



THE PLAINTIFFS' HOT LIST

The National Law Journal's annual Plaintiffs' Hot List attempts to provide a snapshot of the most successful plaintiffs' practices of the moment. To identify them, we asked firms to provide us with a year's worth of representative cases, verdicts and settlements from June 2010 to June 2011. From there we sifted through dozens of potential firms, reporting on and researching each to come up with our list. In this special report, you'll find the results: We profile 20 firms that are at the cutting edge of plaintiffs' work—and that are giving defense players a run for their money.

Baron & Budd ■ Berger & Montague ■ Bernstein Liebhard ■ Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossman

■ Boies, Schiller & Flexner ■ Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll ■ Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy ■ Dickstein Shapiro

■ Grant & Eisenhofer ■ Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro ■ Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton

■ Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check ■ Korein Tillery ■ Labaton Sucharow ■ Lief Cabraser Heiman & Bernstein ■

Milberg

■ Pomerantz Haudek Grossman & Gross ■ Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

■ Strok & Strok & Lavan ■ Whatley Drake & Kallas



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MILBERG

In the 16-year history of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act, only 11 class actions have been tried to a verdict, so when Milberg took on French company Vivendi Universal S.A. it garnered a lot of attention. "Big securities class actions like this almost never go to trial," said Michael Spencer, one of the two Milberg partners who led the trial team against Vivendi. "It was a very high-stakes, long trial here in New York." Fortunately, it paid off. And while the exact number is not known, estimates put the claims received by class members close to \$1 billion.

Twenty top players:

NLJ's annual list
of plaintiffs'-side
practices profiles firms
that are winning multimillion-dollar
verdicts in court
and at the settlement table.

NOTEWORTHY CASES

- *In re Vivendi Universal S.A. Sec. Litig.*, No. 02-5571 (S.D.N.Y.). Lead attorneys were Matthew Gluck and Michael Spencer. In the securities class action, Milberg showed how Vivendi Universal concealed liquidity problems, which the company discussed through internal communications. All the while, the company was disseminating deceiving information to the public. Estimates put the claims received by class members close to \$1 billion.
- *In re Nortel Networks Corp. Sec. Litig.*, No. 01-CV-1855 (S.D.N.Y.). Lead attorney was Sanford Dumain. Milberg secured a \$1 billion settlement, which included a cash settlement fund and shares of company stock. Nortel faced several lawsuits that threatened to put it out of business. The firm juggled settlements in both the United States and Canada. "We got literally as much as we could given that we didn't go to trial," Dumain said.
- *In re Prudential Ins. Co. Sales Practice Litig.*, No. 95-4704 (D.N.J.). In the case against Prudential Insurance Co., the firm obtained a recovery in excess of \$4 billion. Working closely with New Jersey insurance regulators, the firm secured agreements between Prudential and the Multi-State Life Insurance Task Force.

