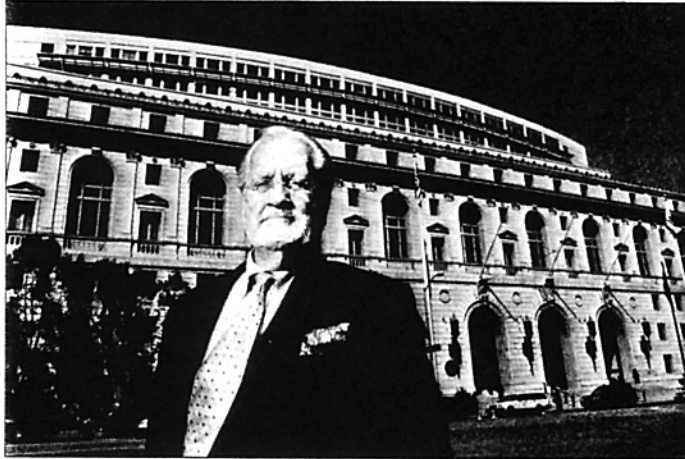


JOSEPH W. COTCHETT



S. TODD ROGERS / DAILY JOURNAL

Cotchett, 72, was inducted into the National Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame in April. But he's not slowing down. He has a host of pending cases against Wall Street financial institutions, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, several major airlines, and oil company BP PLC.

"I haven't learned the pronunciation of the word, 'No,'" Cotchett said. His biggest triumph this year came in \$76.8 million in settlements with several memory chip manufacturers in a complaint accusing them of fixing the price of Static Random Access Memory chips. He was one of several attorneys representing direct purchasers, companies that bought the memory chips from the manufacturers.

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy served as lead counsel for plaintiffs in the case, which settled just before jury selection was about to start in the Northern District of California.

Cotchett also took on Arnold Schwarzenegger when the outgoing governor tried to balance the budget by selling state buildings for \$1.2 billion. He won an injunction from the 6th District Court of Appeal blocking the transaction last December. *Epstein v. Schwarzenegger*, 10-505436 (S.F. Sup. Ct., filed Nov. 16, 2010).

While bemoaning the economy, corporate greed and trends such as electronic discovery that he says are making litigation "excessively expensive," Cotchett said he is not discouraged.

"You've just got to go out and fight the good fight," he said. Still, Cotchett does not win them all.

He defended Switzerland-based Actelion Ltd. against allegations that it interfered with the development of a drug by a competing company. A San Mateo County jury awarded the competitor \$547 million in compensatory damages, plus \$30 million in punitive damages. Cotchett said he is gearing up to file post-trial motions. *Asahi Kasei Pharma Corp. v. Actelion Ltd.*, 478533 (San Mateo Co. Sup. Ct., filed Nov. 19, 2008).

Cotchett, who chairs the advisory committee that helps Sen. Barbara Boxer pick judges in the Central District of California, said he has no plans to retire.

"God gave me the ability to move and think quickly," Cotchett said. "The day I stop handling cases is when they shovel me into the ground."

— Craig Anderson

JOSEPH W. COTCHETT

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy LLP
Burlingame
Practice type: Litigation
Specialties: Antitrust, securities fraud

BRUCE K. DALLAS



BRUCE K. DALLAS
Davis Polk & Wardell LLP
Menlo Park
Practice type: Corporate
Specialty: Capital markets

Nestled on the outskirts of Silicon Valley in the Davis Polk's Menlo Park office, Dallas has a prime spot to broker deals with tech giants that feel at home in their friendly Northern California sanctuary. The region hosts many of the nation's hottest startups in addition to some of the most powerful companies in the states. It's not surprising then, that he is known as a conduit for deals in this arena.

"I would say that my primary focus is on tech companies," Dallas said. "I do a lot of work with biotech and software companies on the underwriting side of things."

While Dallas certainly utilizes his proximity to this hotbed of business activity to increase his work in capital markets, he doesn't stop there. In fact some of his oldest tech clients come from outside these friendly confines Silicon Valley.

Recently he was the point-man for a \$3.5 billion debt offering by the tech giant Texas Instruments, Inc. This was a rare event for the company, its first offering of the kind in more than 12 years, Dallas said. He knows this because he has worked with Texas Instruments for over two decades, helping them with numerous deals over that time frame.

