CARLTON FIELDS

Chris S. Coutroulis

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Chris Coutroulis handles business and complex litigation matters in a wide range of areas, including antitrust, class actions, mass torts, environmental, professional and accounting malpractice, securities fraud, and insurance coverage. His clients operate in numerous industries.

Mr. Coutroulis has particular experience with class actions, and successfully defending against class certification. He has served as lead trial counsel in numerous cases, including trials on the issue of class certification. Additionally, he has significant experience in antitrust cases. He has handled many of these cases through trial and binding arbitration on behalf of clients including credit card companies; professional sports leagues; and insurance, automotive, and energy companies. Mr Coutroulis is the antitrust and trade regulation practice group leader, as well as the food, beverage, dietary supplement, and personal care products industry group co-leader.

Representative Experience

Antitrust Litigation

- *Procaps S.A. v. Patheon Inc.*, 2013 WL 673730 (S.D. Fla. February 25, 2013) (represents Colombian company alleging a per se unlawful market allocation against its collaboration partner).
- *National Bancard Corp.* (NaBanco) v. VIA U.S.A., 596 F. Supp. 1231 (S.D. Fla. 1984), *aff'd*, 779 F.2d 592 (11th Cir. 1986).
- *Henry v. Chloride, Inc.*, 809 F.2d 1335 (8th Cir. 1987).
- *In re: Agricultural Chemicals*, 1995-2 Trade Cas. (CCH) 71,197 (N.D. Fla. 1995) (denying class certification).

education

Columbia Law School (J.D., 1979)

Wesleyan University (B.A., 1975), *magna cum laude*

related practices

Antitrust and Trade Regulation

Consumer Finance and Banking

Energy

Environmental Regulation and Litigation

Media, Entertainment, Sports and Gaming

National Class Actions

related industries

Consumer Finance and Banking

Food, Beverage, Dietary Supplement, and Personal Care Products

bar admissions

Florida

court admissions

United States Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

- *Texas v. Zeneca, Inc.*, 1997-2 Trade Cases 71,888 (N.D. Tex 1997).
- *Metropolitan Dade County v. Florida Power Corp.*, Case No. 96-594 (S.D. Fla. June 25, 1998) (unpublished, granting summary judgment in alleged monopolization case).
- *Execu-Tech Business Systems, Inc. v. Appleton Papers, Inc.*, 1999-1 Trade Cas. (CCH) 72,395 (Fla. 4th DCA 1999) (denying class certification).
- *JES Properties, Inc. v. USA Equestrian, Inc.*, 253 F. Supp. 2d 1273 (M.D. Fla. 2003).
- *Gilchrist v. State Farm Mut. Auto Ins. Co.*, 390 F. 3d 1327 (11th Cir. 2004).
- *Segal v. PEMEX*, 2008 WL 4900257 (M.D. Fla. 2008).

Business Litigation

- *In re: ESM Government Securities, Inc. v. Gonzalez*, 52 B.R. 372 (S.D. Fla. 1985).
- *Riddle v. Mobil Oil Corporation*, 1992 WL 81321 (M.D. Fla. 1992).
- *Wellcare v. AISLIC*, 16 So. 3d 904 (Fla. 2d DCA 2009).

Class Action Litigation

- *DeCastro vs. Small Planet*, Case No. 9:14-cv-80033 (S.D. Fla. 2014) (class action involving alleged mislabeling of natural snack foods; case dismissed).
- *Lam v. General Mills, Inc.*, 859 F. Supp. 2d 1097 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (dismissing in part consumer protection claims challenging labeling of defendant's fruit snack products; case subsequently resolved with no class certified).
- *Perret v. Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc.*, 889 F. Supp. 2d 1333 (S.D. Fla. 2012) (order granting motion to dismiss and closing case).
- *Heretick v. Publix Super Markets, Inc.*, 841 F. Supp. 2d 1247 (M.D. Fla. 2012) (class action involving alleged improper charges at ATM machines; order denying motion to remand putative consumer class action removed to federal court under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"); case dismissed).
- *Mills v. Stauffer Chemical Company*, (M.D. Fla. May 12, 1999) (unpublished) (denying class certification of putative class of property owners adjacent to superfund site).
- *Hoyte v. Stauffer Chemical Company*, 2002 WL 31892830 (Fla. Cir. Ct. Nov. 6, 2002) (Pinellas County).
- *Grimes v. Fairfield Resorts, Inc.*, (M.D. Fla. April 27, 2006) (denying class certification of putative class of vacation class holders).
- *Bragg v. Bill Heard Chevrolet, Inc. Plant City*, 2007 WL 2781105 (M.D. Fla.).
- *Veal v. Voyager Property and Casualty Insurance Co.*, 2007 WL 2700969 (M.D. Fla.).

