



Adam J. Levitt

Partner

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Overview

Adam Levitt is one of the nation's leading advocates for plaintiffs in complex, multidistrict, class action, public client, mass tort, and commercial litigation. Drawing on his extensive experience pursuing and obtaining justice for those who have been wronged by powerful defendants, he co-founded DiCello Levitt to create a top-tier complex issues and trial firm founded on excellence, trust, and respect—where every team member's voice and talents are valued.

In his decades-long career, Adam has scored numerous significant and precedent-setting victories, delivering more than \$20 billion in recoveries to clients in biotechnology, financial services, securities, insurance coverage, consumer protection, automotive defects, agricultural products, and antitrust disputes. His reputation for innovatively taking on tough cases has led to his appointment to leadership positions in many historic and headline-grabbing litigations, including three of the largest biotechnology class actions in U.S. history, where he served as co-lead counsel, helped recover more than \$1.7 billion on behalf of plaintiffs, and created a game-changing economic model to measure crop contamination damages that set the modern industry standard. He was also retained by multiple State Attorneys General to hold some of the world's largest chemical companies accountable for widespread environmental contamination from their "forever chemicals" known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Also, as part of a leadership group characterized as a "class action dream team," Adam helped secure a \$16 billion settlement in litigation arising from Volkswagen's emissions scandal, and, in a rare class action trial, he and his fellow co-lead counsel secured a milestone \$102.6 million jury verdict against General Motors for hiding engine defects from consumers.

Adam is also a leader in the legal profession and a frequent speaker on multidistrict litigation, consumer protection, automotive litigation, biotechnology, corporate governance, securities litigation, and internet privacy. Nationally recognized as an authority on class action litigation, Adam writes a monthly class action column in *The National Law Journal*, has testified before the

Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee on class action practice, and chairs an annual class action litigation conference in Chicago.

As a founding partner of DiCello Levitt, Adam has cultivated a diverse roster of skilled litigators to advance the cause of justice for individuals, businesses, and public clients. The firm's attorneys are highly respected for their ability to litigate and win cases and have secured billions of dollars in recoveries for their clients through class action, business-to-business, whistleblower, personal injury, civil rights, and mass tort litigation. They have worked on some of the highest-profile securities actions ever filed, developed game-changing legal theories to secure landmark wins against tech giants that misused and exposed massive troves of personal data, and held some of the world's largest corporations accountable for endangering and harming American consumers. With a long history of working with public clients, Adam and his partners understand the wants and needs of government officials and their teams, and, as experts in trial practice and jury persuasion, they consistently achieve best-in-class results for their clients.

Adam's own groundbreaking work on behalf of plaintiffs has been recognized locally and nationally in prestigious ranking directories, including *Chambers USA*, where he has received a Band 1 ranking for Mainly Plaintiffs Litigation in Illinois for three consecutive years. *Chambers USA* also ranked Adam in Illinois for General Commercial Litigation and nationwide for Product Liability Litigation, where the editors describe him as the "go-to plaintiffs' attorney in the class actions space." In 2021, 2022, and 2023, *Benchmark Litigation* named Adam a National Litigation Star and Securities and Litigation Star in Illinois. According to *The National Law Journal*, Adam is a "pioneer" in technology litigation. *Crain's Chicago Business* has named him a Notable Litigator and Trial Attorney and a Notable Gen X Leader in Accounting, Consulting, and Law, and *Lawdragon* has named him one of the 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers and one of the 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers in the United States.

An elected member of the American Law Institute and the Economic Club of Chicago, Adam considers the formation of DiCello Levitt in 2017 to be a pivotal moment in his distinguished legal career. With a shared vision and commitment to helping people and businesses use the legal system to have their voices heard, he and his partners intend to maintain their industry-wide influence for years to come with a steadfast resolve for justice in all its dimensions.

Practice Areas

AGRICULTURE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION LITIGATION

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATION

CLASS ACTION LITIGATION

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

PHARMACEUTICAL FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

PRODUCT LIABILITY

PUBLIC CLIENT

SECURITIES AND FINANCIAL SERVICES LITIGATION

PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND CYBERSECURITY

WHISTLEBLOWER, QUI TAM, AND FALSE CLAIMS ACT

Education

Northwestern University School of Law, J.D.

Columbia College, Columbia University, A.B., *magna cum laude*

Representative Matters

Adam serves or has served as lead or co-lead counsel in:

Siqueiros v. General Motors LLC (General Motors Excessive Oil Consumption) (N.D. Cal.)

