis titled "Down with Monsanto: Perception of Health and Public Opinion." The thesis highlighted consumer purchasing trends influenced by food labeling practices, illustrating their profound impact on various levels of consumer behavior and decision-making processes.

She earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2021, receiving the Intellectual Property & Technology Law Certificate with Honors and the CALI Excellence Award in Trademark Law. Additionally, she served as Vice President of the Technology, Entrepreneur, Startup Law Association (T.E.S.L.A.). Ms. Farias is admitted to the bar in Colorado and California.

Benjamin Fink joined Baron & Budd as an attorney in 2025. He is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Fink graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, in December of 2019, with a major in political science and minors in writing and philosophy. In May of 2023, he graduated from Michigan State University College of Law in East Lansing, Michigan, with his Juris Doctor. During his time in law school, Mr. Fink was awarded two Jurisprudence Achievement Awards: one in International Intellectual Property and the other in Trademark Counterfeiting.

Following his graduation from law school, Mr. Fink became a licensed attorney in the state of Michigan in 2023. Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Fink worked at a small law firm in the Lansing area as a law clerk and legal assistant.

Outside of work, Mr. Fink finds joy in playing with his two cats and watching movies. He also enjoys listening to music, playing video games, creating digital art, and spending time with friends and family.

Jessica Catherine Gooding joined Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group as an eDiscovery associate in January 2020, where she manages electronic information vital to the firm's large-scale complex environmental tort cases, including the nationwide multi-district litigation against 3M, DuPont, and other corporations related to PFOA/PFOS contamination of groundwater and soil through the use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF). In addition, Ms. Gooding has been instrumental in the management of data for the ongoing litigation against DuPont and Chemours for their roles in the contamination of North Carolina's Cape Fear River with GenX.

Prior to joining the Environmental Litigation Group, Ms. Gooding spent a year working with Baron & Budd's Pharmaceutical Litigation Group, helping in the fight against the opioid epidemic. Ms. Gooding has always had a passion for client advocacy and loves the opportunity Baron & Budd has given her to truly change people's lives.

In 2012, Ms. Gooding graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Honors Program with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, minoring in Human Rights & Diversity and Philosophy, with an eye toward her future as an attorney. In 2015, Ms. Gooding received her Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas. While in law school, Ms. Gooding honed her legal skills within the SMU Criminal Defense Clinic and later as an intern with the Collin County District Attorney's Office Crimes Against Children Division. Ms. Gooding was recognized for her volunteer service with these organizations through SMU's Pro-Bono Honor Roll Award.

As part of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Ms. Gooding received invaluable support throughout her academic career from the Tribe's Higher Education and Career Development programs. Ms. Gooding was also the recipient of numerous other academic scholarships and awards, including being named a National Hispanic Merit Scholar finalist and receiving the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship while at UNL, and was a recipient of the Law Dean's Scholarship Award program while at SMU.

When not practicing law, Ms. Gooding enjoys spending time with her husband, Daniel, playing golf, watching movies, and spoiling their many pets.

Julia Handt is an attorney with Baron & Budd. She is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Ms. Handt earned undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Criminology from the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, Texas, before deciding to attend law school at Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock. While in law school, she served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Judge Mark Rusch of the 401st District Court in Collin County, Texas. The experience left her with a clearer understanding of all areas of law and helped clarify for her the type of law she would ultimately choose to practice.

Ms. Handt went on to represent indigent clients at the Texas Tech Family Law and Housing Clinic, where she was able to expand her legal expertise even more. As a result of her strong commitment to helping the legal community, Ms. Handt was recognized with the Pro-Bono Honor Roll Award upon graduation from Texas Tech in May 2018.

Following receipt of her Juris Doctor, Ms. Handt returned to her hometown of Wylie, Texas, where she sought to join a law firm whose principles of helping people aligned with her own. She joined Baron & Budd in 2019, which she considers an ideal fit

Jason Irish is an attorney with Baron & Budd. He joined the firm in 2019 after moving to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Irish graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, with a degree in International Relations, focusing on China and East Asian security. Afterward, he attended Louisiana State University Law School in Baton Rouge Louisiana, graduating in 2014.

During law school, Mr. Irish focused his attention on environmental, energy, and international policy. He interned for Louisiana state agencies in the practice of environmental law and criminal law and gained valuable experience working with criminal investigators and district attorneys to protect both the environment and the people of his state. After graduating, Mr. Irish worked for the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of disaster assistance, where he provided assistance and advice to families and businesses impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, along with multiple other natural disasters.

Mr. Irish enjoys traveling to foreign countries, reading any book he can get his hands on, and trying out new and interesting recipes. He is also always cheering for the New Orleans Saints and LSU Tigers.

