

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE LITIGATION DEPARTMENTS

Products Liability/Mass Torts Podhurst Orseck

Podhurst Orseck started with a focus on aviation cases but has built its reputation by doing heavy lifting for plaintiffs in multidistrict litigation that's on the national radar.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court denied review of the National Football League's settlement with more than 4,000 former pro football players in concussion litigation. The agreement could cost the NFL \$1 billion over 65 years. Steve C. Marks, Ricardo M. Martinez-Cid and Stephen F. Rosenthal served on several plaintiffs committees guiding the case.

The settlement will pay former players an average of \$190,000. Some awards could reach \$1 million to \$5 million for players diagnosed in their 30s and 40s with Parkinson's disease or Lou Gehrig's disease and for deaths involving chronic brain trauma.

Peter Prieto is chair lead counsel for plaintiffs in the MDL against Takata Corp. and seven major automakers over economic losses, deaths and injuries blamed on defective air bags. A series of defense motions seeking dismissal of economic loss claims have been denied.

In force-placed insurance litigation, settlements totaling more than \$300 million were reached last year with several financial institutions accused of placing high-priced homeowner insurance policies on mortgages in exchange for kickbacks from insurers. Aaron S. Podhurst, Prieto, Rosenthal, John Gravante III and Matthew Weinshall served as class counsel in the nationwide class actions.

The firm also won a decision keeping Wells Fargo in bank account overdraft litigation claiming transactions were stacked chronologically to produce the most fees on overdrafts. The judge rejected Wells Fargo's attempt to divert the case to arbitration after litigating it for years. Robert C. Josefsberg, Prieto, Marks, Rosenthal and Gravante are involved in that case.



J. ALBERT DIAZ

Seated from left, Ramon Rasco, Alissa Del Riego, Joel Eaton and Lea Valdivia. Standing, Stephen Rosenthal, Ricardo Martinez-Cid, Steven Marks, Peter Prieto and John Gravante III.