

CAUSE NO. 342-362862-25

**ALEX LAWRENCE and AMANDA
LAWRENCE ET AL.,
individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

WHITLEY PENN LLP,

Defendant.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

342ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

I, Gemma Seidita, being competent to testify, make the following declaration:

1. I am an associate in the law firm Tycko & Zavareei LLP. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards. The facts set forth below are based on my personal knowledge or upon my review of my firm's records and information, and I could testify competently to them if called upon to do so.

COUNSEL QUALIFICATIONS

2. I represent Plaintiffs in this matter. I, along with the other attorneys at Tycko & Zavareei LLP have substantial experience handling consumer class actions, including data breach cases, as well as other complex litigation. A true and correct copy of Tycko & Zavareei's Firm Resume is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

3. In just the last four years, I have worked successfully to obtain final resolution in numerous complex class actions and data breach actions, including: *In re Fortra File Transfer Software Data Security Breach Litig.*, No. 1:24-md-3090-RAR (S.D. Fla.) (final approval granted for \$27 million class settlement in hub-and-spoke data breach); *Black v. USAA Gen. Indemnity Co. et al.*, No. 21-cv-1581-LKG (D. Md.) (final approval granted of \$5 million class settlement); *In re*

HCA Healthcare, Inc. Data Sec. Litig., No. 3:23-cv-00684 (M.D. Tenn.) (final approval granted for class settlement of up to \$5,000 per claimant in data breach action); *In re Harvard Pilgrim Data Sec. Incident*, No. 1:23-cv-11211-NMG (D. Mass.) (final approval granted of \$16 million class settlement in data breach); *Bumpus et al. v. Realogy Holdings Corp. et al.*, No. 3:19-cv-03303-JD (N.D. Cal.) (final approval of \$20 million class settlement granted). I have been appointed as class counsel and am actively litigating numerous other complex class actions including data breach cases.

4. My law firm Tycko & Zavareei LLP also has significant experience in data breach actions. In addition to the aforementioned cases, Tycko & Zavareei team members have achieved final approval of class-wide settlements in data breach actions including: *In re T-Mobile Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, No. 4:21-MD-03019-BCW (W.D. Mo.) (final approval of \$500 million settlement); *Lundy v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, No. 3:8-cv-6793 (N.D. Cal.) (final approval of \$37.5 million settlement); *In re Luxottica of America Inc. Data Security Breach Litig.*, No. 1:20-cv-00908 (S.D. Ohio).

5. My experience representing individuals in complex class actions—including data breach actions—contributed to an awareness of Plaintiffs' settlement leverage, as well as the needs of Plaintiffs and the proposed Settlement Class. I believe that our clients would ultimately prevail in the litigation on a class-wide basis. However, I am also aware that a successful outcome is uncertain and would be achieved, if at all, only after prolonged, arduous litigation with the attendant risk of drawn-out appeals.

6. The Settlement in this matter provides all Settlement Class Members with immediate relief of real value. Under the terms of the Settlement, each Settlement Class Member is eligible to receive three separate Settlement Benefits: (1) pro rata settlement fund payments of

at least \$75 per Settlement Class Member, (2) 24 months of free access to a financial shield product including credit monitoring protection services with a monetary value of \$550.80 for each Settlement Class Member, and (3) information security improvements implemented by Whitley Penn. Settlement Agr. ¶¶ 2, 3.2. Regarding the security improvements, Whitley Penn's counsel has represented those will cost \$180,000 to maintain during the agreed upon period.

7. It is my individual opinion based on my litigation experience, that the Settlement provides significant relief to the Members of the Class and warrants the Court's approval.

CONTINGENT NATURE OF THE ACTION

8. My firm took on this case on a purely contingent basis.

9. I, along with other attorneys and support staff, spent significant time on this matter as set forth in detail below.

10. Such time could otherwise have been spent on other matters. Because I undertook representation of this matter on a contingency-fee basis, I shouldered the risk of expending substantial costs and time in litigating the action without any monetary gain in the event of an adverse judgment.

11. If not devoted to litigating this action, from which any remuneration to me is wholly contingent on a successful outcome, the time I spent working on this case could and would have been spent pursuing other matters.

12. Litigation is inherently unpredictable and therefore risky. Here, that risk was very real, due to the rapidly evolving nature of data breach class actions.

13. Therefore, despite my devotion to the case and my confidence in the claims alleged against Defendant, there have been many factors beyond my control that posed significant risks.

CAREFUL ASSIGNMENT OF WORK

14. The attorneys at my firm have made every effort to litigate efficiently by reducing duplication of effort and assigning work to the lowest billing timekeepers where feasible.

15. In addition, we worked carefully to divide tasks, ensure efficient case management, and prevent duplication of efforts. Only where it was necessary to have involvement of multiple attorneys did such involvement occur.

LODESTAR, FEES, AND EXPENSES

16. My regular practice, and that of other attorneys at Tycko and Zavareei, is to maintain contemporaneous time records.

17. As of May 12, 2026, my firm has incurred fees totaling \$166,038.20 after removing timekeepers with fewer than 10 hours and timekeepers who are no longer at the firm.

18. The hourly rates at Tycko & Zavareei reflect our experience. Fee requests based on our rates have been approved in the State of Texas and across the country. *See, e.g., Julio Lopez and Michael Oros et al. v. Volusion, LLC*, No. 1:20-cv-00761-LY (W.D. Tex.); *Wong v. TrueBeginnings LLC d/b/a True.com*, No. 3-07 Civ. 1244-N (N.D. Tex.); *In re Think Finance, LLC*, No. 17-bk-33964 (Bankr. N.D. Tex.); *Brown v. Transurban USA, Inc.*, No. 1:15CV494 (JCC/MSN), 2016 WL 6909683 (E.D. Va. Sept. 29, 2016); *Smith v. Fifth Third Bank*, No. 1:18-cv-00464-DRC-SKB (S.D. Ohio Aug. 31, 2021); *Small v. BOKF, N.A.*, No. 1:13-cv-01125-REB-MJW (D. Colo.); *Soule v. Hilton Worldwide, Inc.*, No. CV 13-00652 ACK-RLP, 2015 WL 12827769 (D. Haw.); *Hamm, et al. v. Sharp Electronics Corp.*, No. 5:19-cv-00488-JSM-PRK (M.D. Fla.); *Jette v. Bank of America, N.A.*, No. 20-cv-6791-LDW (D.N.J.); *Gupta v. Aeries Software*, No. 8:20-cv-00995-FMO-ADS (C.D. Cal.); *Lash Boost Cases* No. CJC-18-004981 (Cal. Super. Ct. S.F. Cty.).