Sangeeta Kuruppillai first worked for Baron & Budd in 2010 as an attorney in the firm's Environmental Litigation group, reviewing discovery documents for cases involving atrazine, an herbicide used for weed control in farm crops which has been linked to prostate and breast cancer and is thought to be causing declines of endangered amphibians. In 2012, Ms. Kuruppillai worked on pharmaceutical cases related to the drug Avandia, thought to increase the risk of serious heart problems in diabetes patients for whom the drug was prescribed. She specializes in the electronic review (eDiscovery) of documents in mass tort litigation.

Before coming to Baron & Budd, Ms. Kuruppillai spent twelve years as an Assistant City Attorney at the Dallas City Attorney's Office in Texas, defending city management in race and other employment discrimination cases. She also worked as a Claims Attorney for Great American Insurance Group and as Manager of the Civil Division and Chief Deputy in the Dallas County Clerk's Office. At Baron & Budd, she also worked for a year and a half in our Employment group, preparing motions and performing pre-trial and trial work relating to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), using the skills she honed as an assistant city attorney to represent clients at Baron & Budd who have been hurt by large companies.

In late 2014, Ms. Kuruppillai re-joined Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group, where she currently reviews discovery documents for the MyFord Touch litigation, an in-car communication system thought to put drivers at risk of an accident, and Trichloropropane (TCP) cases, representing victims of groundwater and soil contamination in several California cities. "I enjoy helping put the pieces of a puzzle together to establish a case against offenders of mass tort, like water contamination or defective products".

Sangeeta Kuruppillai chose a career in law because she wanted to make a constructive difference in people's lives. Her work in our Environmental Litigation Group allows her to make a significant impact in the lives of our clients and to positively affect our fragile environment at the same time.

Emily Lambert joined Baron Budd as an attorney in 2025. Ms. Lambert is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

In 2020, Ms. Lambert earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication with a concentration in political communication and a minor in psychology from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She received her law degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2023. Additionally, Ms. Lambert earned a graduate diploma in comparative law and a graduate certificate in estate planning and taxation.

After law school, Ms. Lambert clerked for a real estate, elder law and estate-planning law firm in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama. Ms. Lambert is driven by a commitment to fairness and advocacy; she strives to create meaningful change and provide peace of mind for individuals and communities alike.

Ms. Lambert is "mom" to a playful Siberian Husky. In her free time, Ms. Lambert enjoys being outside with her dog, watching LSU sports, watercolor painting and traveling to national parks.

Morgan Latin joined Baron & Budd as an associate in 2024. She works in the firm's Pharmaceutical Litigation Group. Ms. Latin's greatest joy as an attorney is achieving justice on behalf of clients who lack the tools to successfully advocate for themselves. She does exactly that with Baron & Budd as she represents clients who have experienced catastrophic injuries or the death of a loved one as a result of others' negligence.

Ms. Latin has gained valuable experience litigating personal injury cases from inception through trial in various state and federal courts. Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Latin worked for a mass torts firm in Dallas, Texas where she helped clients hold corporations responsible for severe injuries and even death caused by defective products. She has also defended local government and government employees against motor vehicle and premise lawsuits. Ms. Latin incorporates her experiences representing plaintiffs and defendants into comprehensive and effective strategies in service of Baron & Budd's clients.

Ms. Latin's commitment to service precedes her legal career. Prior to practicing law, she served as a middle school English teacher in rural Mississippi and in her hometown of Houston, Texas. Ms. Latin's childhood dream was to become a teacher or a lawyer. She credits her former students for encouraging her to lead by example and not just realize one dream but achieve them both.

Ms. Latin completed her undergraduate degree at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and received her J.D. from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. While in law school, she was appointed co-chair of the Board of Advocates and competed in mock trial and moot court competitions. She also served on the Student Bar Association and was elected President of the Black Law Students Association. Off campus, Ms. Latin worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Vanessa Gilmore

in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas and at several law firms.

In 2023, National Trial Lawyers named Ms. Latin to their list of "Top 40 Under 40" Plaintiff's Civil Trial Lawyers in Texas. She is excited to bring her unique perspective and skillset to cases in which victims have been injured or killed in catastrophic vehicle crashes.

When not practicing law, Ms. Latin loves making memories with her family and friends. She also enjoys getting lost in a good book, immersing herself in arts and craft projects and singing songs to inspire the soul.

