

LAWDRAGON

APRIL 2006

The Leading Litigators in America The Lawdragon 500



Daniel Tyukody

Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe (Los Angeles, California) Scored a complete defense win for Thane International in a **rare** securities class action trial.

A billion dazzles — whether you're winning it or saving it.

Step up to the plate with a hundred million or so on the line. Or the resources that will keep someone alive. A person, a company.

Play Ball.

That's when the 500 lawyers on the following pages kick it in.

You want them on your side.

Two outs, bottom of the ninth.

Ted Wells walking alongside Scooter Libby. Mark Lanier leaving the courthouse after a Vioxx victory. Elizabeth Cabraser winning big for victims of faulty breast implants.

Some folks don't understand the beauty of our trial system. Politicians demonize it — until they need a lawyer. Tort reformers cry foul — until they're in a car accident. Corporations rue the number of lawsuits they must defend — but bring more than a few themselves.

There are outrageous verdicts and ludicrous claims. A stroll through the following pages may leave you with more than an ounce of sympathy for Big Tobacco, Pfizer, AIG, Exxon, KPMG and Wal-Mart. It's amazing how many of America's top lawyers they employ.

But there's a reason for that. America gives us unlimited opportunity to take risk and reap rewards. Ford revolutionized the world with the mass-produced auto, making our lives easier and opening new worlds. But with the automobile came accidents and injuries. And the same is true of the other advances or technologies that change our lives.

Life is risk, whether you're getting in the car, working at a job, investing in a company or trying a new medical procedure.

Some days, just walking out the door is risky. More than a few of the litigators here make their living suing and protecting insurance companies — those on the hook when Hurricane Katrina hits or 9/11 happens.

Despite such tragedies, we're lucky. More often than not, things work out just fine. We live longer, are more prosperous and have an unprecedented standard of living. But when things don't work out, we have a fallback: Call a lawyer. Go to court. Protect your rights. It's a hallmark of our democracy.

The best trial lawyers weave magic between the real world inhabited by their clients and the abstraction of legal principle. That's the tick-tock of it all. The rush of the cool, calm courtroom, the narcissism of winning over the jury, the hubris of standing up and conveying your client's message like no one else could.

Of winning.

The legends are here, alongside the names in the news and the faces you'll be seeing a lot more. To be on this list, you have to try cases in court, whether protecting corporate executives, suing health care providers, defending medical malpractice cases or winning employment discrimination claims. Though some of the nation's best trial lawyers can be found in the ranks of government prosecutors and defenders and in the public interest arena, they're not included because of the commercial bent of this particular guide. On this list, you'll find lawyers who have tried a handful of cases and others who have tried hundreds. Some have ensured no one collected a dime against their clients, and some have reaped billions for their side.

We selected the Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America by searching 25 practice specialties for the trial lawyers who are the best in their field, the ones you'd be proud to have as your lawyer. Another 2,500 who were nominated for the guide are available at Lawdragon.com.

We don't expect the following to change the minds of those who believe trial lawyers are to blame for everything. But for those a little more open-minded, we think this Lawdragon 500 demonstrates the brilliance of American lawyers and law — the wide open playing field, where anyone has a shot at hitting it over the fence.

Batter up.