19. Our lodestar is broken down as follows:

Name	Position/ Law School Grad. Year	Hourly Rate	Number of Hours	Lodestar
Gemma Seidita	Associate/ 2018	\$902.00	49.2	\$85,780.20
Sabita Soneji	Partner/ 2002	\$1,277.00	95.1	\$60,368.40
Robin Bleiweis	Fellow/ 2024	\$508.00	21.4	\$10,871.20
Troy Brown	Fellow/ 2025	\$508.00	12.3	\$6,248.40
Allegra Lubar	Paralegal	\$277.00	10.0	\$2,770.00
Total			188.0	\$166,038.20

20. We are requesting fees in the amount of \$75,023.97. Compared to our total lodestar, this request represents a negative multiplier of .45. Further, Tycko and Zavareei’s lodestar will increase by the close of this action in connection with drafting the Final Approval Motion, preparing for argument at the Final Approval Hearing, and miscellaneous matters, including responding to Class Member inquiries and monitoring Settlement Administration.

21. Prior to taking on Plaintiffs’ case, my firm thoroughly researched Defendant’s practices and Plaintiffs’ legal claims by, among other things, conducting an independent investigation and researching relevant data privacy statutes. This information was critical to my understanding of the nature of the Data Incident, the scope of potential damages and remedies, and the potential risks and benefits of continued litigation.

22. I, and other attorneys at my firm, have devoted significant time and resources to this case to date, including by:

- a. Conducting an investigation into the facts regarding Plaintiffs’ claims and Class Members’ Claims;
- b. Researching law relevant to, and preparing Plaintiffs’ Original Petition;
- c. Engaging in limited settlement-related discovery;
- d. Negotiating and preparing the Parties’ Class Action Settlement Agreement, along with the proposed Class notice and claim form;

- e. Negotiating with several settlement administration companies to secure the best notice plan practicable;
- f. Preparing Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement and preparing a detailed declaration in support;
- g. Working with the Settlement Administrator to ensure the timely completion of notice and processing of claims;
- h. Closely monitoring evolving law regarding data security and its potential impacts on the case; and
- i. Conferring with Plaintiffs throughout the case.

23. I also anticipate completing additional work throughout Settlement Administration, including responding to inquiries from Settlement Class Members and answering any questions they have about the Settlement.

24. Additionally, I anticipate spending time drafting Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval and attending the hearing scheduled by the Court.

25. Upon request, I can provide detailed contemporaneous records to the Court for review.

26. All books and records in this case regarding costs expended were maintained in the ordinary course of business, from expense vouchers and check records. I have reviewed the records of costs expended in this matter.

27. Through May 12, 2026, Tycko & Zavareei has incurred \$2,476.03 in reasonable expenses necessary to the litigation, which include filing fees, legal research fees, and postage fees. Tycko & Zavareei may incur limited additional costs in traveling to and appearing at the Final Approval Hearing should the hearing be held in person.

28. The combined amount of costs and fees we are seeking is \$77,500.

29. The Class has been provided notice of Plaintiffs' intent to seek \$77,500 in attorneys' fees and costs. The Settlement Administrator will detail such notice in its declaration, to be filed with Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval. As of May 8, 2026, the date of the most recent weekly report from the Settlement Administrator, no objections or opt-out requests have been received by the Settlement Administrator.

SERVICE AWARDS

30. The Settlement Agreement provides for a reasonable Service Award to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$2,500 per Plaintiff (for a total of \$10,000). Settlement Agr. ¶ 8.1.

31. The Service Awards are meant to compensate Plaintiffs for their efforts on behalf of the Settlement Class, including assisting in the investigation of the case, reviewing the pleadings, maintaining contact with Counsel, reviewing and approving the Settlement Agreement, staying informed on the case status, and answering Counsel's questions throughout the pendency of Counsel's investigation and the subsequent litigation.

32. I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed in Falls Church, Virginia on this 12th of May, 2026.

Dated: May 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gemma Seidita

Gemma Seidita (admitted *pro hac vice*)

TYCKO & ZAVAREEI LLP

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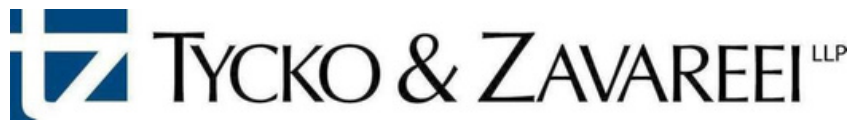
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Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class

EXHIBIT 1



Firm Resume

Jonathan Tycko and Hassan Zavareei founded Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2002 when they left a large national firm to form a private public interest law firm. Since then, a wide range of clients have trusted the firm with their most difficult problems. Those clients include individuals fighting for their rights, tenants' associations battling to preserve decent and affordable housing, consumers seeking redress for unfair business practices, whistleblowers exposing fraud and corruption, and non-profit entities and businesses facing difficult litigation.

The firm's practice focuses on complex litigation, with a particular emphasis on consumer and other types of class actions, and *qui tam* and False Claims Act litigation. In its class action practice, the firm represent consumers who have been victims of corporate wrongdoing. The firm's attorneys bring a unique perspective to such litigation because many of them trained at major national defense firms where they obtained experience representing corporate defendants in such cases. This unique perspective enables the firm to anticipate and successfully counter the strategies commonly employed by corporate counsel defending class action litigation. Tycko & Zavareei LLP's attorneys have successfully obtained class certification, been appointed class counsel, and obtained approval of class action settlements with common funds totaling over \$500 million.

Tycko & Zavareei LLP's twenty attorneys graduated from some of the nation's finest law schools, including Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Duke University School of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law, UC Hastings College of the Law, Georgetown Law, the University of Michigan Law School, and the University of Miami School of Law. They have served in prestigious clerkships for federal and state trial and appellate judges and have worked for low-income clients through competitive public interest fellowships. The firm's diversity makes it a leader amongst its peers, and the firm actively and successfully recruits attorneys who are women, people of color, and LGBTQ. To support its mission of litigating in the public interest, Tycko & Zavareei LLP offers a unique public interest fellowship for recent law graduates. Tycko & Zavareei LLP's attorneys practice in state and federal courts across the nation.

Representative Cases

U.S. ex rel. Thompson v. Acadia Healthcare Company Inc., et al., **Case No. 2:18-cv-543-FtM-38CM (MDFL)**. Tycko & Zavareei LLP represented one of the whistleblowers/relators in this case under the False Claims Act which led to a nearly \$20 million settlement against Acadia Healthcare Company, Inc., and a 19% reward to the whistleblowers.

Lisa Tabak, et al. v. Apple, Inc., **No. 19-cv-02455-JST (N.D. Cal)**. TZ, as Co-Class Counsel, represented plaintiffs claiming that an alleged audio defect impacted the functionality of the audio systems in iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus models achieving a \$35 million settlement.

Andrea Stevenson v. Allstate Insurance Co et al., **No. 4:15-cv-04788-YGR (N.D. Cal)**. TZ and co-counsel secured a win for over 1.2 million California insurance customers with the approval of a \$25 million class action settlement involving Allstate Insurance Company.

