

Daily Journal

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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

Mark P. Robinson, Jr.

Robinson Calcagnie Robinson
Shapiro Davis, Inc.

Newport Beach

SPECIALTIES: Consumer safety and
products liability

He obtained the largest personal injury/product liability verdict in 1978, and it stood for close to 15 years. Mark Robinson's career as a plaintiff's lawyer is inextricably intertwined with the Ford Pinto. At age 28, he started working on a case against Ford Motor Co. in which the female driver was killed and her teenage passenger suffered burns on more than 90 percent of his body. Five years later, he and attorney Arthur N. Hews Jr. won a \$128 million verdict for the young man who got severely burned — the enormous verdict was meant to send Ford a loud and powerful message. As a result of this verdict, along with the sea of negative publicity regarding all the gas tanks that exploded — killing and injuring several hundred people — Ford recalled all the Pintos on the road and shut down the line altogether.

Since then, Robinson has represented plaintiffs in the Toyota unintended acceleration litigation. He was one of the lead counsels appointed by a federal judge for these cases nationwide.

He's currently on the executive committee for all the lawsuits against General Motors over its keyless ignition systems.

"My primary goal is representing clients and getting fair compensation for them," Robinson said. "But I found out that sometimes there's a significant, collateral, societal benefit."

— Deirdre Newman



Courtesy of Robinson Calcagnie Robinson Shapiro Davis Inc.