

ELITE TRIAL LAWYERS



ROBERT CLIFFORD



CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES

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Clifford Law Offices

When lawyers at Clifford Law Offices take cases to trial, it's all about teamwork. The lawyers at the plaintiffs firm get help from trial veterans with the expertise to bring success.

Regardless of whether they're the lead partners on a case, at least one of the firm's longtime lawyers is involved. For example, in the firm's \$14 million medical malpractice verdict in a Cook County, Ill., court this year in a case involving the inappropriate prescription of Yasmin, partners Robert Clifford, Kevin Durkin and Keith Hebeisen worked with partner Bradley Cosgrove and associate Sarah King, the lead lawyers on the case.

"We have a strongly held view that when we go to try a case ... it's a team effort," said Clifford, who founded the firm in 1984.

In addition to the verdict in the Yasmin case, the firm in the past year secured

other eight-figure verdicts, including a \$15.6 million verdict in Cook County for the family of a woman who died giving birth.

The woman's husband, Carlos Lopez, said in an email that he has "a great deal of respect" for Hebeisen and his colleagues who handled his case.

"Every juror I spoke with made the same comment, 'Your lawyers were well prepared,'" Lopez wrote. "It was evident to me that I had chosen the best law firm to represent my family in court." —ANDREW RAMONAS

FIRM FACTS

LOCATION OF MAIN OFFICE: Chicago | NUMBER OF PARTNERS: 10

KEY TO WINNING

"Credibility. If you don't have it, you won't win."

—ROBERT CLIFFORD

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50 Leading Plaintiffs Firms In America

In the past year, plaintiffs lawyers helped their clients win billions of dollars in awards—in fact, the 100 largest verdicts of 2013 yielded more than \$10 billion in recoveries. That sum is likely to be equaled or surpassed in 2014. The ripple effects of these wins reach beyond dollars, with plaintiffs' efforts helping in many cases to reshape public policies or reform corporate behavior.

Recognizing the impact of this work, The National Law Journal and Law.com this year teamed to select law firms that are doing the most creative and substantial work on the plaintiffs side.

The result is our inaugural list of America's Elite Trial Lawyers. The 50 firms named here pulled in big victories in complex cases that have a wide impact on the law and legal business.

To create our list, we vetted more than 100 firms, poring over nominations and reporting on performance. We recognized the work of the firms as a whole, understanding that successful trial work is usually the result of a team effort. We also strived to capture a wide variety of practices and business models—from Wall Street securities specialists to firms that focus on high-impact personal injury cases.

To qualify for inclusion, firms had to have scored at least one significant plaintiffs win between Jan. 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, and possess an impressive track record of wins within the past three to five years.

A "significant win" meant prevailing in a bench or jury trial or in a major settlement where the stakes were high—for example, a substantial amount of money was at stake or the outcome could have affected litigation strategy or results in similar cases nationally. Also, firms had to devote at least 50 percent of their litigation resources to plaintiffs work and derive half or more of their revenue from plaintiffs-side activities. Firms with higher percentages of plaintiffs-side work were considered.

Among the factors we considered in selecting firms were:

- Performance in significant cases, including key rulings, victories at trial and settlements.
- Verdict dollar amount, size of punitive damages penalties and cash settlements.
- Complexity of procedure and substantive law.
- Willingness to take on large cases and to persevere in the face of adversity.
- Impact of litigation results that changed a government or business practice.

In this special report, you'll find insights on why we selected the firms that we did. In November, we'll gather in Las Vegas for a special dinner and conference honoring the firms and focusing on the current state of the plaintiffs bar.

OUR SELECTIONS

BARON & BUDD
BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES
BERGER & MONTAGUE
BERNSTEIN LIEBHARD
BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER & GROSSMANN
THE BUZBEE LAW FIRM

CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES

COHEN MILSTEIN SELLERS & TOLL
COTCHETT, PITRE & MCCARTHY
EGLET LAW GROUP
FREEDMAN BOYD HOLLANDER GOLDBERG URIAS & WARD
GAIR, GAIR, CONASON, STEIGMAN, MACKAUF, BLOOM & RUBINOWITZ
GIBBS & BRUNS
GIRARDI KEESE
GRANT & EISENHOFER
HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO
HARE, WYNN, NEWELL & NEWTON
HAUSFELD
HERMAN HERMAN & KATZ
HILLIARD MUÑOZ GONZALES
KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER
KLINE & SPECTER
KOHN, KOHN & COLAPINTO
KOREIN TILLERY
LABATON SUCHAROW

THE LANIER LAW FIRM
THE LAW OFFICES OF FRANK L. BRANSON
LEVIN, FISHBEIN, SEDRAN & BERMAN
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN
MAZIE SLATER KATZ & FREEMAN
MILBERG
MORGAN & MORGAN
MOTLEY RICE
NAGEL RICE
NAPOLI BERN RIPKA SHKOLNIK
NEUFELD SCHECK & BRUSTIN
NICHOLS KASTER
PANISH SHEA & BOYLE
PODHURST ORSECK
PROVOST UMPHREY LAW FIRM
ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD
ROBINS, KAPLAN, MILLER & CIRESI
ROBINSON CALCAGNIE ROBINSON SHAPIRO DAVIS
SANFORD HEISLER
SEEGER WEISS
SIMMONS HANLY CONROY
SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK MCGRATH & CANNAVO
SUSMAN GODFREY
TYCKO & ZAVAREEI
WEITZ & LUXENBERG



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