Multi-District Litigation

- *In re Seroquel Products Liability Litig.*, 598 F. Supp. 2d 1271 (M.D. Fla. Feb. 6,

2009).

- *In re Seroquel Products Liability Litig.*, 2009 WL 618240 (M.D. Fla. March 12, 2009).
- *In re Chinese-Manufactured Drywall Products Liability Litig.*, 626 F. Supp. 2d 1346 (J.P.M.L. June 15, 2009).

Pro Bono

- *State of Florida vs. Ronnie Lee Jones* (Florida Supreme Court). Death penalty case; post trial proceedings; obtained reversal of conviction and death sentence.

Publications

04.04.2017	Co-Author, "As Class Action Spending Continues to Climb, Companies Manage Greater Risks," Carlton Fields Web Article (April 4, 2017).
03.06.2017	Contributor, "Classified: The Class Action Blog," Carlton Fields (2017).
03.06.2017	Co-Author, "Surprising Findings On The Latest Class Action Litigation Trends," Carlton Fields Web Article (March 6, 2017).
03.21.2016	Co-Author, "2016 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation," Carlton Fields (March 2015).
04.22.2015	"Companies Defending Class Actions More Strategically," Daily Business Review (April 2015).
03.16.2015	Co-Author, "2015 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation," Carlton Fields (March 2015).
04.14.2014	Co-Author, “2014 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation,” Carlton Fields (April 2014).
09.09.2013	Co-Author, "Square Pegs in Round Holes: Class Certification in GMO Food Products Cases," Bloomberg BNA (September 2013).
05.03.2013	Co-Author, "2013 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation," Carlton Fields (May 2013).
04.01.2012	Co-Author, “2012 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation,” Carlton Fields (April 2012).
05.01.2006	Client Alert: Business Litigation and Trade Regulation News: Class Action Law Update (May 1, 2006).

10.05.2003	Co-Author, “Back to the Future: Toward a More Rigorous Analysis of Antitrust Class Actions,” Antitrust Bulletin (2003).
12.01.2002	Co-Author, “Checkmate in Class Actions: Defensive Strategy in the Initial Move,” Litigation Magazine, Vol. 28, No. 2, Tactics Edition (Winter 2002).
01.02.2002	Co-Author, “Beating the Odds: Practical Advice on Winning the Class Certification Game by Litigation or Settlement,” Class Action Litigation Report (BNA) No. 1 at 34 (2002).
03.31.1999	Co-Author, “The Pass-On Problem in Indirect Purchaser Class Litigation,” The Antitrust Bulletin (1999).
1993	Contributing Writer, “Antitrust Law Developments” third edition and supplement (1993).
1993	“Collaboration Prompted By Competition Concerns,” 61 Antitrust Law Journal 391 (1993).
1989	“Developments in Robinson-Patman Law,” Antitrust Law Journal 58 443 (1989).
1988	“The Increasingly Pivotal Competitive Injury Requirement in Secondary Line Cases under the Robinson-Patman Act: Relevant Factors in Today’s Environment,” 57 Antitrust Law Journal 935 (1988).
1986	Co-Author, “Treble Damages Remedy,” American Bar Association Section of Antitrust Law Journal (1986).