Aggie Miklasewicz joined the law firm of Baron and Budd in 2024. She is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Ms. Miklasewicz received her undergraduate degree in Political Science Honors in 2013 at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Before considering a career in law, Ms. Miklasewicz worked in logistics and real estate. She continued her legal education at Western Michigan University where she was winner of the Intrastate Mock Trial competition. With a concentration in business transactions, she interned for a full service commercial real estate firm in Detroit where she worked on lease modifications with downtown Detroit's commercial tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Miklasewicz was a recipient of the 2018 Polish American Congress of Michigan Scholarship Fund. In her last semester at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School in Auburn Hills, Ms. Miklasewicz trained with the Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan in mediation techniques and philosophy. She received her Juris Doctor in 2021. Aggie Miklasewicz was inspired to join Baron & Budd by the firm's mission to hold opioid manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid epidemic.

In her free time, Ms. Miklasewicz enjoys traveling with her husband and daughter. She will take any opportunity to hike, camp or backpack in the mountains. Before settling down, she and her husband traveled around the world for two years.

Catherine Niebergall is an attorney in the Dallas offices of Baron & Budd. She manages the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups. She coordinates and manages all stages of document review and e-discovery projects, utilizing discovery strategies and advanced technologies in project management.

Ms. Niebergall attended the University of California, San Diego, where she earned a bachelor's degree cum laude in political science with a minor in urban studies and planning in 2009. She received her Juris Doctor in 2014 from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas. While in law school, Ms. Niebergall was an articles editor for the SMU Science and Technology Law Review, where she earned Best Comment Finalist, and participated in the Civil Clinic, where

she represented low-income clients in civil cases. She also worked as a law clerk at a family law firm and a boutique whistleblower law firm in Dallas, Texas.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd in 2019, Ms. Niebergall practiced family law in Dallas and surrounding counties. Ms. Niebergall has always had a strong aspiration to help people, whether they are victims of the national opioid crisis or have suffered the damaging effects of well-water contamination. At Baron & Budd, she is excited to help provide relief to individuals and communities that have been harmed by corporate wrongdoing and negligence.

Taylor O'Neal joined the San Diego, California, offices of Baron & Budd's Environmental Litigation Group as an associate in 2021. Ms. O'Neal knew she wanted to become an attorney by the time she was eight years old. A desire to make a difference in people's lives compelled her to embark on her legal journey. A deep and abiding respect for the environment and keeping people safe from harm eventually led her to Baron & Budd.

Ms. O'Neal represents various California counties in their wildfire claims against utility companies. She is part of a team of dedicated that has resolved nearly $1.5 billion for their public entity clients since 2018. Additionally, Ms. O'Neal represents individual plaintiffs in their claims against negligent utility companies for their roles in some of California's most devastating wildfires. She is passionate about holding utility companies responsible and working to help her clients rebuild what the wildfires have destroyed.

Also, Ms. O'Neal represents many school districts in litigation against JUUL Labs, Inc., the e-cigarette manufacturer notorious for creating an epidemic of youth vaping that has pervaded schools across the nation. She believes it is important to ensure that future generations have a safe and healthy environment in which to thrive.

Ms. O'Neal received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she graduated magna cum laude in 2016. She was part of of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Honors Psychology Program, and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. She lives by her alma mater's motto, "A Choice to Change the World."

Ms. O'Neal graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2019. As a law student, she was President of the Black Law Students Association and served on the Mock Trial team. While in law school, she worked at an international corporate and securities litigation firm, where she was a participant in the San Diego Diversity Fellowship Program. Ms. O'Neal also worked as a law clerk doing plaintiff-side workers' compensation and civil litigation. It was during this time that she realized just how meaningful her interactions could be with clients who needed fair and just representation against irresponsible employers and behemoth corporations.

National Black Lawyers and *National Trial Lawyers* have named Taylor O'Neal to their list of "40 Under 40" attorneys in California every year since 2022. She has

also received awards for her performance and participation in the San Diego chapter of the prestigious *Louis M. Welsh Inn of Court*.

In her spare time, Ms. O'Neal enjoys trying new restaurants and traveling. She also loves spending time with her family, especially her younger brother and sister.

Juan Ortega is an attorney with Baron & Budd's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups. He joined the firm in 2024.

Mr. Ortega is a Florida native. He graduated with his bachelor's degree from Florida State University in Accounting and Management Information Systems in 2018. After working in the accounting industry for some time, Mr. Ortega pivoted to the legal field to follow his passion for helping people without the means to help themselves. Mr. Ortega then attended the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law and graduated *cum laude* with his Juris Doctor in 2023.

During his time in law school, Mr. Ortega was Lead Technical Editor for Volume 29 of the International Law Students' Association (ILSA) Journal of International and Comparative Law and was an advocate in the Nova Southeastern University Trial Association. As an advocate, Mr. Ortega competed in an intramural competition where he earned his place as a finalist. He also participated in a civil legal clinic where he worked as a law clerk for a plaintiff personal injury firm in Hollywood, Florida. This experience fueled his passion to seek additional opportunities to help those suffering from hardship.