Harris, et al. v. Farmers Insurance Exchange and Mid-Century Insurance Company, **Case No.: BC579498 (Sup. Ct. Cal., Los Angeles Cty.)**. TZ successfully represented plaintiffs in this class action lawsuit against Farmers Insurance Exchange and Mid-Century Insurance Company for the use of price optimization and elasticity of demand methodologies resulting in a \$15 million settlement.

Alexander v. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, **Case No.: 1:20-cv-02369-RDB in the United States (D. Md.)** Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC came to a settlement with borrowers, ending its "pay to pay" practices and agreeing to provide cash payments to members of the class action.

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Susan Wang, et al. v. Stub Hub, Inc., Case No.: CGC-18-564120 (Sup. Ct. Cal. San Francisco Cnty.) StubHub agreed to pay \$2.5 million in cash and provide \$20 million in credit to resolve claims it deceived consumers by falsely advertising low ticket prices.

Lundy et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc., Case No.: 3:18-CV-06793-JD (N.D. Cal.). This \$37.5 million settlement addresses claims that Meta unlawfully collected and inferred precise location information.

Vergara v. Uber Technologies, Inc., No. 1:15-cv-06972 (N.D. Ill.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP served as Co-Lead Counsel in this case under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, obtaining a class settlement of \$20 million.

Farrell v. Bank of America, N.A., No. 16-cv-000492 (S.D. Cal.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP obtained a settlement valued at \$66.6 million plus injunctive relief valued at \$1.2 billion.

In re TD Bank, N.A. Debit Card Overdraft Fee Litigation, No. 15-mn-02613 (D.S.C.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP serves on the Plaintiffs Executive Committee in this case challenging TD Bank's overdraft fee practices. Tycko & Zavareei LLP assisted in obtaining a \$70 million class settlement.

In re Higher One Account Marketing & Sales Practices Litigation, No. 12-md-02407 (D. Conn.). As Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$15 million common fund settlement with significant changes to business practices for illegal debit card fees.

Duval v. Citizens Financial Group, Inc., No. 10-cv-21080 (S.D. Fla.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Class Counsel and obtained a common fund settlement of \$137.5 million.

In re American Psychological Association Assessment Fee Litigation, No. 12-md-02407 (D. Conn.). As Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$15 million common fund settlement with significant changes to business practices for illegal debit card fees.

Lloyd v. Navy Federal Credit Union, No. 17-cv-1280 (S.D. Cal.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$24.5 million common fund settlement on behalf of a class of NFCU customers harmed by the credit union's overdraft fee practices.

Morgan v. Apple, Inc., No. 17-cv-5277 (N.D. Cal.), Simmons v. Apple Inc., No. 17CV312251 (Sup. Ct. Ca., Santa Clara Cnty.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP is currently serving as Lead Counsel in this class action challenging Apple's deceptive marketing of Powerbeats headphones and secured a \$9.75 million settlement for the class.

Wallace v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., No. 17CV31775 (Sup. Ct. Ca., Santa Clara Cty.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP serve as Co-Lead Counsel in this case against Wells Fargo's overdraft fee practices. Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$10.5 million common fund class settlement.

Roberts v. Capital One Financial Corporation, No. 16-cv-04841 (S.D.N.Y.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$17 million settlement for Capital One customers forced to pay excessive overdraft fees.

Hamm v. Sharp Electronics Corp., No. 19-cv-488 (M.D. Fla.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Co-Lead Counsel and was instrumental in providing relief valued at \$109 million for class members exposed to a product defect in certain Sharp Microwave Drawer Ovens.

Mascaro v. TD Bank, N.A., No. 10-cv-21117 (S.D. Fla.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Class Counsel and was instrumental in obtaining a \$62 million common fund on behalf of the class.

Bodnar v. Bank of America, N.A., No. 5:14-cv-03224 (E.D. Pa.), Tycko & Zavareei LLP served as lead Counsel and obtained a \$27.5 million class settlement and significant injunctive relief.

In Re JUUL Labs, Inc. Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation, No.: 19-md-02913-WHO (N.D. Cal.), Tycko & Zavareei LLP served on the Plaintiffs Steering Committee obtaining a \$300 million class settlement.

In re: T-Mobile Customer Data Security Breach Litigation, MDL No. 3019, No. 4:21-MD-03019-BCW (W.D. Mo.), Tycko & Zavareei LLP was named leadership in this MDL, challenging T-Mobile's failure to keep confidential the PII for millions of its customers securing a \$350 million settlement.

LaBella et al v. Apple Inc, No. 5:24-cv-07588-NW (N.D. Cal.), Tycko & Zavareei LLP was named leadership in this class action lawsuit against Apple for selling defective Gen. 1 AirPods Pros to consumers.

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Our Diversity

Tycko & Zavareei LLP is committed to fostering an equitable, diverse, and inclusive work environment. We believe that a diverse team significantly improves our work product and ability to innovate, enhances our ability to serve our clients, and strengthens our ability to attract talented individuals. We strive to maintain a culture that celebrates the strengths of every team member. The firm engages in ongoing efforts to foster a culture of mutual respect and attract, retain, and promote outstanding lawyers and staff from all backgrounds, perspectives, and abilities.

Our team was honored with the 2022 Diversity Initiative Award from The National Law Journal's Elite Trial Lawyers recognition program.

Tycko & Zavareei LLP's Firm Breakdown:

Attorneys

- **50%** of attorneys identify as women
- **75%** partners identify as women
- **27%** of attorneys identify as persons of color
- **23%** of attorneys identify as LGBTQIA+

Attorneys and Staff

- **55%** identify as women
- **27%** identify as persons of color
- **27%** identify as LGBTQIA+

Hassan A. Zavareei

Partner

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Mr. Zavareei has devoted the last two decades to recovering hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of consumers and workers. He has served in leadership roles in dozens of class action cases and has been appointed Class Counsel on behalf of numerous litigation and settlement classes. An accomplished and experienced attorney, Mr. Zavareei has litigated in state and federal courts across the nation in a wide range of practice areas; tried several cases to verdict; and successfully argued numerous appeals, including in the D.C. Circuit, the Fourth Circuit, and the Fifth Circuit. He also recently argued before the United States Supreme Court.

After graduating from UC Berkeley School of Law, Mr. Zavareei joined the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. There, he managed the defense of a nationwide class action brought against a major insurance carrier, along with other complex civil matters. In 2002, Mr. Zavareei founded Tycko & Zavareei LLP with his partner Jonathan Tycko.