Speaking Engagements

- Co-Presenter, “Class Action Survey and Trends,” Carlton Fields In-House Counsel Forum, Orlando, FL (March 2017)
- Co-Presenter, “Class Action Survey and Recent Developments,” Carlton Fields In-House Counsel Forum, Orlando, FL (March 2016)
- Co-Presenter, “Class Action Update,” Carlton Fields In-House Counsel Forum, Orlando, FL (March 2015)
- Presenter, "Presentation of 2013 Class Action Survey," Carlton Fields Class Action Symposium, New York, NY (June 2013)
- "McCarran-Ferguson Immunity, the Gilchrist Decision and Implications in Other Contexts," ABA Section of Antitrust Law Spring Meeting (2006)
- "High Hurdles in Certifying Indirect Purchaser Class Actions," National CLE Conference, Vail, CO (2000)
- "Indirect Purchaser Price Fixing Litigation," The Cutting Edge Seminar, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (1998)

- "Dealing with Big Buyers Under the Robinson-Patman Act," American Bar Association, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (1994)
- "Dealer/Franchisee Collaboration," American Bar Association, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (1992)
- "Fundamentals of Antitrust Law," American Bar Association, Spring Meeting, Antitrust Law Section, Washington, D.C. (1991 and 1992)
- "Living With the Robinson-Patman Act," Northwestern University 2 Day Antitrust Seminar (1989)
- "Price-Discrimination," American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division (1989)
- "Antitrust Developments Under the Robinson-Patman Act," American Bar Association Annual Meeting, Hawaii (1989)
- "Competitive Injury Under the Robinson-Patman Act," American Bar Association, Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada (1988)

Professional Recognition

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Named a "BTI Client Service All-Star" (2017)
- Selected to the Inaugural Committee of The Florida Bar for Antitrust and Trade Regulation Board Certification
- Listed in *Chambers USA Guide to America's Leading Business Lawyers* (2003-2016)
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, Antitrust Law, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation (2005-2017)
- Listed in *Florida Trend* magazine's Florida Legal Elite issue (2005, 2007-2009)
- Selected for inclusion in *Florida Super Lawyers* (2006-2016)

Professional and Civic Activities

- American Bar Association
  Vertical Restraints Past Chair, Antitrust Section
- The Florida Bar
  Antitrust and Trade Regulation Certification Committee, Business Law Section
- American Bar Foundation
- Hillsborough County Bar Association
- Leadership Tampa
- Cheatwood Inn of Court, Master
- American Law Institute
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America

- Principal author of the annual Carlton Fields Class Action Survey report

News

03.06.2017	Class Action Defense Spending Increases for Second Consecutive Year
02.07.2017	Three Carlton Fields Attorneys Named “BTI Client Service All-Stars” for 2017
08.15.2016	86 Carlton Fields Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”
06.28.2016	Florida Super Lawyers Ranks 105 Carlton Fields Attorneys as 2016 “Super Lawyers” and “Rising Stars”
06.16.2016	Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in 2016 Chambers USA Guide
05.13.2016	Business Observer Cites Carlton Fields 2016 Class Action Survey
05.01.2016	Chubb Management Liability Insights Newsletter Features Carlton Fields Class Action Survey and Attorney Expert Analyses
03.24.2016	Chris S. Coutroulis and Julianna Thomas McCabe Quoted in Inside Counsel about Carlton Fields’ Class Action Survey
03.24.2016	Chris S. Coutroulis Quoted in the Daily Business Review: Carlton Fields’ 2016 Class Action Survey
03.23.2016	Chris S. Coutroulis Quoted in the Tampa Bay Business Journal about Carlton Fields’ 2016 Class Action Survey
03.23.2016	Carlton Fields Class Action Survey Featured in The Global Legal Post
03.21.2016	Carlton Fields Survey Shows First Increase in Class Action Defense Spending Since Inaugural 2011 Report
03.21.2016	Chris Coutroulis Quoted in Law360 about Carlton Fields Class Action Survey
06.30.2015	Florida Super Lawyers Ranks 113 Carlton Fields Attorneys as 2015 “Super Lawyers” and “Rising Stars”

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