When Mr. Ortega is not working, he enjoys watching movies, traveling, and spending time with his family and friends. He is also a fan of the Miami Heat and Florida State Seminoles.

When Mr. Ortega is not working, he enjoys watching movies, traveling, and spending time with his family and friends. He is also a fan of the Miami Heat and Florida State Seminoles.

Cyrus Partington joined Baron & Budd in 2024. He is part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Partington received both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He is a graduate of Purdue Global Law School in Los Angeles, California and a member of the State Bar of California.

Prior to law school, Mr. Partington was an advisor in general aviation with certificates including Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor and Type-Rated Business Jet Pilot (PIC). He flew commercially with two different airlines and then crewed a variety of aircraft, including turboprop and multi-engine airplanes (both land and sea) for which he is rated. While working through the Federal Aviation Regulations

during his almost two decades as an airman, Mr. Partington developed a keen interest from a legal perspective in how and why the standards were created, a fascination with rule-codification that ultimately led him to attend law school.

Cyrus Partington enjoys exploring the American Southwest. His interests also include biking and landscape photography.

Daniel Rakes is an attorney at Baron & Budd. He joined the firm in 2019 as part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, *cum laud*e, from Texas Tech University in 2012, Mr. Rakes attended the University of Houston Law Center. During law school, Mr. Rakes was a Dean's Scholarship recipient who received the Lex Award for the highest grade of his class in Torts. He spent time interning at a firm specializing in family law, which he found to be fulfilling work. But it was during his internship at a plaintiffs' firm representing clients who had been harmed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that Mr. Rakes developed an abiding concern for the plight of people and communities egregiously harmed by the negligence of major corporations through no fault of their own.

Following receipt of his Juris Doctor in 2015, Mr. Rakes worked as a solo practitioner in wills and estate planning. Yet the desire to make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals facing life-altering challenges continued to beckon. He worked for a time as a case manager at the Texas Civil Commitment office, providing supervision and case management to individuals released from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Following his promotion to Unit Supervisor, Mr. Rakes provided guidance on agency policy while maintaining a caseload of clients remanded to the criminal justice system.

The desire to affect good for more than one individual at a time continued to nag at Daniel Rakes, eventually leading him to seek employment in the private sector, where he found his legal skills could be better utilized as a contract attorney working in pharmaceutical litigation. Here, Mr. Rakes saw clearly how bringing justice to bear against negligent manufacturers, for causing significant and sometimes irreparable harm to patients who had innocently trusted their products, would benefit both individuals and society at large by reining in the ability of unscrupulous corporations to continue to cause injury. His subsequent move to Baron & Budd in 2019 was an easy and enthusiastic one, a move he has not regretted.

Noah M. Rich is an associate in the Washington, D.C. offices of Baron & Budd, where he has represented clients on a broad range of legal issues at all stages of litigation in state and federal courts across the country since joining the firm in 2018. His experience includes civil rights litigation, class actions, regulatory challenges, False Claims Act litigation, and indigent criminal defense. At Baron & Budd, Mr. Rich is part of our robust Qui Tam practice, specializing in litigation to combat civil fraud under the False Claims Act, Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), and other federal and state laws.

Mr. Rich earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Drew University, graduating summa cum laude. He earned his law degree from Georgetown University, where he served as Editor in Chief of the Georgetown Journal of Law & Modern Critical Race Perspectives and graduated cum laude. During law school, Mr. Rich represented low-income criminal defendants at the office of the Public Defender for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, as well as low-income tenants at risk of eviction with the D.C. Law Students in Court Clinic. Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Rich served as a law clerk to the Honorable Alfred S. Irving, Jr. of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and worked in private practice at a boutique law firm, where his practice focused on constitutional law and complex civil litigation.

Mr. Rich's scholarly work has appeared in the *Georgetown Journal of Law & Modern Critical Race Perspectives*, as well as *The Drew Review*. He has also been published in the American Bar Association's *GPSolo* magazine.

Mr. Rich says that becoming a lawyer never felt like a choice to him. "There's an awful lot of injustice and wrongdoing in the world, and from a young age, I knew I wanted to do something about it." Recognizing that attorneys have the great privilege of being able to decipher, wield, and transform the law, he knew early on that this career was his calling. He notes that many people use that privilege to preserve and take advantage of existing power structures, and they're frequently rewarded handsomely for it. But Mr. Rich says he chooses "to disrupt those power structures in order to help people who have been harmed by those more powerful than themselves." For Noah Rich, it's a matter of "doing what's right."