Mr. Zavareei has served as lead counsel or co-counsel in dozens of class actions involving deceptive business practices, defective products, and/or privacy. He has been appointed to leadership roles in multiple cases. As Lead Counsel in an MDL against a financial services company that provided predatory debit cards to college students, Mr. Zavareei spearheaded a fifteen-million-dollar recovery for class members. He is currently serving as Co-Lead Counsel in consolidated proceedings against Fifth Third Bank, and on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in MDL litigation against TD Bank.

As Co-Lead Counsel in *Farrell v. Bank of America*, a case challenging Bank of America's punitive overdraft fees, Mr. Zavareei secured a class settlement valued at \$66.6 million in cash and debt relief, together with injunctive relief forcing the bank to change a practice that will save millions of low-income consumers approximately \$1.2 billion in overdraft fees. In his Order granting final approval, Judge Lorenz of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California described the outcome as a "remarkable" accomplishment achieved through "tenacity and great skill."

Mr. Zavareei is a highly sought after speaker on class action litigation and has taught numerous CLE courses across the country.



Education

UC Berkeley School of Law, 1995,
Order of the Coif

Duke University, 1990, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

California

District of Columbia

Maryland

Supreme Court of the United States

Leadership

Public Justice, Emeritus Board

NCLC, Partners Council

Awards

2025 Chambers USA, Band 1

2023 Chambers USA, Band 1

2022 Law360 Titan of Plaintiffs Bar

2021 Law360 Class Action MVP

Selected to 2012-2024 Washington, D.C.

Super Lawyers List

Presentations & Publications

Witness Before the Subcommittee on
the Constitution and Civil Justice,
115th Congress

Witness Before the Civil Rules
Advisory Committee, 2018, 2019

Editor, Duke Law School Center for
Judicial Studies, Guidance on New
Rule 23 Settlement Provisions

Andrea R. Gold

Partner

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Andrea Gold has spent her legal career advocating for consumers, employees, and whistleblowers. Ms. Gold has litigated numerous complex cases, including through trial. Her extensive litigation experience benefits the firm's clients in both national class action cases as well as in qui tam whistleblower litigation. She has served as trial counsel in two lengthy jury trials.

In her class action practice, Ms. Gold has successfully defended dispositive motions, navigated complex discovery, worked closely with leading experts, and obtained contested class certification. Her class action cases have involved, amongst other things, unlawful bank fees, product defects, violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, and deceptive advertising and sales practices.

Ms. Gold also has significant civil rights experience. She has represented individuals and groups of employees in employment litigation, obtaining substantial recoveries for employees who have faced discrimination, harassment, and other wrongful conduct. In addition, Ms. Gold has appellate experience in both state and federal court.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Ms. Gold was a Skadden fellow. The Skadden Fellowship Foundation was created by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, one of the nation's top law firms, to support the work of new attorneys at public interest organizations around the country. Ms. Gold earned her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, where she was an associate editor of the Journal of Law Reform, co-President of the Law Students for Reproductive Choice, and a student attorney at the Family Law Project clinical program. Ms. Gold graduated with high distinction from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business in 2001, concentrating her studies in Finance and Marketing.

Education

University of Michigan Law School,
2004
University of Michigan, Ross School
of Business, 2001

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Illinois
Maryland
Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

American Association for Justice
National Associate of Consumer
Advocates
National Employment Lawyers
Association
Public Justice
Taxpayers Against Fraud Education
Fund

Awards

Selected to 2022, 2023, and 2024
Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers List

National Trial Lawyers, Top 100 Civil
Plaintiff Lawyers, 2020

Selected to 2013 & 2014 Washington,
D.C. Super Lawyers Rising Stars List

Skadden Fellow, Skadden Arps Slate
Meagher & Flom LLP, 2004-2006

Jonathan Tycko

Partner

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In his 29 years of practice, Jonathan Tycko has represented a wide range of clients, including individuals, Fortune 500 companies, privately held business, and non-profit associations, in both trial and appellate courts around the country. Although he continues to handle a variety of cases, his current practice is focused primarily on helping whistleblowers expose fraud and corruption through *qui tam* litigation under the False Claims Act and other similar whistleblower statutes. Mr. Tycko's whistleblower clients have brought to light hundreds of millions of dollars in fraud in cases involving healthcare, government contracts, and customs duties, banking, and tax. He is a frequent author and speaker on issues relating to whistleblower cases.

Prior to founding Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2002, Mr. Tycko was with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, one of the nation's top law firms. He received his law degree in 1992 from Columbia University Law School, and earned a B.A. degree, with honors, in 1989 from The Johns Hopkins University. After graduating from law school, Mr. Tycko served for two years as law clerk to Judge Alexander Harvey, II, of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

In addition to his private practice, Mr. Tycko is an active participant in other law-related and community activities. He has served as Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund, charged with planning the premier annual conference of whistleblower attorneys and their counterparts at the United States Department of Justice and other government agencies. He has taught as an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University Law School. He is a former member and Chairperson of the Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee of the District of Columbia Bar, where he helped draft the ethics rules governing members of the bar. And Mr. Tycko was a long-time member of the Board of Trustees of Studio Theatre, one of the D.C. area's top non-profit theaters. Mr. Tycko is admitted to practice before the courts of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and New York, as well as before numerous federal courts around the country.

Education

Columbia University Law School,
1992
The Johns Hopkins University, 1989,
with Honors

Bar Admissions

Colorado
District of Columbia
Maryland
New York
Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

Law360 Government Contracts
Editorial Board Member
American Association for Justice
Public Justice
Taxpayers Against Fraud Education
Fund (TAFEF)

Awards and Honors

2020 National Law Review Go-To
Thought Leader Award for False Claims
Act
Super Lawyers, 2012-current
Member of the D.C. Bar Leadership
Academy
Stone Scholar (all three years), Columbia
Law School Thomas E. Dewey Prize for
Best Brief, Harlan Fiske Stone Moot
Court Competition, Columbia Law
School

Annick M. Persinger

Partner

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Annick M. Persinger leads Tycko & Zavareei LLP's California offices as California's Managing Partner. While at Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Ms. Persinger has dedicated her practice to utilizing California's prohibitions against unfair competition and false advertising to advocate for consumers. Ms. Persinger has taken on financial institutions, companies that take advantage of consumers with deceptive advertising, tech companies that disregard user privacy, companies that sell defective products, and mortgage loan servicers. Ms. Persinger also represents whistleblowers who expose their employer's fraudulent practices.

Ms. Persinger graduated magna cum laude as a member of the Order of the Coif from the University of California, College of the Law, San Francisco in 2010. While in law school, Ms. Persinger served as a member of Hastings Women's Law Journal, and authored two published articles. In 2008, Ms. Persinger received an award for Best Oral Argument in the first year moot court competition. In 2007, Ms. Persinger graduated *cum laude* from the University of California, San Diego with a B.A. in Sociology, and minors in Law & Society and Psychology.

Following law school, Ms. Persinger worked as a legal research attorney for Judge John E. Munter in Complex Litigation at the San Francisco Superior Court.