People of the State of Illinois, ex rel. Kwame Raoul, Attorney General of the State of Illinois v. 3M Company (Rock Island County); (C.D. Ill.)

Attorney General Dana Nessel, on behalf of the People of the State of Michigan, and the State of Michigan v. 3M Co., et al. (PFAS litigation on behalf of public clients) (MDL No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG)

Walden, et al. v. The Bank of New York Mellon Corp., et al. (W.D. Penn.)

Star Colbert, et al. v. Dougan, et al. (Credit Suisse AT1 Bondholders Class Action) (S.D.N.Y.)

Royal Park Investments SA/NV v. S&P Global, Inc., et al. (Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, Financial Services Division)

Sowa, et al. v. Mercedes-Benz USA LLC, et al. (N.D. Ga.)

Weidman v. Ford Motor Co. (E.D. Mich.)

In re Nissan North America Inc. Litigation (M.D. Tenn.)

Bruner v. Polaris Indus. Inc. (D. Minn.) and *Luna v. Polaris Indus. Inc.* (D. Minn.)

In re Commonwealth Edison Company Illinois Consumer Fraud Litigation (Cir. Ct. Cook County, Illinois); (Ill. Court of Appeals, First Dist.)

In re Navistar MaxxForce Engines Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation (N.D. Ill.)

State of New Mexico v. Volkswagen Group of America Inc., et al. (Santa Fe Cnty., N.M.)

State of New Mexico v. Takata Corporation, et al. (Santa Fe Cnty., N.M.)

State of New Mexico v. Facebook Inc. (Santa Fe Cnty., N.M.)

State of New Mexico v. Solvay Pharmaceuticals Inc., et al. (Santa Fe Cnty., N.M.)

Champs Sports Bar & Grill v. Mercury Payment Systems LLC (N.D. Ga.)

In re MyFord Touch Consumer Litigation (N.D. Cal.)

In re Porsche Cars North America Inc. Plastic Coolant Tubes Products Liability Litigation (S.D. Ohio)

In re Imprelis Herbicide, Sales Practice and Products Liability Litigation (E.D. Penn.)

In re Genetically Modified Rice Litigation (E.D. Mis.)

In re StarLink Corn Products Products Liability Litigation (N.D. Ill.)

Camp Lejeune Poisoning Injuries

Green Plains Trade Group LLC, et al. v. Archer Daniels Midland Company (D. Neb.)

He also serves or has served as a leadership committee member in:

In re Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation (N.D. Cal.) (Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee member)

In re General Motors LLC Ignition Switch Litigation (S.D.N.Y.) (Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee member)

In re Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Hip Implant Litigation (D. Minn.) (Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee Chair)

Awards & Honors

National Litigation Star—Securities, **Benchmark Litigation** (2021-2024)

Illinois Super Lawyers Honoree, **Super Lawyers** (2012-2024)

500 Global Plaintiff Lawyers, **Lawdragon** (2024)

500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers, **Lawdragon** (2022-2024)

Product Liability: Plaintiffs—USA, **Chambers USA** (2021-2023)

Litigation: Mainly Plaintiffs—Illinois, **Chambers USA** (2021-2023)

500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers, **Lawdragon** (2021-2023)

Notable Litigator and Trial Attorney, **Crain's Chicago Business** (2023)

Litigation: General Commercial—Illinois, **Chambers USA** (2021-2022)

Profile Series of Plaintiffs Bar Leaders, **The National Law Journal** (2022)

Notable Gen X Leader in Accounting, Consulting, and Law, **Crain's Chicago Business** (2021)

Crisis Leadership Trailblazer, **The National Law Journal** (2020)

Plaintiffs' Lawyers Trailblazer, **The National Law Journal** (2018 and 2020)

Elite Boutique Trailblazer, **The National Law Journal** (2018)

Finest Law Firm Writer, **Burton Award** (2017)

Professional Scholarship Award, **American Agricultural Law Association** (2017)

Litigator of the Week, **American Lawyer** (2011)

500 Leading Lawyers in the U.S., **Lawdragon** (2011)

40 Lawyers Under 40, **Chicago Lawyer** (2000)

Publications & Presentations

Law Review Articles

"The Gift That Keeps on Giving: Price Overhang Damages in Commodity Crop Cases," 51 Val. U. L. Rev., 2017 (co-authored with Russell L. Lamb)

"Agricultural 'Market Touching': Modernizing Trespass to Chattels in Crop Contamination Cases," 38 U. Haw. L. Rev. 409, 2016 (co-authored with Nicole Negowetti)