Outside of his legal practice, Mr. Rich regularly volunteers as a judge in mock trial and moot court competitions. Mr. Rich can sometimes be found on stage, having performed with the Drew University Dramatic Society, the Georgetown Gilbert & Sullivan Society, and Silver Spring Stage. He also loves to cook, to travel, to play tennis and baseball, and to watch a Red Sox or Celtics game whenever he gets a chance.

Anna Rol joined Baron & Budd's Pharmaceutical Litigation Group in 2016. She represents individuals who have suffered serious injuries after taking a dangerous prescription drug or having a defective medical device implanted.

Since the start of her legal career, Ms. Rol has been dedicated to giving a voice to those not in a position to speak for themselves. During law school, Ms. Rol was awarded the 2012 Squire Patton Boggs Public Policy Fellowship for her work with The Nature Conservancy's policy department, where she researched best practices to mitigate habitat damage caused by energy development. Since relocating to Texas, Ms. Rol has volunteered with the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program and Clemency Project 2014, a working group of lawyers and advocates providing pro bono assistance to federal prisoners who would likely have received a significantly shorter sentence had they been sentenced today. She was also selected to serve as an Associate of the Patrick E. Higginbotham American Inn of Court for the 2018-2019 term and was listed in the National Trial Lawyers' Top 40 under 40 for 2018.

At Baron & Budd, Ms. Rol continues to speak out for those in need by representing people who have been gravely harmed by drugs and devices manufactured by large corporations.

Anna Rol is dedicated to holding pharmaceutical corporations accountable for putting dangerous drugs and/or devices on the market. Her first encounter with a prescription drug company that put profits over patients was long before she decided to earn a law degree. In the early 2000s, Ms. Rol's mother was prescribed Vioxx, a drug that was the subject of major litigation and global recall due to severe cardiovascular side effects that caused thousands of deaths. Fortunately, Ms. Rol's mother was not among those harmed by the drug. Nevertheless, this early experience fueled Ms. Rol's drive to represent those individuals who have suffered at the hands of pharmaceutical products – and continues to motivate her to give a powerful voice to medical consumers. Since joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Rol has worked on a variety of pharmaceutical cases, including Transvaginal Mesh, Xarelto, Essure, and Talcum litigation.

Outside the office, Ms. Rol enjoys spending time with her family in Virginia and Texas and living a sustainable, vegan lifestyle.

Shannon E. Royster joined the Los Angeles offices of Baron & Budd in 2022. She is an associate in the firm's Class Action Litigation Group and works on product liability litigation, automotive defect class actions and other complex litigation matters.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Royster spent several years focusing her litigation talents on advocating for consumers under California's Proposition 65, ensuring that toxic chemicals are removed from the foods people eat and the products people use. "I feel strongly that my place in the law is to check corporate abuses of power. Company revenue should not come at the expense of human health and safety." To that end, Ms. Royster oversaw a plethora of active consumer protection and toxic litigation cases, including complex civil actions concerning private enforcements of Proposition 65, in her work as a senior associate at a Beverly Hills law firm.

A Michigan native, Ms. Royster moved to Texas to attend Trinity University in San Antonio, where she received a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in political science and history. She then relocated to California to obtain her Juris Doctor from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. While in law school, Ms. Royster was on the Dean's List, won a Witkin award for academic excellence, received a Blue Book award for her work on Southwestern's Law Journal, and was awarded a public service distinction for having been an exemplary advocate who gave selflessly of her time and abilities to provide assistance to the Office of the Los Angeles County Counsel. She also served as an extern in the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California and worked as both a research and teaching assistant for her Constitutional Law and Torts professors. Not long after her graduation from law school, Ms. Royster's paper, Contracting for Blue Gold: An Examination of the Legal Designs Surrounding Private Water Delivery, was published by the Southwestern Journal of International Law (2017).

Ms. Royster's love of the law began in high school, when she participated in the "We the People" competition sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, where she competed in the national finals and returned the following year as a student coach. It was then that Ms. Royster discovered she had a flare for government, civics and history, and an affinity for championing the rights of common citizens that continues to inspire her. She is a firm believer that Baron & Budd's class action work levels the playing field against corporations that have no legal incentive to be mindful of the public interest. "Companies need to be held accountable for the unbridled harms they cause in the name of shareholder profits."

When she is not pursuing corporations for their egregious disregard of public safety, Ms. Royster enjoys cooking, exploring southern California restaurants and caring for her rescue pup. She also takes great delight in her affection for niche perfumery.