Ms. Persinger served as an elected board member of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) from 2017 to 2019, and as Co-Chair of BALIF from 2018 to 2019. During her term on the BALIF Board of Directors, Ms. Persinger advocated for LGBTQI community members with intersectional identities, and promoted anti-racism and anti-genderism. Ms. Persinger now serves as a Steering Committee member for the Cambridge Forum on Plaintiffs Food Fraud Litigation.

Education

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, 2010, *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif
University of California San Diego, 2007, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

California

Memberships

American Association for Justice
Plaintiffs Food Fraud Litigation,
2020 Steering Committee Member
Public Justice

Awards

Elite Women of the Plaintiffs Bar
(2022)
Super Lawyer, Rising Star 2020
University of California College of
the Law, San Francisco, Best Oral
Argument 2008

Sabita J. Soneji

Partner

510.254.6808
ssoneji@tzlegal.com



In 23 years of practice, Sabita J. Soneji has developed extensive experience in litigation and legal policy at both the federal and state level and a passion for fighting consumer fraud. Now a Partner in Tycko & Zavareei LLP's Oakland office, she focuses on consumer protection class actions and whistleblower litigation. In addition to her success leading cases involving payday loans and predatory student lending products and cases against crypto currency platforms that fail to protect customer funds, Ms. Soneji served in leadership and helped settle multi-district litigation against Juul, for its manufacture and marketing to youth of an addictive nicotine product. Ms. Soneji has achieved significant results for consumers harmed by massive data breaches and corporate practices that collect and monetize user data without consent. She serves as head of the firm's Privacy and Data Breach Group.

Ms. Soneji began her impact work during her time with the United States Department of Justice, as Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General. In that role, she oversaw civil and criminal prosecution of various forms of financial fraud that arose in the wake of the 2008 recession. For that work, Ms. Soneji partnered with other federal agencies, state attorneys general, and consumer advocacy groups. Beyond that affirmative work, Ms. Soneji worked to defend various federal programs, including the Affordable Care Act in nationwide litigation.

Ms. Soneji has extensive civil litigation experience from her four years with international law firm, her work as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California, and from serving as Deputy County Counsel for Santa Clara County, handling civil litigation on behalf of the County including regulatory, civil rights, and employment matters. She has successfully argued motions and conducted trials in both state and federal court and negotiated settlements in complex multi-party disputes.

Early in her career, Ms. Soneji clerked for the Honorable Gladys Kessler on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, during which she assisted the judge in overseeing the largest civil case in American history, *United States v. Phillip Morris, et al.*, a civil RICO case brought against major tobacco manufacturers for fraud in the marketing, sale, and design of cigarettes. The opinion in that case paved the way for Congress to authorize FDA regulation of cigarettes.

Ms. Soneji is a graduate of the University of Houston, *summa cum laude*, with degrees in Math and Political Science, and Georgetown University Law Center, *magna cum laude*.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, 2002
magna cum laude
University of Houston, 1997, *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
California
Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

Ninth Circuit Judicial Council Lawyer
Representative for the Northern
District of California, 2023-2025
Law360 Diversity & Inclusion Editorial
Advisory Board Member, 2022-2023
American Association for Justice
Public Justice, 2022-2024 Exec Member
of the Board of Directors
Impact Fund
Taxpayers Against Fraud Education
Fund (TAFEF)

Awards

Attorney General's Award 2014

Presentations & Publications

"FTC investigation of ChatGPT a win
for consumers", *The Daily Journal*
(July 24, 2023)

Renée Brooker

Partner

202.417.3664

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Bringing 30 years of practice, knowledge, and expertise as a former prosecutor in a senior leadership position at the United States Department of Justice, Renée Brooker is now representing whistleblowers. While at the Department of Justice for over two decades, Ms. Brooker was responsible for billions of dollars in recoveries under whistleblower laws. As an accomplished and experienced attorney, Ms. Brooker has advised and represented whistleblowers under the False Claims Act (FCA), the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law, FIRREA (bank fraud, mail, and wire fraud), the Financial Institutions Anti-Fraud Enforcement Act (FIAFE), and the Whistleblower Programs of the SEC, the CFTC, and the IRS.

As Assistant Director within the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice, Ms. Brooker was responsible for sizeable recoveries and successful judgments under the False Claims Act, FIRREA, and civil RICO in almost every industry: pharmaceutical, health care, defense, financial services, government procurement, small business, insurance, tobacco products, and higher education.

Ms. Brooker received her law degree in 1990 from Georgetown University Law Center, and a B.S. degree in 1987 from Temple University. After graduating from Georgetown, Ms. Brooker served as a Law Clerk to Judge Noël Kramer in the District of Columbia for one year before joining the United States Department of Education as an attorney. Ms. Brooker was hired as part of the enforcement response to Congressional investigations of fraud in federal student aid programs affecting consumers and taxpayers. Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2020, Ms. Brooker worked at another prominent whistleblower firm where she advised and represented whistleblowers while expanding the firm's whistleblower practice. Ms. Brooker also served as a member of the United States Department of Justice-appointed Independent Corporate Compliance Monitor and Auditor for Volkswagen under its Plea Agreement and Consent Decree with the United States Department of Justice.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, 1990
Temple University, 1987

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Pennsylvania

Memberships

Taxpayers Against Fraud Education
Fund (TAFEF)

Board Member, Federal Bar Association
Qui Tam Section

National Employment Lawyers
Association (NELA)

Awards

Selected to 2023 and 2024 Washington,
D.C. Super Lawyers List

Department of Justice Commendation
Award for recovering billions of dollars
under the Big Lender Initiative, 2016

Council of the Inspectors General on
Integrity and Efficiency Award for
Excellence for \$1.2 billion False Claims Act
settlement with Wells Fargo, 2016

Department of Justice Award for a record
of outstanding actions and
accomplishments, 2015

Attorney General's Award for Fraud
Prevention, 2011

Department of Justice Award for
prosecuting Big Tobacco under RICO, 2005

Eva Gunasekera

Partner

202.417.3655
eva@tzlegal.com

Bringing 16 years of complex litigation experience practice, Eva Gunasekera, the former Senior Counsel for Health Care Fraud at the United States Department of Justice, is now representing whistleblowers. Ms. Gunasekera has spent the better part of her career enforcing the False Claims Act and the Stark and Anti-Kickback laws.

Highly strategic, Ms. Gunasekera has many notable successes under her belt, sizeable recoveries under the False Claims Act, and has held companies accountable for fraudulent conduct that harmed important government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. With deep health care fraud expertise, she has investigated, litigated, and settled cases involving all federal health care programs (Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, FEHB). Ms. Gunasekera is an expert on analyzing complex health care data sets, including Medicare and Medicaid payment data and trends, to identify potentially fraudulent practices. She has enforced anti-fraud laws and represented whistleblowers across industries: pharmaceutical manufacturers, health care providers, hospitals, physicians, physician groups, laboratories, managed care, pharmacies, hospice and nursing home providers, financial institutions, government suppliers, automotive, small businesses, and defense contractors. Many of her investigations involved parallel criminal proceedings and compliance and whistleblower programs of health care organizations, including those subjected to Corporate Integrity Agreements and oversight by Independent Review Organizations, as required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG).

After graduating with her Master's in Public Administration from Ohio University, and from Georgetown University Law Center, Ms. Gunasekera practiced law at two international law firms. She acted as second chair during administrative trials and handled complex commercial litigation. Ms. Gunasekera also played a significant role on the team that represented the Enron Creditors Recovery Corp in the bankruptcy proceeding, successfully returning billions of dollars to creditors in the wake of the Enron scandal. Further, Ms. Gunasekera represented clients in pro bono matters, including the successful defense of an individual seeking asylum and as guardian ad litem for three children.



Education

Georgetown University Law Center, 2004
Ohio University, M.A., 2001
Ohio University, B.A., 2000

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Ohio

Memberships

Taxpayers Against Fraud Education
Fund (TAFEF)
Federal Bar Association Qui Tam
Section

Presentations & Publications

Quoted in, "They Entered Treatment.
Drugs, Overdoses and Deaths
Followed," The New York Times
(December 20, 2024)

New Fraud in America (TAF
Coalition): Blowing the Whistle to
Protect Vulnerable Patients (2024)

Quoted in: They Lost Their Legs.
Doctors and Health Care Giants
Profited, The New York Times (July 15,
2023)

Whistleblower Rewards 101" –
Scottsdale (Arizona) Bar Association
(March 9, 2021)

Katherine M. Aizpuru

Partner

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kaizpuru@tzlegal.com



Katherine M. Aizpuru is a Partner in Tycko & Zavareei LLP's Washington, D.C. office. Her practice focuses on protecting consumers and whistleblowers from fraudulent and unfair practices. Ms. Aizpuru has fought predatory financial institutions and mortgage servicers that wrongfully took money from consumers, service providers that snuck junk fees into their invoices, and tech companies that violated user privacy. She has also represented whistleblowers who exposed illegal practices in the healthcare industry. Ms. Aizpuru has taken on some of the world's most prominent corporations and financial institutions and has recovered millions of dollars for consumers.

Before joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP as a partner in 2024, Ms. Aizpuru litigated on behalf of consumers in the Federal Trade Commission's Division of Financial Practices. There, she led the FTC's first ever case against a cryptocurrency company and its former executives. She also secured settlements that shut down a pair of student debt relief scams, required the defendants to turn over their assets including personal bank accounts, vehicles, and properties for consumer redress, and banned the principals from working in the debt relief industry. Ms. Aizpuru's other work at the FTC included investigations involving fair lending, dark patterns, and unfair and deceptive practices in the fintech and auto sales industries. Ms. Aizpuru also served as a trial attorney at the Department of Justice, where she represented federal agencies, such as the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Defense Health Agency, in complex litigation and bankruptcy proceedings.

Ms. Aizpuru was an associate at Tycko & Zavareei LLP from 2017 to 2021. She earned her law degree cum laude from Harvard Law School and clerked for the Honorable Catharine F. Easterly on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Honorable Theodore D. Chuang on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Prior to law school, Ms. Aizpuru graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with High Honors from Swarthmore College.

Education

Harvard Law School, *cum laude*, 2014
Swarthmore College, 2010, High Honors

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Massachusetts
New York
U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Colorado, D.C., Maryland, Massachusetts, Eastern District of New York, Southern District of New York
U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Second, and Seventh Circuits

Awards

2023 Director's Award, Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Bureau.

Selected to 2020, 2021, and 2025 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers Rising Stars List.

Gemma Seidita

Associate

202.973.0900

gseidita@tzlegal.com

Gemma Seidita is an associate in the Washington, D.C. office where she focuses on civil rights cases and advocating for whistleblowers and consumers.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2022, Ms. Seidita was an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Cooley LLP, where she represented clients in complex commercial litigation and investigations, including cases involving securities, trade secret, and unfair competition claims. At Cooley, Ms. Seidita maintained an active pro bono practice in civil rights and immigration areas. Ms. Seidita was a member of the trial team in the historic federal *Sines v. Kessler* litigation where white supremacists were put on trial for their conspiratorial actions in planning and committing violence at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Ms. Seidita graduated from Duke University School of Law in 2018 where she earned a J.D. and an LLM in international and comparative law. While in law school, she served as a Research Editor for the Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum. Ms. Seidita received her Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia in 2015.



Education

Duke University School of Law, 2018,
cum laude
University of Virginia, 2015, with
Distinction

Bar Admissions

California
District of Columbia
Massachusetts

Memberships

Public Justice

Robert Devling

Associate

202.769.4991
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Robert (Rob) Devling is an Associate in the Washington, D.C. office. Rob holds a JD from Washington University School of Law, graduating in 2021 with honors.

Prior to joining TZ, Rob worked at the DC office of Squire Patton Boggs where he was an associate in the firm's litigation practice group, focusing on complex litigation matters including consumer protection class actions.

Prior to joining Squire, Rob served as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Eric Clay of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. During law school he completed legal internships with a class action litigation firm, the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Illinois, the St. Louis City Public Defenders Office, as well as the Housing Partnership Equity Trust in DC. Prior to law school, Rob interned at the U.S. Supreme Court, in the Office of Sen. Chuck Schumer, and in the DOJ, and received his B.A. in Politics, *magna cum laude*, from NYU.



Education

Washington University School of Law,
2021, with honors

New York University, 2017, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Tyler Ritchie

Associate

202.796.4344
tritchie@tzlegal.com

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Tyler Ritchie was a legal fellow at the National Student Legal Defense Network, where he represented students in class action litigation stemming from universities' false advertising. He also litigated cases under the Administrative Procedures Act and Freedom of Information Act.

Tyler graduated with honors from Columbia Law School in 2023, where he was a Berger Public Interest/Public Service Fellow. While in law school, Tyler served as Design & Layout Editor of the Columbia Journal of Law & Social Problems. He interned at the Consumer Protection Bureau of the Federal Trade Commission and the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Prior to law school, Tyler was a high school teacher for eight years, teaching U.S. history and U.S. government. He received a Bachelor of Arts *summa cum laude* in history from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Arts in history from Brandeis University.



Education

Columbia Law School, 2023, with honors
Brandeis University, M.A., 2012
Vanderbilt University, B.A., 2008, *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Travis Stoller

Associate

202.935.6280
tstoller@tzlegal.com

Travis Stoller works as an associate in the Washington, D.C. office, who is passionate about defending consumer interests.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2025, Travis served as a judicial law clerk, first for the Honorable Judge Moxila A. Upadhyaya at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and then for the Honorable Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Prior to serving as a judicial law clerk, Travis was an associate at a large law firm in Washington, D.C., where he focused on a variety of litigation, regulatory, policy, and pro bono matters.

