Complex Commercial & Class Action Litigation

From pretrial case assessment through trial and, if necessary, appeal, we zealously represent our clients and deliver successful results across a wide array of business disputes. Our complex commercial and class action litigation team handles a broad spectrum of bet-the-company cases and high-stakes disputes in state and federal courts and before private tribunals across the United States — and brings a passion for winning to each and every representation. Repeatedly named a Standout firm for complex commercial and class action litigation by BTI Consulting Group and recognized multiple times by *Best Lawyers* for commercial litigation nationally, we are routinely called upon to guide our clients in their most significant and sensitive litigation matters.

Efficiently Managing Litigation from Start to Finish

Many of our litigators are former judicial law clerks, assistant U.S. attorneys and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission staff members. Our team includes fellows of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers and Litigation Counsel of America. Leveraging that experience, our team works side by side with publicly held and privately owned companies from the earliest stage of a dispute, evaluating options, managing costs and developing strategies to efficiently and effectively achieve their objectives. Our multidisciplinary and collaborative approach enables us to readily draw on from the deep well of knowledge of lawyers throughout our firm to offer subject-matter and industry-specific counsel.

Recognizing the value in narrowing the scope of cases and disposing of complex commercial cases before trial, we employ dispositive motions, alternative dispute resolution strategies and effective settlement techniques to limit our clients' exposure and resolve matters quickly. When trial proves necessary, our deep bench of accomplished trial lawyers have successfully tried hundreds of cases to verdict or award.

Our seasoned team of class action lawyers handles a broad spectrum of matters, including cases involving claims alleging securities fraud, violation of federal and state consumer protection laws, data privacy, insurance, and wage and hour violations. We also handle other causes of action involving troubled loans, real estate and personal property liens, intercreditor disputes and fraudulent claims against lenders. Our class action clients include publicly traded companies and their directors and officers, as well as national financial institutions (e.g., banks, broker-dealers, investment advisers), insurance companies, healthcare systems and providers, and web-based retailers. Because of the depth of our experience — and our reputation for taking a practical, pragmatic approach to class action defense — our clients regularly call on us to serve as lead or national counsel in class actions throughout the United States, including cases that involve novel or emerging theories of class action liability.

Our Services

Representing companies across a wide range of industries, including financial services, insurance, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing, as well as governmental entities, receivers and individuals, our complex commercial and class action litigation lawyers have handled a wide range of cases, including:

- Securities fraud allegations
- Director and officer (D&O) liability
- Merger and acquisition disputes
- Shareholder and partnership disputes
- Intellectual property licensing, infringement, and trade secret disputes
- Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act claims
- False Claims Act/qui tam matters
- Real estate disputes
- Unfair competition, contract interference, and other business torts
- ERISA claims
- Commercial lending and lender liability matters
- Contract claims
- Professional liability and errors and omissions (E&O) claims
- Fiduciary duty claims

Clients also rely on us for proactive risk avoidance counsel that helps identify and address potential issues before they progress further. We routinely advise on risk management and other techniques that are aimed at eliminating or resolving disputes before the costs associated with litigation are incurred.

Representative Matters

- Secured summary judgment on behalf of a bank in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in a complex case involving a multimillion-dollar burglary affecting a safe deposit box.
- Obtained the complete dismissal with prejudice of a shareholder class action and derivative suit brought by a shareholder seeking to enjoin a $244 million merger between two public company banks.
- Secured the dismissal of a nationwide securities fraud class action brought by the customers of a broker-dealer on the grounds of Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act (SLUSA) preemption.
- Served as lead defense counsel in class actions under Massachusetts consumer protection laws (*Pantano v. Ocwen Loan Servicing*, No. 1977CV00530 (Mass.), and *Cabral v. PHH Mortgage*, No. 19-cv-12245 (D. Mass.)).
- Represented an international life insurer in a class action involving allegations of material misstatements in financial statements related to valuation allowances on deferred tax assets and Sarbanes-Oxley certifications.
- Defended a government-sponsored enterprise (GSE) in a putative nationwide class action filed under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) that resulted in the dismissal of all claims against the GSE.
- Obtained complete dismissal in a RICO class action (*White v. US Bank*, No 18-10683 (D.N.J.)).
- Negotiated a no-admission-of-liability settlement on behalf of a pharmaceutical company in connection with a civil FCA matter investigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The case originated from a qui tam complaint where the government initially sought damages well in excess of $400 million. The case was resolved for approximately 4% of the initial damages assessment and a corporate integrity agreement was reached with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, that avoided any debarment or exclusion sanctions.
- Tried an $80 million dispute between a marine terminal operator and its landlord port authority before a panel of three arbitrators, securing a unanimous award in the client's favor.
- Secured dismissal of a multimillion-dollar lawsuit alleging civil conspiracy and tortious interference against a global distributor of industrial and specialty chemicals.
- Obtained summary judgment in a Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) class action involving novel issues with industry-wide implications (*Walker v. Cenlar*, No. 21-5381 (D.N.J.)).

Publications

[Using NY Lawsuit Loan Law, Ruling Against Shady Injury Suits]
Law360
June 17, 2026

Experience

Stradley Ronon Secures Summary Judgment Victory for Bank in Multimillion-Dollar Theft Case
After 10 years of litigation, a Stradley Ronon team has secured summary judgment on behalf of a bank in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in a complex case involving a multimillion-dollar burglary affecting a safe deposit box.

The plaintiff, an LLC formed solely to pursue this lawsuit, filed suit over the theft. Central to the dispute was the ownership of the box's contents and whether the LLC had standing to bring the claim. During discovery, the individuals who rented the box admitted they did not own the items inside and instead asserted they were holding the items for an unidentified third party.