Ori Shaffin is an attorney in Baron & Budd's document review team who works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups. Throughout his career, Mr. Shaffin has exclusively represented only those clients whose cases he genuinely and personally supports. He is ecstatic to be part of the Baron & Budd team because the firm's values align perfectly with his own personal philosophy regarding law and justice.

Mr. Shaffin graduated from University of California, Davis, with a degree in International Relations, focusing on peace and security in the Middle East. He later attended Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, California, graduating in 2013. During law school, he was awarded membership on the Trial Advocacy Honors Board and passionately served as a children's rights fellow, as well as a special education advocate. Upon passing the California bar exam, he commenced employment at a highly regarded Northern California law firm, where he represented workers and their families in asbestos-related cases.

A California native, born in Southern California and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Ori Shaffin is the grandson of four Holocaust survivors. He has drawn upon his ancestors' extremely difficult and challenging experiences to gain a deep sense of conviction in furthering the preservation of all people's basic human and civil rights.

Mr. Shaffin lives in the Los Angeles area. He enjoys playing basketball, traveling, and attending musical theater productions in his free time.

Payton Shiver is an attorney in Baron & Budd's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups. She joined the firm in 2025.

Ms. Shiver is an alumnus of Clemson University in South Carolina. She graduated from Charleston School of Law, also in South Carolina, in 2020. Ms. Shiver was chosen by her peers as the law school's 2020 American Bar Association Senator of the Year for her dedication to serving her classmates, school, and community.

Ms. Shiver began her legal career as a residential real estate attorney. She enjoyed working with buyers and sellers, explaining legal jargon in simple terms and putting clients at ease. This experience led her to work in consumer debt relief and bankruptcy, where she helped to make an overwhelming and stressful process easier to navigate for her clients.

When she is not working or watching college football or attending an IndyCar race, you can find Ms. Shiver gardening, painting, reading, or caring for one of her numerous pets. Affectionately known as "the zoo," her homestead is filled with ducks, cats, a few birds, a turtle, a half-finished koi pond, and occasionally her neighbor's chickens.

Victoria Slaby joined the Pharmaceutical Litigation Group at the Dallas offices of Baron & Budd as an associate in 2025. She represents clients who have suffered harm from dangerous prescription drugs and defective medical devices, advocating fiercely on their behalf.

With a strong commitment to justice and a passion for helping individuals facing powerful opponents, Ms. Slaby pursued a legal career to make a meaningful impact. Ms. Slaby earned her bachelor of science degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 2019. She went on to receive her law degree from Brooklyn Law School in Brooklyn, New York in 2022, where she honed her skills in advocacy and legal strategy.

Ms. Slaby strives to make a positive difference in the lives of her clients. Before joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Slaby worked as an attorney at a firm specializing in family law. Her experience in this often contentious and emotionally-charged practice area helped her learn to navigate difficult and complex matters with a calm and collected demeanor. Her experience in family law furthered her commitment to helping individuals through what is often the most difficult time of their lives. In addition to her experience as a family law attorney, Ms. Slaby previously worked as a personal injury litigator. Her time in that field led her to gain valuable experience navigating complex legal challenges from intake to settlement and also to trial, where she secured favorable verdicts for her clients. It is this diverse background that equips Ms. Slaby with the ability to represent our pharmaceutical and medical device victims with compassion and tenacity.

Outside of her legal practice, Ms. Slaby enjoys creative experiences and is always eager to learn something new. She enjoys reading historical fiction, trivia, traveling, and immersing herself in different cultures. A recent trip to South Korea, her mother's home country, has inspired her to learn to speak Korean. She also cherishes spending quality time with her husband, whether exploring new places or relaxing together at home with their two cats.

Elizabeth Smiley joined Baron & Budd's Los Angeles office in 2018 as an associate in the Firm's Class Action Litigation Group. There she helps bring nationwide, multi-million-dollar lawsuits to successful conclusion on behalf of our clients.

In her work at Baron & Budd, Ms. Smiley is a trial attorney protecting the rights of consumers from corporate fraud. In 2020, she was part of the trial team that won the largest verdict in the State of Hawaii against a pair of pharmaceutical companies that were shown at trial to have suppressed research into critical drug safety issues and failed to warn consumers about known risks associated with a popular cardiovascular medication. She was also part of the appellate team representing the State of Hawaii at the Hawaii Supreme Court regarding the same case. In 2022, Public Justice nominated Ms. Smiley for Trial Lawyer of the Year for her work on that case.

Ms. Smiley has also been an integral part of the trial teams for several cases in opioid litigation across the country. In 2022, she was trial counsel for the State of New Mexico in an eight-week trial against a number of major pharmacies responsible for contributing to the opioid epidemic. She was also on the trial team representing the State of Michigan in opioid litigation against a major pharmacy. Ms. Smiley was the lead associate handling the abatement and damages witnesses for both cases, which included seeking billions of dollars on behalf of each client.

