



# CONSUMER ATTORNEYS OF CALIFORNIA

*Seeking Justice for All*

## 11 CAOC members earn spots on Top 100 list

Among top California lawyers chosen by *Los Angeles Daily Journal*

**SACRAMENTO (Sept. 11, 2013)** – Eleven members of Consumer Attorneys of California are included in the list of California’s Top 100 lawyers in 2013, published this week in a special section of the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*. The publication’s editors say the list is to “honor work that is changing an industry or the law or society as a whole.

The CAOC members on the *Daily Journal* list are:

- [Michael Bien](#), Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld, San Francisco. Bien is lead attorney on a case involving oversight of the mental health care system in California’s state prisons and is co-lead counsel in a case involving a court-ordered reduction in the state prisons’ inmate population.
- [Elizabeth Cabraser](#), Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, San Francisco. Cabraser is on the plaintiffs’ steering committee in high-profile cases involving the BP Gulf oil spill and Toyota sudden acceleration.
- [Joseph Cotchett](#), Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy, Burlingame. Cotchett is representing the city of San Jose in an antitrust suit against Major League Baseball regarding the potential future home of the Oakland A’s. He is also co-lead counsel for 10 California cities and counties accusing several paint companies of creating a public nuisance by their manufacture and sale of hazardous lead paint.
- [Kelly Dermody](#), Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, San Francisco. Dermody has been involved in a number of employment cases involving gender inequality and wage suppression.
- [Eric Fastiff](#), Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, San Francisco. Fastiff represented The Charles Schwab Corp. against investment banks in an effort to win back money individual consumers lost in their investments during the recent financial crisis.
- [Thomas Girardi](#), Girardi | Keese, Los Angeles. Girardi was co-lead counsel for about 1,800 former National Football League players in their claim that the league did not share all it knew about the potential for brain injuries from playing football. He also represented more than 1,000 residents of Carson who bought homes on land contaminated by petroleum waste from Shell Oil Co.
- [Brian Kabateck](#), Kabateck Brown Kellner, Los Angeles. In addition to his work settling a class action against the manufacturer of the antidepressant Paxil and handling medical privacy class actions and wage-and-hour cases, Kabateck was honored for his achievements this year as president of CAOC, especially his advocacy for increased court funding and an update of the cap on compensation for victims of medical negligence.
- [Brian Panish](#), Panish Shea & Boyle, Los Angeles. Panish has won compensation for victims in several high-profile personal injury and wrongful death cases. He was also part of the team that won a verdict in a bellwether case involving a defective all-metal DePuy

hip implant, and he is representing the mother and children of entertainer Michael Jackson in a wrongful death case.

- [Clifford Pearson](#) and [Bruce Simon](#), Pearson Simon & Warshaw, Sherman Oaks. Pearson and Simon were among the co-lead class counsels in a complex case involving a decade-long conspiracy to fix prices for flat-panel liquid crystal displays and products that contain them, in which they won a recovery for direct purchasers.
- [Michael Sobol](#), Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, San Francisco. Sobol is involved in a Fair Housing Act case against Morgan Stanley, alleging the financial services company pushed bad mortgages that had a disparate impact in African-American borrowers.

Cabraser, Cotchett, Dermody, Girardi, Panish and Sobol were also on the *Daily Journal's* Top 100 list in 2012. Cotchett and Girardi have been on the list every year since it was first published in 1998.

*Consumer Attorneys of California is a professional organization of plaintiffs' attorneys representing consumers seeking accountability against wrongdoers in cases involving personal injury, product liability, environmental degradation and other causes.*

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