

# Daily Journal

JULY 15, 2015

## TOP 25 PLAINTIFF LAWYERS

Let's face it, plaintiff lawyers add the bling to the legal industry. But too often, we in the media focus on the large monetary judgments and settlements their cases garner and on their big personalities — in and out of the courtroom. We don't pay enough attention to the public and corporate policy changes their cases bring about.

In this inaugural issue, we tried to change that.

We selected just 25 California plaintiff lawyers to honor. We could have honored more but, in our opinion, these are the ones who consistently force broad change in the law, industry and society. Some are well-known, like Elizabeth Cabraser, Joseph Cotchett and Tom Girardi, and others are relative upstarts like Lawrance Bohm, whose eye-popping employment-related verdicts have grabbed us by

the proverbial lapels and forced us to pay attention.

As you read about these men and women, there is a common thread — and it doesn't have dollar signs; they truly care about having an impact. The work they are doing to hold governments and industry accountable will last long after the bling has dimmed.

— The Editors

### 2015 • TOP • PLAINTIFF • LAWYER

#### Daniel S. Robinson

Robinson Calcagnie Robinson Shapiro Davis, Inc.  
Newport Beach

**SPECIALTIES:** Consumer safety and products liability



Courtesy of Robinson Calcagnie Robinson Shapiro Davis Inc.

Daniel S. Robinson took a circuitous route to becoming a plaintiff's attorney and working at his father's firm. After law school, he joined the New York County District Attorney's Office in Manhattan. He was one of 37 prosecutors selected out of approximately 2,000 applicants.

"I loved that job," he said. "It was the best working experience I could imagine. Great people."

And the office's unofficial motto, "Do Justice," made an indelible imprint.

But his family beckoned him home. So, he eventually joined O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Orange County and worked as a defense lawyer for a few years. There, he said he learned how to interact with the other side in a respectful, yet forceful way.

Then, in 2009, his dad, Mark P. Robinson, Jr., asked him to join his firm. Even though he had reservations, he eventually came on board. The chance to work on products liability cases with his dad, Kevin Calcagnie and other partners was a big incentive, he said.

Currently, Daniel Robinson is co-lead counsel — overseeing more than 2,200 product liability pharmaceutical cases involving Risperdal and Invega in a coordinated proceeding in Los Angeles against Johnson & Johnson Services Inc.. He also has a trial in August in a case that has the potential to set a precedent, he said. This case involves a data breach where, he said, the medical information for more than 31,000 St. Joseph Health System patients was negligently released onto the Internet, violating California's Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA). A class was certified last year. *St. Joseph Health System Medical Information Cases*, JCCP 4716 (OC Super. Ct., filed Feb. 17, 2012).

"This is a pivotal case," he said, adding that this is the type of breach

CMIA was intended to remedy.

One of his most meaningful cases was winning a \$14.5 million verdict in 2010 on behalf of a man hit while riding a motorcycle, rendering him a paraplegic. The insurance company wavered on whether to extend its entire \$25,000 limit policy on the case, allowing Robinson to argue the policy was open and obtain a better result for the client. *Poole v. Juliana Picazo*, TC022363 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Sept. 26, 2008).

— Deirdre Newman