"I've done commercial cap market work with [Texas Instruments] for over 20 years," he said. "They have a great

internal legal department." It's this type of relationship that endears Dallas to his clients.

— Henry Meier

BRYAN D. DALY



BRYAN D. DALY
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
Los Angeles
Practice type: Litigation
Specialty: White collar and civil fraud defense

Daly is a former assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California who specializes in white-collar defense for some of the country's largest companies. Recently, he's taken on a new client: Lance Armstrong.

The seven-time Tour de France winner has seen several former teammates come forward in recent years, admitting they doped and accusing Armstrong of the same. Armstrong denies the accusations. A grand jury in Los Angeles has been investigating the claims for over a year, with no charges filed.

"Accusations started coming in May of last year when Floyd Landis came out publicly and said, 'I doped, and not only me, but also Mr. Armstrong,'" Daly said, adding that the two hadn't ridden together since 2004. "I was hired about a week or so after that public announcement."

Handling such a high-profile case has its unique trials. Anyone can go to the press and make accusations, and that leads to inaccurate reporting, he said. "There are people who dislike him for his success," he said.

Landis stands to get as much as 35 percent of any funds recovered by the government.

"The thing that's a little bit troubling is when these people are saying, 'I'm seeking redemption and I want to do the right thing and, by the way, let me tattle tale on my teammate.' Those things just don't square with me," he said.

Dealing with the country's highest profile defense consumes only a fraction of Daly's time. An expert in Foreign Corrupt Practices Act defense as well as False Claims Act matters, Daly is the go-to attorney for Northrop Grumman Corp., CVS Caremark Corp. and GE Aviation.

Daly represents JM Eagle in a multi-state False Claims Act federal case and Blue Shield in a recession case brought by the Los Angeles city attorney.

— Robert Pierce

RICHARD E. CLIMAN



S. TODD ROGERS / DAILY JOURNAL

When Climan was lured to the Silicon Valley from San Francisco in the mid-1990s, its legal practice was dominated by corporate generalists, who might to work on a small licensing deal one day, a basic venture capital financing the next day, an IPO the on the third day and a mid-market M&A deal the day after that. It was a place for the Jack-of-all-trades.

But Silicon Valley was on the verge of explosive growth, and it was clear to Climan that much of it was going to be driven by big-ticket M&A. "The somewhat novel idea we had was to create a large, dedicated group of highly experienced M&A practitioners, the likes of which you normally wouldn't find outside New York," Climan said.

Climan built, initially at Cooley and later

RICHARD E. CLIMAN

Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP
East Palo Alto
Practice type: Corporate
Specialty: Mergers & acquisitions

at Dewey & LeBoeuf, one of the largest and most respected M&A groups in California, with a national and international reputation.

"Sophisticated, publicly-traded companies with large market capitalizations simply won't put up with dabblers or 'fill-in-the-blanks' lawyers for their high-profile M&A work," he said. "The stakes are too high. They want seasoned deal specialists."

— Robert Pierce

TIMOTHY T. COATES



TIMOTHY T. COATES

Greines Martin Stein & Richland LLP
Los Angeles
Practice type: Litigation
Specialty: Government tort liability, constitutional law, health care, tort litigation, anti-SLAPP law

Coates has been blazing quite a trail to the U.S. Supreme Court with two influential victories under his belt and a third case expected to be argued within several months.

In December, he procured a unanimous decision for Los Angeles County involving enforcement of the state Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. *Los Angeles County v. Humphries* (2010) 562 U.S. 131 S.Ct. 447.

In response to abuse allegations, a county officer had listed two parents on the state's child abuse control index. Later the parents were exonerated and sought unsuccessfully to have their names removed from the index.

The county responded that it was only following state law and had no authority to depart from it in removing individuals from the database, Coates said.

The high court ruled that a municipality can't be subjected to declaratory or injunctive relief in a civil rights action unless the plaintiff establishes that an injury was inflicted as a result of a policy, custom or practice of the local public agency, and not simply the involvement of a municipal employee.

"It raises the bar on what plaintiffs have to show," Coates said. "It's bringing injunctive relief in line with what a plaintiff had to prove to get damages and levels the playing field. It didn't make sense to have two separate standards."

— Pat Broderick

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Bryan D. Daly

on being named one of the

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