When Ms. Smiley is not working on cases against the pharmaceutical industry, she works on class-action cases against major institutions, such as banks and mortgage brokers, regarding large scale corporate fraud. She has worked on cases ranging from insurance and banking fraud to fraudulent concealment of product safety defects. Ms. Smiley is proud to use her experience to hold companies accountable for their actions and protect consumers.

Ms. Smiley attended the University of Arizona where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Finance. She then obtained her Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

While in law school, Ms. Smiley served as the Senior Managing Editor for the Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law. She also interned at the Pima County Public Defender's office where she aided attorneys in providing high quality representation to indigent defendants. Before coming to Baron & Budd, Ms. Smiley clerked at the Los Angeles Superior Court for the Honorable Elaine Lu.

Ms. Smiley grew up in Arizona with a passion for arts and performance. She studied ballet through the Royal Academy of Dance for 12 years and minored in ballet in college.

Ms. Smiley first became interested in law while participating in mock trial programs in high school and college. She was a national finalist in several mock trial competitions at both the college and law school levels of competition. Ms. Smiley has a passion for teaching trial skills and advocacy. She is the Head Coach of UCLA's undergraduate mock trial program and she is also on the Board of Directors of the American Mock Trial Association.

In her free time, Ms. Smiley takes advantage of the thriving performing arts scene in Los Angeles and attends as many ballet and theatrical performances as she can.

Calista Somer is an associate in the Washington, D.C. offices of Baron & Budd. She joined the firm in 2025 and works in our Opioid Litigation Group.

Ms. Somer earned her bachelor's degree with high honors in behavioral neuroscience from Lehigh University in 2020. In 2024, Ms. Somer earned her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from American University Washington College of Law, where she was awarded a full tuition scholarship and served as an Associate Executive Editor of the American University International Law Review.

During law school, Ms. Somer served as a student attorney in the Decarceration and Reentry Clinic, where she represented an incarcerated client in connection with parole proceedings. Ms. Somer also completed two internships in the U.S. Department of Justice. First, she worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia's Capitol Siege Section, where she assisted federal prosecutors with criminal cases stemming from the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. She later interned in the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section, where she supported federal prosecutors in matters involving public corruption and election crimes.

Before joining Baron & Budd, Ms. Somer served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Judge Carl Ezekiel Ross in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. There, she researched and drafted judicial orders in complex civil and post-conviction criminal matters.

Ms. Somer chose to pursue a career in law out of a longstanding commitment to public service, and a belief in the law's potential as a powerful tool to achieve justice and accountability. In her free time, Ms. Somer enjoys playing tennis, practicing yoga, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Simone Stallings joined Baron and Budd as an attorney in 2024. She is part of the document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Ms. Stallings earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Spanish from Howard University in Washington D.C., where she graduated *cum laude* in 2017. Shortly after graduation, Ms. Stallings had the opportunity to take on a fall internship with the Dallas District Attorney's Office. She went on to receive her Juris Doctor in May 2022 from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas. During her time at TMSL, Ms. Stallings became a student ambassador and maintained her status on the Dean's List from fall 2021 through spring 2022.

Simone Stallings is a first-generation lawyer in her family and has gained experience in personal injury, immigration, and guardianship law. Ms. Stallings knew at the age of 5 that law was her passion, and she looks forward to expanding her enthusiasm and knowledge with the Baron & Budd team.

In her free time, Ms. Stallings can most likely be found working out or watching old movies. She also enjoys traveling with her family.

Heath Summers joined Baron & Budd as an attorney in 2024. He is part of the document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Summers earned his Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Missouri in St. Louis, MO, where he graduated with *cum laude* distinction in 2014. In addition to being named to the Dean's List, Mr. Summers was a member of the Tau Sigma Honor Society and Sigma Pi Fraternity.

Mr. Summers earned his J.D from Drexel University's School of Law in Philadelphia, PA, in 2022 and became a first-generation lawyer in his family. After graduating, Mr. Summers worked for the City of Philadelphia Law Department.

Mr. Summers is excited to join Baron & Budd. In his spare time, he enjoys watching movies, watching sports, spending time with family, and cheering on Tottenham Hotspur.

Chad Taylor joined Baron & Budd's trucking and catastrophic injury section as an associate in 2021. Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Taylor worked for a boutique personal injury firm in Dallas, Texas. At that law firm, Mr. Taylor represented individuals in a wide range of personal injury cases including motor vehicle accidents, premises liability, dangerous dog bites, sexual assault, medical malpractice, and truck accidents.