In response, the bank argued the renters lacked the authority to transfer ownership or title to the contents of the box. Furthermore, the bank contended that the assignment on which the lawsuit was based was invalid, as it failed to convey ownership or title of the stolen contents.

On summary judgment, the bank raised defenses for lack of standing and an invalid assignment. The plaintiff opposed the motion and also sought leave to amend its complaint in an attempt to cure the standing deficiencies. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York ruled in favor of the bank, dismissing the case for lack of standing and denying the plaintiff's request to amend as untimely, prejudicial and futile.

On appeal, the Second Circuit upheld the district court's dismissal, bringing this long-running litigation to a close. The victory reinforces the importance of legal precision and the critical need to assert jurisdictional defenses at the inception of any case.

Phoenix French Creek Manor Wins Compulsory Nonsuit
Stradley Ronon's trial team won a nonsuit for client Phoenix French Creek Manor in litigation involving the termination of purchase and option agreements for commercial real estate in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The plaintiff initially filed a $26 million claim against PFCM; however, prior to trial, Stradley's litigation team secured a partial summary judgment dismissing the claims related to the option agreement, significantly reducing the amount in controversy. Two claims related to the purchase agreement proceeded to trial. Following the testimony of the plaintiff's first witness, the Stradley team moved for dismissal based on the witnesses' judicial admissions, but Judge William Mahon reserved his decision until after the close of plaintiff's case- in-chief. After four days of testimony from six witnesses, the judge granted a nonsuit and brought the matter to a successful end for PFCM.

Delaware County Court Orders Reassessment of All Properties
Stradley Ronon obtained a mandatory injunction from the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas that requires a reassessment of all property in Delaware County. The Stradley Litigation team represented two families who had purchased new homes in the county in 2013 that were assessed at an extraordinarily high percentage of their fair market values. In consolidated appeals from the Delaware County Board of Assessment Appeals, the Stradley team won not only a significantly reduced assessment for the families, but also a decision acknowledging the pervasive inequities in the taxation of properties due to the county's failure to reassess properties since 1998. Expert testimony established that properties throughout the county have been assessed at markedly different percentages of their fair market value since 2004. The court determined that the necessary remedy was a countywide reassessment of all properties. The court directed the county to submit a plan and

preliminary timetable to accomplish the reassessment by July 1, 2017, and ordered that the Pennsylvania Tax Equalization (formerly STEB) ratio be applied to all tax assessment appeals until the countywide reassessment is completed.

Pennsylvania Insurance Department Victorious in Commonwealth Court

Stradley's insurance practice secured the Commonwealth Court's approval for the sale of millions of dollars in financial assets owned by the estate of Reliance Insurance Company. The Pennsylvania Insurance Department, which is liquidating Reliance, decided to sell some financial interests belonging to the company. After identifying potential purchasers and inviting them to make purchase proposals, the department engaged in an auction process that yielded two final bidders. They each made final bids, with a real estate investment firm submitting the winning bid of $9.6 million.

In preparing its final bid, however, the winning firm had a paperwork problem that delayed completion of its bid. The department allowed the firm extra time to complete the paperwork – time that was not given to the second bidder. Anticipating that the second bidder would protest this as unfair when the department sought court approval of the sale, the department hired Stradley to file for approval and fight off any protest. Complicating matters further was the fact that the deal with the winning bidder had to close quickly, or else that firm could – and would – walk away.

Shortly after court approval was sought, the disappointed bidder did, in fact, intervene, and asked the court to block the sale. It proposed that the court conduct a final, court-supervised round of bidding, and also suddenly promised to pay $9.9 million for the assets ($300,000 more than the winning bidder's final bid). In response, Stradley quickly prepared and filed an opposition, and also asked the court to expedite consideration so the deal with the winning bidder could close in time, if approved.

The Commonwealth Court granted the department's request to expedite, rejected the disappointed bidder's request to block the sale, and approved the sale as proposed by the department. In reaching this decision, the Court agreed with all of the arguments put forward by Stradley. This decision represents an important precedent protecting the department's ability to conduct asset sales in insurance company liquidations without interference from disappointed bidders. As a result of the Court's approval, the transaction with the winning bidder promptly closed.

Financial Institution Wins Dismissal in Student Loan Case

Stradley Ronon secured a victory for a leading student loan servicer in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The plaintiff brought claims that the servicer violated the Federal Debt Collections Practice Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act, based on generalized allegations that his loans were not valid. Judge Gerald Austin McHugh dismissed the case with prejudice, finding that the plaintiff alleged no facts to suggest that his loans were invalid, or that the loan documents were unenforceable.

"United" For Decades of Success

For more than two decades Stradley Ronon has served as UnitedHealth's mid-Atlantic regional counsel, effectively and efficiently handling more than 400 cases and claims for UnitedHealth and its subsidiaries and affiliates throughout the mid-Atlantic region and in other states (e.g., Ohio, New York, Michigan and Florida). The majority of these cases are healthcare/ERISA litigation, and involve, ERISA benefit claims; non-ERISA claims; Medicare/Medicaid; provider disputes; prompt pay claims; stop loss claims; termination of contractual arrangements; coordination of benefits and care; third-party administration of benefits, life and disability benefit disputes; and counterclaims for fraud or overpayment. These cases range from single plaintiff claims to large, complex class actions.

Stradley Wins Fraud Trial for Federal Insurance

Stradley secured a victory for Federal Insurance Company following a four-day trial in a fraud and civil conspiracy action in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The jury found Michael LoCash, the former chief financial officer of Bank @Lantec in Virginia Beach, Virginia, liable for fraud and awarded Federal Insurance Company monetary damages to cover the bank's losses stemming from LoCash's purchase, on behalf of the bank, of phony CDs from an outside broker who was running a Ponzi scheme.