



LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR: CLASS ACTION

CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE

Q&A **What are some of the department's most satisfying successes of the past year and why?** We are thrilled every time we achieve successful outcomes for our clients, and over the past year we have been pleased to secure many positive results. One highlight was leading PG&E's defense in a \$2.5 billion class action related to power shutoff events the company performed to reduce the risk of wildfires. The matter was litigated within PG&E's complex Chapter 11 proceedings and the dismissal we secured helped pave the way for the company to confirm its plan of reorganization and emerge from bankruptcy. We were also honored that the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association turned to us this year to defend it in massive, multidistrict litigation challenging certain foundational aspects of the Blue Cross Blue Shield System—one of the largest class actions in the country. We have represented several member plans in the litigation over recent years and it is always the greatest compliment for a client to call on us to expand our relationship.

A prospective client in crisis calls and asks why your team should be retained.



From left, partners Lauren M. Rosenberg, Karin A. DeMasi, Gary A. Bornstein, Vanessa A. Lavelly and Omid H. Nasab.

What is your answer? Cravath is known for taking on our clients' most consequential matters. As a generalist firm, our attorneys have the breadth and depth of experience to handle the most pressing matters for our clients, no matter the practice area, tribunal or party role. Our attorneys do not back down in the face of monumental challenges or unsettled law. Our work for PG&E is a great example of this. We represented the company in every facet of PG&E's response to the unprecedented 2017 and 2018 California wildfires, serving as lead trial counsel in hundreds of lawsuits—including numerous

putative class actions—and helping to steer the company through the largest utility bankruptcy in U.S. history.

What traits do you respect most in opposing firms and lawyers? As a litigation department, we are trial lawyers first and foremost. Because of this, we have a great deal of respect for opposing counsel with impressive trial skills. Of course, we also appreciate opposing counsel who demonstrate respect for the legal profession and who treat everyone in the courtroom in a courteous and professional manner.

What is the firm doing to ensure that future generations of litigators are ready to take the helm? Cravath has long been known for its

elite associate training. Because we promote almost exclusively from within, it is vital that we imbue our associates with the skills, creativity and strong legal minds needed to succeed in the most challenging cases. Our training begins with recruitment, selecting the most promising young attorneys straight from law school and training them in the Cravath style. In our litigation department, associates rotate through every practice area to gain a broad understanding of the law and are taught from day one to prepare for every matter as if it is going to trial.

*Responses prepared by **Gary A. Bornstein** and **Kevin J. Orsini**, the co-heads of Cravath's litigation department.*

CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP