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National Law Publications Award Cohen Milstein Top Honors

The National Law Journal selects Cohen Milstein to its Plaintiffs' Hot List for the third year in a row

Every year, The National Law Journal (NLJ) takes the pulse of the plaintiffs bar by examining its most successful practices. To identify them, they asked readers to nominate firms in the United States that have done exemplary, cutting-edge work on the plaintiffs side. The NLJ looked for firms that scored at least one significant plaintiffs win between June 30, 2012, and July 1, 2013, and that possessed an impressive track record of wins within the past three to five years. They also conducted their own extensive research through court files, news reports and chats with co- and opposing counsel.

Among the significant cases leading to Cohen Milstein's Hot List selection are:

Countrywide MBS Litigation in which Cohen Milstein negotiated the largest federal mortgage-backed securities class action settlement to date. In August, a California federal judge gave preliminary approval to a \$500 million settlement with Countrywide Financial Co. and other defendants sued by investors over allegedly dodgy mortgage-backed securities. Partner Julie Goldsmith Reiser said the firm "aggressively" litigated the case, even after the judge adopted a narrow position on potential liability.

The NLJ also made mention of the \$219 million settlement in the Beacon/Madoff ERISA fraud case and Cohen Milstein's burgeoning practice involving public sector clients. Having a variety of practice areas allows firm attorneys to "learn from one another," Reiser said.

In re Urethanes Antitrust Litigation in which the firm was part of a team suing chemical companies over an alleged price-fixing scheme involving the production of polyurethanes. In February 2013, a federal jury in Kansas found against The Dow Chemical Co., awarding the plaintiffs \$400 million. The judgment, which is on appeal, stands at more than \$1 billion after trebling. The NLJ highlighted the work of Partner Richard Koffman who was described by co-counsel as "very conscientious, very professional [and] very smart."

Law360 Names Cohen Milstein a "Most Feared Plaintiffs Firm"

In naming Cohen Milstein among its "Most Feared Plaintiffs Firms," Law360 reported that the Firm has "proven a formidable foe for defense teams, securing more than \$1 billion for plaintiffs in antitrust and mortgaged-backed securities class actions." Law360 went on to cite the victories that landed the firm a spot on the Most Feared Plaintiffs Firms list. These include multiple mortgage-backed securities litigation class actions and the *In re Urethanes Antitrust Litigation* described above. In the multiple mortgage-



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backed securities (MBS) cases, Cohen Milstein recently negotiated a history-making \$500 million settlement in the Countrywide MBS litigation. The Firm's successes also include a \$100 million settlement reached in July on behalf of the New Jersey Carpenters Health Fund over mortgage-backed securities issued by Residential Accredited Loans Inc. In 2011, the firm reached a \$90 million settlement on behalf of a class of investors in a class action against a unit of MF Global Holdings Ltd.

***Cohen Milstein Receives First Tier Ranking in the
Third Annual Edition of Benchmark Plaintiff***

Benchmark Plaintiff 2014 has ranked Cohen Milstein as "Highly Recommended - Plaintiff," the publication's top ranking. It also recognizes six Cohen Milstein attorneys as "litigation stars."

Litigation stars at Cohen Milstein include:

Christopher Cormier – Antitrust

Agnieszka Fryszman – Civil Rights and Human Rights

Julie Reiser – Civil Rights and Human Rights, Securities

Joseph Sellers – Civil Rights and Human Rights

Daniel Sommers – Securities

Steven Toll – Securities

After significant independent national research and reference checking, Benchmark Plaintiff: The Definitive Guide to America's Leading Plaintiff Firms & Attorneys identifies those firms and attorneys who have displayed the ability to consistently handle complex, high-stakes cases in multiple jurisdictions. The results of the national research are then broken down into rankings for eight separate specialized legal practice areas for antitrust, civil rights/human rights, employment/labor, insurance, intellectual property, mass torts/products liability, personal injury and securities.