Prior to practicing law, Mr. Taylor graduated from Texas A&M School of Law in Fort Worth, Texas, where he was a Citations Editor on the Texas A&M Law Review Board of Editors. Mr. Taylor graduated with concentration certificates in Environmental Law and Water Law while co-authoring a forthcoming publication titled Groundwater Laws and Regulations: A Preliminary Survey of U.S. States. Mr. Taylor also worked with the Trinity River Authority in researching potential liability for the operation of dams at East Texas' Lake Livingston in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

While in law school, Mr. Taylor worked with small businesses to acquire trademarks in the school's Trademark & Copyright Clinic. He also worked with elderly clients on wills and estate planning in the school's Wills & Estates Clinic.

Kris Thompson has worked in the New Orleans office of Baron & Budd since 2018. As part of the firm's Mesothelioma Litigation Group, Mr. Thompson represents clients harmed by exposure to asbestos. His determination to obtain justice for victims of corporate greed sprung from his first representation of asbestos clients at Roussel & Clement in Mandeville, Louisiana. Advocating now for Baron & Budd's mesothelioma patients has only intensified Mr. Thompson's passion for representing individuals who don't always have the knowledge or resources to help themselves. "I am dedicated to protecting those who have been harmed by companies that profit from failing to ensure the safety of others". He is admitted to practice law before all Louisiana state courts, as well as the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Kris Thompson received his juris doctor from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he was a quarterfinalist in the Ira S. Flory Mock Trial Competition and served as vice president of the campus Torts Society and served on the Barristers Bowl team. He also holds a degree in political science from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. While in law school, Mr. Thompson served a judicial externship under Judge Jewel E. "Duke" Welch of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit, in Baton Rouge.

Kris Thompson was born, raised and educated in southeast Louisiana and is deeply familiar with the area's customs, traditions, and strong ethical and religious backgrounds. He enjoys being able to utilize his legal training and knowledge to provide thorough representation to severely injured mesothelioma patients in complex litigation, perhaps appreciating the one-on-one communication he has with our clients best of all. "I am honored to represent individuals and families through one of the most medically, emotionally and financially challenging times in their lives. I take special pride in the strong, personal relationships I've built with them".

Dwight Austin Wade joined Baron & Budd as an attorney in 2024. He is part of the document review team that works with our Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Wade earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, in 2018. Afterward, he attended Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, where he obtained a Master of Science in Criminal Justice in 2020. Following Lamar University, he pursued his Juris Doctor at The University of Tulsa College of Law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, earning his JD in 2023, becoming a first-generation lawyer in his family.

While in law school, Mr. Wade's passion for justice and advocacy led him to intern for the District Attorney's office located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in the Special Victims Unit. He followed his time in the D.A.'s office with an internship at Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, also in Tulsa, where he served on the housing displacement team, representing in-need clients.

Mr. Wade enjoys the practice of law and is excited to be working for Baron & Budd. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, watching hockey, and traveling.

Kenneth Whittaker is an attorney at Baron & Budd. He joined the firm in 2024 as part of the firm's document review team that works with the Class Action, Environmental, Qui Tam, and Opioid Litigation Groups.

Mr. Whittaker graduated from Boston University in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in international relations, focusing on China and International Systems. Afterward, he attended The George Washington Law School in Washington, D.C., graduating in 2020.

During law school, Mr. Whittaker focused his attention on entertainment and intellectual property law. He interned for the Recording Industry Association of America, where he assisted in drafting the Consumer Online Privacy Rights Act bill, which was presented to Congress in 2021. After graduating law school, Mr. Whittaker worked in commercial litigation.

Mr. Whittaker's choice to pursue a career in law is rooted in the profound influence of his grandfather, who was a dedicated attorney himself. At Baron & Budd, Mr. Whittaker looks forward to honoring his grandfather's legacy, as well as making a meaningful contribution to society.

Ryan Wiggins joined the Pharmaceutical Litigation Group at the Dallas offices of Baron & Budd as an associate in 2023. He represents clients harmed by dangerous prescription drugs and medical devices.

Mr. Wiggins received his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas in 2007. Mr. Wiggins has always had a fervent desire to help people who find themselves up against a much larger adversary. To feed that passion, he decided to attend law school. Mr. Wiggins received his law degree from Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida in 2021.

Prior to joining Baron & Budd, Mr. Wiggins was employed as an attorney at a personal injury firm in Dallas. For several years, he helped obtain settlements for thousands of victims who had been injured by medical devices and dangerous chemicals.

When he is not working, Mr. Wiggins enjoys spending time with his wife and two young children. He has a fondness for patios in the sun, especially with queso and a cool drink. He also enjoys traveling and playing sand volleyball.