Travis graduated from the George Washington University Law School in 2020 and received a J.D. with honors. While in law school, Travis interned with the Federal Communications Commission and the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Travis also served as an associate on The George Washington Law Review and as a writing fellow.

Prior to law school, Travis graduated from the University of Miami in 2017, receiving a Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude in Communication Studies-Public Advocacy and Political Science.



Education

The George Washington University
School of Law
University of Miami

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Christian Whitmer

Staff Attorney

202.935.6335
cwhitmer@tzlegal.com

Christian Whitmer is a staff attorney in the Washington, D.C. office dedicated to protecting and advancing consumer rights.

After graduating from Georgetown University Law Center in 2023, Christian Whitmer worked for the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, enforcing the District's wage and hour laws and investigating violations of the District of Columbia's False Claims Act. During his time at the Attorney General, Christian was involved in cases that recovered millions of dollars for aggrieved workers and the District.

Prior to law school, Christian worked on affordable housing policy for a national non-profit, focusing on outreach to Presidential candidates in advance of the 2020 election. During law school, Christian continued his work in the housing space, serving as a clerk for a legal aid organization that defends tenants who are facing eviction.



Education

Georgetown University Law Center, 2023
Brown University, 2016

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Ivey Best

Staff Attorney

202.417.3665
ibest@tzlegal.com

Since her graduation from law school in 2020, Ivey's practice has been dedicated to representing individuals from all walks of life in civil rights cases. Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei, Ivey represented hundreds of employees in discrimination, sexual harassment, and wage and hour cases. Ivey has extensive experience in state and federal court litigation and prioritizes authentic client storytelling in her work.



Education

Samford University Cumberland School
of Law, 2020

The University of Alabama, 2017

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

United States District Court for the
District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

David W. Lawler

Of Counsel

202.973.0900
dlawler@tzlegal.com



Mr. Lawler earned his degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and Creighton University Law School. With over 25 years of legal experience, he has handled every stage of litigation, from pre-filing investigations to trial.

Since joining Tycko & Zavareei in 2012, Mr. Lawler has represented consumers across diverse practice areas, including product liability, false advertising, deceptive and unfair trade practices, data breaches, and antitrust class action litigation. He is an active member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Among Mr. Lawler's career achievements include the co-drafting of appellate briefs which resulted in rare reversal and entry of judgment in favor of client, US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Mr. Lawler is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, as well as numerous federal courts.

Education

Creighton University School of Law,
1997

University of California, Berkeley,
1989

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Awards

Selected to 2025 Washington, D.C.
Super Lawyers List

Memberships

American Association for Justice
Public Justice

F. Peter Silva II

Of Counsel

202.973.0900

psilva@tzlegal.com



Peter Silva is a zealous advocate for consumers, workers, and individuals whose rights have been violated by the government, employers, and financial institutions. Over the last decade, Peter has successfully represented clients in civil rights, consumer protection, and foreclosure defense cases in negotiations, mediations, arbitrations, and at trial in state and federal courts and before various administrative agencies.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Peter represented individuals and small businesses as a Partner with Gowen Silva & Winograd, PLLC. Peter's work on behalf of Maryland, D.C., and Virginia homeowners has prevented dozens of foreclosures through loan modifications, settlements, and litigation. Peter not only defends foreclosures but countersues for violations of state and federal lending and servicing laws. Peter has successfully brought and defended lawsuits against America's biggest banks and mortgage servicers including Wells Fargo, Bank of America, U.S. Bank, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Mr. Cooper/Nationstar Mortgage, Bayview Loan Servicing, and Ocwen Loan Servicing.

Through aggressive litigation and creative settlement solutions, Peter has obtained millions of dollars in damages and savings for his clients including principal and interest reductions, write-downs, and deficiency waivers. Peter's extensive knowledge of the foreclosure and loan modification processes, mortgage servicing industry and applicable state and federal laws including the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) and Truth-in-Lending (TILA) allows him to provide clients with upfront and straightforward assessments of their options so that they can make an informed decision.

Peter has worked with local, state, and federal governments and non-profit entities to strengthen legal protections of consumers. Peter is a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates.

At the beginning of his legal career, Peter worked extensively in the civil rights field as an attorney fellow for the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, and a law clerk with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the civil rights interest group, People for the American Way.

Education

University of Miami, School of Law, 2010

San Diego State University, 2007

Bar Admissions

California

District of Columbia

Maryland

Virginia

Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

National Association of Consumer Advocates

Public Justice

Awards

Selected to 2023 & 2024 Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers Rising Stars List

Presentations

The Tactical Deployment of Regulation X: Loss Mitigation in Judicial, Quasi-Judicial, and Non-judicial States, National Association Consumer Advocates (February 11, 2021)

Foreclosures: What You Don't Know Will Hurt You! National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Frank Bartela

Of Counsel

202.973.0900
fbartela@tzlegal.com

Through his work in class action and business litigation, Frank Bartela strives to protect the interests of consumers and taxpayers by holding corporations and government agencies accountable. His practice is focused on litigating complex civil actions including consumer class actions and wage and hour lawsuits. In this capacity, Mr. Bartela fights for the interests and protects the rights of his clients both in Ohio and across the country. Currently, his work deals with cases regarding unlawful conduct committed by government agencies, manufacturers, retailers, and employers.

Additionally, Mr. Bartela has served as class counsel in actions across the country and has found success in representing individuals while holding defendants accountable:

- Successfully certified both a multi-state and national class of consumers in snake oil cases against two well-known national manufacturers;
- Negotiated a favorable settlement for a class of individuals who had been over charged for their title insurance policies by a regional title insurance company;
- Negotiated a favorable settlement for a class of employees of a Cleveland based restaurant who were not properly paid for all overtime hours worked;
- Served as Special Counsel to the Ohio Attorney General in an investigation against a national broadband internet provider related to allegations that the provider was “throttling” internet speeds delivered to consumers;
- Worked on trial teams for multiple wage and hour class actions and collective actions brought by plaintiffs that alleged they were improperly classified or were not paid the required minimum or overtime wages;
- Served on the Law and Briefing Committee in the In re East Palestine Train Derailment matter (N.D. Ohio); and
- Defeated dispositive motions by retailers in actions alleging unlawful advertising and marketing practices.

Frank graduated magna cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo) in 2007 with a double major in History and Political Science. While at SUNY Buffalo, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa one of America’s most prestigious honor societies. He then graduated cum laude from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2011. During law school, Frank served as an articles editor for Case Western’s Journal of International Law and served as a research assistant to Professor Lewis Katz where he helped research and update portions of Ohio Arrest, Search and Seizure.