"CAFA and Federalized Ambiguity: The Case for Discretion in the Unpredictable Class Action," 120 Yale Law Journal Online 231, 2011

Arguing Class Actions (Monthly Column for *The National Law Journal*)

"Why the Catalyst Theory Matters," *The National Law Journal*, March 2024

“Who Has Home-Field Advantage Post Bristol-Myers Squibb?,” *The National Law Journal*, February 2024

“Objections to Class Action Settlements,” *The National Law Journal*, January 2024

“Reptile Mongoose—A Cautionary Tale,” *The National Law Journal*, December 2023

“‘Nuclear Verdicts’—Opportunistic Alarmism Disguised as Advocacy,” *The National Law Journal*, November 2023

“Arbitration and Class Action Waivers—The Hypocrisy of the ‘Textualists,’” *The National Law Journal*, October 2023

“The Burden of Proof for Class Certification,” *The National Law Journal*, September 2023

“In Defense of Statutory Damages,” *The National Law Journal*, August 2023

“Cryptocurrency Class Litigation: Surviving Jurisdictional Challenges,” *The National Law Journal*, July 2023

“Manifestation and Its Discontents,” *The National Law Journal*, June 2023

“The Value of a Trial-First Approach in Post-Pandemic Class Actions,” *The National Law Journal*, May 2023

Other Writings

“Smart Firm Growth,” *Trial*, March 2022 (co-authored with Mark DiCello)

“Murky Waters,” *Trial*, May 2020

“A Broken Net: When Consumer Goods Get Hacked,” *Trial*, December 2018

“Curing the Ascertainability Fallacy – The Ninth Circuit Strikes Back,” AAJ Class Action Litigation Newsletter, Winter 2017

“March of the Machines – Robotic Vehicles and the Changing Landscape of Motor Vehicle Liability,” *Trial*, Vol. 53, No. 2, 2017

“The Volkswagen Emissions Scandal: What’s Next?,” *Trial*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (2016)

“Avoiding the Substantiation Trap in Health Benefit Product Claims,” AAJ Class Action Litigation Newsletter, Winter 2016

“Contaminated Crops,” *Trial*, August 2016 (co-authored with James Pizzirusso)

“Volkswagen Scandal is Perfect Fit for a Damages Class Action,” Portfolio Media (Law360), September 2015

“The Ascertainability Fallacy and Its Consequences,” AAJ Class Action Litigation Newsletter, Spring 2015

“Fees Obliterate Managed Futures Fund Profits”, Financial Advisor, 2014

“Supreme Court to Revisit the Fraud on the Market Presumption of Reliance in Securities Fraud Cases,” AAJ Class Action Litigation Newsletter, Winter 2014

“Calculating Damages in Securities Class Actions,” *Trial*, Vol. 49, No. 6., 2013

“The Role and Function of Corporate Representatives at Trial,” *The Trial Lawyer*, Vol. II, No. IV, 2013

“Multidistrict Litigation Practice: The Function and Shifting Focus of the JPML in Class Action and Other ‘Bet the Company’ Litigation,” chapter from *Straight from the Top: Case Studies in the World of Litigation*, 2012

“Sticky Situations in Mass Tort Settlements,” *Trial*, Vol. 48, No. 11, 2012

“Taming the Metadata Beast,” *New York Law Journal*, May 16, 2008

“The Big Business Wish List: Proposed Illinois Supreme Court Rule 225 and the Demolition of Consumer Rights,” *The Class Act*, 2005

“Foreign Investors Serving as Lead Plaintiffs in U.S.-Based Securities Cases,” *Association of Trial Lawyers of America*, 2005

“Proposed Rule 225: A Death Warrant for Class Actions in Illinois,” *93 Illinois Bar Journal* 202, 2005

“An Illinois Lawyer’s Guide to Service of Process in Mexico,” *82 Illinois Bar Journal* 434, 1994

Presentations

“Maximizing Claims Rates,” Angeion Group MEGA Summit, 2024

“Plaintiff Perspectives on Trying High-Stakes Trials,” American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Motor Vehicle Product Liability Litigation Conference, 2024

“Life on the Other Side of the V,” Plaintiff’s Law Association, Northwestern University, 2024

“Getting to the Finish Line: How and When Do Settlements Happen,” Trial Lawyers of Mass Torts, Park City, 2024

“From Start to Finish: Class Certification Is Just the Beginning,” American Bar Association National Institute on Class Actions, 2023

“Plaintiff Perspectives on Trying and Winning High-Stakes Trials,” American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Motor Vehicle Product Liability Conference, 2023

Credit Suisse AT1 Bondholders Litigation (U.S.) Update, webinar, DiCello Levitt, 2023

“Diversity in the Defense Bar: Knowing the Other Side,” Shades of Mass, Second Annual Conference, Miami Beach, 2023

“Securities Litigation Update,” National Public Pension Fund Association National Round Table Conference, 2023

“State Attorneys General Use of Deceptive Trade Practice Laws,” Democratic Attorneys General Association Chicago Policy Conference, 2023

“Camp LeJeune and New Theories of Liability,” Class Action Money & Ethics Conference, 2023

“Career, Industry, and Corporate Leadership,” Jewish Executive Leadership Conference (JELCON), 2022

“The Valuation of Class Action Litigation,” American Bar Association Litigation Section’s Consumer Litigation Committee Roundtable Webinar, 2022

“Communication Among Bench, Bar, and Others in Complex Litigation,” Bench, Bar, and Bankruptcy: Complex Litigation Forum, 2022

Cybersecurity Breakout Session, Fraud Prevention Conference, 2020

“Emerging Claims and Trends in COVID-19 Litigation,” Everlaw “Fireside Chat” Webinar Series, 2020

“Class Action Landscape in a Post-COVID World,” Angeion Group Leading Litigators Zoominar, 2020

“Navigating Funding Regulations in the US: Understanding Confidentiality, Disclosure and Transparency on a State-by-State Basis,” General Counsel Forum on Litigation Finance, 2019

“The Current Role of Class Actions in Complex Litigation,” Contemporary Issues in Complex Litigation, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, 2018

“Class Actions in the Trump Administration,” Chicago Bar Association Class Action Committee, 2017

“Analysis and Application of the Ninth Circuit’s *Briseño v. ConAgra* Opinion,” Rapid Response: Analysis of Ninth Circuit Rejection of Ascertainability Webinar, 2017

“Criteria for Approving Class Action Settlements,” The Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies, Class Action Settlement Conference, 2016

“Current Trends in Product Liability Class Action Litigation,” Perrin Class Action Litigation Conference, Chicago 2016 (Conference Co-Chair)

“What’s on the Horizon: Emerging Class Action Trends,” Class Action Litigation in America—A National Symposium, 2016

“Proving Class-Wide Damages After Comcast in Consumer Products Class Actions,” AAJ 2016 Summer Conference

“Poison in the Well: GMO Crop Contamination Litigation,” Valparaiso Law Review Symposium, 2015

“Rage Against the Machine: Breaking Down the Best-Schooled Corporate Executives at Deposition and Trial,” Trial Lawyers Summit, 2015

“Criteria for Approving Class Action Settlements,” The Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies, Class Action Settlement Conference, 2015

"Volkswagen Emissions Fraud Litigation Update," American Association for Justice, Plaintiff-Only Hot Topics and Trends in Litigation Seminar, 2015

"Consumer Litigation Roundtable: Judicial Perspectives on the Management of Class Action Cases," Perrin Class Action Litigation Conference, Chicago 2015 (Conference Co-Chair)

"Challenges to Ascertainability, 'Fail-Safe' Classes, Standing, and Class Member Injury," Chicago Bar Association Class Action Conference: Challenges to Class Membership, 2015

"Scope of Vehicles, Numerosity, and Commonality in the VW Emissions Scandal," AAJ Volkswagen Emissions Litigation Webinar, 2015

"Litigation Background and Update: In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litigation," Syngenta GMO Corn Webinar, 2015

"Commentator—Writing Better Jury Instructions: Antitrust as an Example," 15th Annual Loyola Antitrust Colloquium, 2015

"Lessons Learned: Trial, Discovery, and the Business of Practicing Law," Trial Lawyers Summit, 2014

"Lessons on Motions to Dismiss From Other Car Defect Cases," HarrisMartin's MDL Conference: General Motors Ignition Switch Recall Litigation, 2014

"The Process That Works—Class Action Mediation LIVE!" 18th Annual American Bar Association National Institute on Class Actions, 2014

"Making Your Parents Proud: Crafting a Meaningful Settlement," AAJ-NACA Consumer Warranty Class Action Litigation Seminar, 2014

"Litigating the Class Action: In re General Motors Ignition Switch Litigation," AAJ Education's Plaintiff-Only Hot Topics and Trends in Litigation Seminar: GM Auto Recall, 2014

"Corporate Governance, Arbitration By-Laws, and Foreign Securities Litigation," IPPFA Midwest Pension Conference, 2014

"Fighting the Class Action Battle: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know About Filing the Class Certification Motion," Trial Lawyers Summit, 2013

"Consumer Class Actions in a Post-Concepcion World," The Shifting Landscape of Class Litigation, The Chicago Bar Association 2013

"Recent Developments in the Supreme Court, Seventh Circuit and Northern District of Illinois," Litigating Class Actions, 2013 (Conference Co-Chair)

"Current Trends in Consumer Litigation," Grant & Eisenhofer Consumer Litigation Breakfast Briefing, 2013

"Supreme Court Review," ISS Global Shareholder Activism Conference, 2013

"Using Litigation to Enforce and Protect Food Labeling and Crop Standards," Animals as Food: The Legal Treatment of Animals in Contemporary Agribusiness and Factory Farming, DePaul University School of Law Symposium, 2013

“Access to Justice after Iqbal and Twombly,” American Constitution Society Georgia Lawyer Chapter, 2013

“Disaster Averted, Mass Tort Resolved: Settling Mass Tort Disaster Cases,” American Bar Association, Section of Litigation Annual Conference, 2013

“Recent Developments in Class Action Settlement Jurisprudence,” American Association for Justice, 2013 Annual Convention

“The JPML’s 1404/1407 Shift and the End of Reflexive Transfer,” Aggregate Litigation After Class Actions Conference of Law Seminars International, 2013 (Conference Co-Chair)

“Deposing the Corporate Machine: How to Win Against the Best-Schooled Corporate Executive,” Trial Skills Retreat: Empowering Witnesses Conference by 360 Advocacy Institute, 2013

“Manifestation of Defect That Causes Actual Injury in Economic Defect Related Class Actions,” 2013 National Consumer Class Action Litigation & Management Conference

“Trial Lawyers and Class Actions: Protecting Consumers and Elevating Your Practice,” Trial Lawyers Summit, 2012

“Lead Plaintiff ‘Pickoffs’, Offers of Judgment, Moving to Dismiss Class Allegations, and Other Early Attacks on the Class Process,” Litigating Class Actions Conference of Law Seminars International, 2012

“MERS Litigation: Justice for Illinois Counties,” Illinois Association of County Clerks & Records Annual Conference, 2012

“Class Actions in Medical Device and Pharmaceutical Litigation,” HarrisMartin TVM/Actos Litigation Conference, 2012

“The Evolution of the Class Action Notice,” Class Actions—Plaintiff & Defense Perspectives, 2012

“Removal, Remand, and Claims Asserted: Strategic Considerations in MERS Litigation,” American Association for Justice, Mortgage Electronic Registration System (MERS) Teleseminar, 2012

“Thinking About Trial from Day One,” American Association for Justice, 2012 Annual Convention

“Litigation at Sunrise: The Basics of the MERS System,” American Association for Justice, 2012 Annual Convention

“Class Action Litigation and Victim Services,” 38th NOVA Conference, 2012

“Modifying Your Approach for Multi-State Class Actions,” LSI Litigating Class Actions Conference, 2011

“Multi-State Litigation in the Post-CAFA World,” Litigating Class Actions (Chicago), 2011

“Imprelis Herbicide Litigation Spotlight,” HB Litigation Conferences, 2011

“Ethical Implications of Class Action and Mass Tort Settlements,” American Association for Justice, Summer Conference, 2011

“Current Developments in Consumer Protection Litigation,” 11th Annual Class Action/Mass Tort Symposium, 2011

“Privacy Litigation: The Evolution in Theories and Outcomes,” International Association of Privacy Professionals “Privacy Academy,” 2009

“Securities Litigation Update,” 2008 Class Action Institute

“Legal Strategies to Fight Negative Effects of Genetic Engineering,” Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, 2007

“Corporate Governance Developments,” Financial Management Association Annual Conference, 2005

Admissions & Memberships

Bar Admissions

Arizona

District of Columbia

Illinois

New Mexico

New York

North Carolina

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin

Memberships

American Law Institute, elected member
Economic Club of Chicago, elected member
American Association for Justice, Leaders Forum
American Association for Justice, Publications and Legal Affairs Committees
Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Pandemic Protocols Working Group Committee
American Constitution Society, Board of Advisors, Chicago Chapter
Class Action Trial Lawyers, President
Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies, Advisory Council
Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, Advisory Board
National Trial Lawyers, Executive Committee