Education

Case Western Reserve University School of Law,
2011
State University of New York at Buffalo,
2007

Bar Admissions

Ohio
Northern District of Ohio
Southern District of Ohio
Northern District of Illinois
Southern District of New York
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Memberships

Public Justice

Patrick Brickman

Of Counsel

202.973.0900
pbrickman@tzlegal.com



Attorney Patrick Brickman's work focuses on class actions and complex litigation. His cases primarily deal with unlawful conduct committed by government agencies, manufacturers, retailers, and employers. Mr. Brickman's work covers numerous areas of law, including consumer law, real estate law, insurance law, commercial law, constitutional law, tax law, advertising law, wage & hour law, benefits law, and more.

Mr. Brickman attended the University of Dayton for his undergraduate studies and the University of Akron School of Law where he was an advocate on the moot court team and an associate editor for the Akron Law Review.

Mr. Brickman has a passion for holding corporations and governments accountable to consumers, small businesses, and taxpayers.

Education

University of Akron School of Law,
2011

University of Dayton,
2007

Bar Admissions

Ohio
Northern District of Ohio
Southern District of Ohio
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Sixth Circuit

Memberships

Public Justice

Lavanya Prabhakar

Fellow

510.254.6808
lprabhakar@tzlegal.com



Lavanya Prabhakar is a Public Interest Fellow in the Oakland, CA office. Lavanya received her J.D. from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in 2024.

Lavanya spent her time at Northwestern dedicated to civil rights, voting rights, and the power of community organizing. As a student attorney in Northwestern's Bluhm Legal Clinic, she worked on multiple prison class actions, advocating for the proper enforcement of parole and mandatory release laws in the Deep South. She also helped represent community organizers dedicated to ensuring the safety of Chicago's Black and brown young people. As the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Northwestern's Journal of Law and Social Policy, Lavanya sought to foster community on campus through accessible and inclusive programming that involved community members from both Northwestern and the larger Chicago community.

Inspired by her clinical work and classwork, much of Lavanya's legal research focused on the intersection of movement lawyering and voting rights, which culminated in her published note, "Applying Movement Lawyering Principles to the Redistricting Movement." During her summers, Lavanya worked on Capitol Hill on judicial nominations and legislative policy, and at a plaintiffs' firm focused on civil rights class actions and environmental citizen suits.

Lavanya received her B.A. in International Relations and Economics from Boston University in 2019. Prior to law school, she worked in political research on political campaigns and in private industry.

Education

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law,
2024

Boston University, 2019

Bar Admissions

California

Memberships

Public Justice

Presentations & Publications

Applying Movement Lawyering Principles to the Redistricting Movement, 19 NW. J. L. & SOC. POL'Y. 303 (2024).

Robin Bleiweis

Fellow

202.973.0900
rbleiweis@tzlegal.com



Robin Bleiweis is a Public Interest Fellow in the Washington, D.C. office. Robin received her J.D. with honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 2024. While at UNC, she embraced experiential learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. She provided over 100 hours of pro bono legal services including work with the Carolina Abortion Fund helping minors secure a judicial bypass to obtain abortion care without parental consent and with the Compass Center for Women & Families, counseling a client experiencing domestic violence about her divorce and property division options.

Robin spent her 3L year as a clinical law student in UNC Law's Civil Legal Assistance Clinic. She argued and won the first case in North Carolina state court seeking the transfer of an incarcerated intersex woman from a men's prison to a women's prison. Robin also represented two workers experiencing wage theft and successfully negotiated with their employer to secure a confession of judgment and payment plan.

During her summers, Robin clerked for a supervisory Administrative Judge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and interned with a firm representing federal employees in employment discrimination and whistleblower cases.

Prior to law school, Robin worked as a securities paralegal for Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC. She then worked for the Center for American Progress as a Research Associate for Women's Economic Security.

Robin received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Wake Forest University in 2015, where she studied sociology and psychology.

Education

University of North Carolina School of Law, 2024, with honors

Wake Forest University, 2015, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Katelyn Donaldson

Fellow

kdonaldson@tzlegal.com
510.250.3316



Katelyn A. Donaldson is a Public Interest Fellow in the Oakland, CA office. Katelyn received her J.D. from American University Washington College of Law in 2025.

While attending American University, Katelyn took advantage of many academic and hands-on experiences. As a Student Attorney in the International Human Rights Law Clinic, Katelyn represented Guatemalan nationals in affirmative asylum proceedings and strategized with federal public defenders to mitigate a death row inmate's sentence. Katelyn was also a Senior Staffer on American University Law Review. Katelyn's comment, "Captured Without Consent: Reckoning with Non-Volitional Disclosures Around the Home in Long-Term Pole Camera Cases," was published by American University Law Review in 2024. Additionally, Katelyn was a Constitutional Law Teaching Assistant and did research for Professor Maya Manian on the impacts of abortion restrictions on prenatal genetic counseling post-Dobbs.

While in Washington, D.C., Katelyn gained further rewarding experiences off-campus. Katelyn drafted two memorandum opinions resolving dispositive motions as a Judicial Intern at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Additionally, Katelyn interned at the U.S. Department of Labor, where she drafted an appellate brief and analyzed foreign laws and enforcement efforts for compliance with international child labor conventions. Katelyn also spent a year interning for Levy Firestone Muse LLP, where she helped draft motions, produce legal memoranda, and develop facts for several civil cases.

Prior to her legal career, Katelyn was a caseworker at the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency in Columbus, Ohio. Katelyn received her B.A. in English with a minor in Human Rights from The Ohio State University in 2020.

Education

American University Washington College of Law, 2025

The Ohio State University, 2020

Bar Admissions

California

Memberships

Public Justice

Troy Brown

Fellow

202.769.4991
tbrown@tzlegal.com



Troy Brown is a Public Interest Fellow in the Washington, D.C. office. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Troy received his J.D. in 2025. During law school, Troy provided nearly 1,000 hours of pro bono legal services, representing consumers, workers, and advocacy organizations fighting against corporate wrongdoing across all levels of the state and federal judiciaries.

During his summers, Troy worked at a plaintiffs'-side appellate firm and a legal non-profit. From successfully representing workers fighting wrongful termination or wage theft in the Federal Courts of Appeals to developing novel legal theories for holding powerful corporate actors to account, Troy's work centered around fighting for economic justice for workers and consumers across the country.

Before law school, Troy worked as a paralegal in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, where he worked on consumer protection litigation that has resulted in judgments and settlements requiring the payment of tens of millions of dollars in restitution for consumers. Troy also maintained a policy portfolio that centered racial and economic justice in health care.

A first-generation college graduate, Troy received his B.A. from Columbia University where he studied Political Science.

Education

Harvard Law School, 2025
Columbia University, 2019

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice