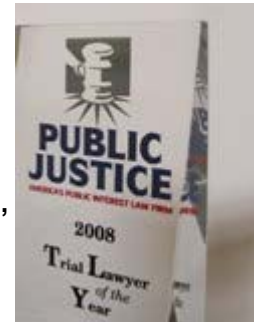


June 24, 2010

**We are proud to name and honor the attorneys who worked on five outstanding cases as finalists for the 2010 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award.**

The nationally prestigious award is bestowed annually on the trial lawyer(s) who made the greatest contribution to the public interest by trying or settling a precedent-setting case.

**The finalists will be honored in person, and the winner will be announced, on Tuesday, July 13, at the Public Justice Foundation's Annual Gala & Awards Dinner in Vancouver, B.C.** To order tickets to or sponsor this inspiring event, [click here](#).



Please join us in congratulating this year's finalists, listed below in alphabetical order, according to the lead counsel's last name:

- After 20 years of battling inadequate medical and mental health care in California's prisons, the tenacity and perseverance of **Michael Bien** of Rosen Bien & Galvan, LLP in San Francisco and **Donald Specter**, executive director of the Prison Law Office in San Quentin, California, finally paid off. Bien, Specter and their legal team - **Jeffrey L. Bornstein**, **Raymond Loughrey**, **Ed Sangster**, and **Rachel Chatman** of K&L Gates in San Francisco; **Fred Heather** of K&L Gates in Los Angeles; **Paul D. Clement** of King & Spalding in Washington, D.C.; **Ernest Galvan**, **Amy Whelan**, **Jane Kahn**, **Maria Morris**, **Lisa Ells**, **Mark Feeser** and **Tom Nolan** of Rosen Bien & Galvan, LLP; **Lori Rifkin** of the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, Employment Law Center; and **Sara Norman**, **Rebekah Evenson**, **Alison Hardy** and **Steven Fama** of the Prison Law Office - convinced a federal three-judge panel to order California to reduce its prison population by over 40,000 prisoners within two years.
- After 13 years of litigation, Royal Dutch Shell Corp., agreed on the eve of trial to pay \$15.5 million to settle *Wiwa v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.*, which charged the oil giant with complicity in the deaths of the Ogoni 9 and torture of other MOSOP leaders. The settlement was the result of the tenacity and dedication of a legal team headed by three attorneys with New York's Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), **Jennifer M. Green** (now teaching at University of Minnesota Law School), **Judith Brown Chomsky**, and **Beth Stephens**, who were ably assisted by **Anthony DiCaprio** of Rye, N.Y., a former CCR attorney; **Maria LaHood** and **Deborah Gordon** of CCR; **Agnieszka Fryszman** and **Maureen McOwen** of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC in Washington, D.C.; **Richard L. Herz**, **Jonathan G. Kaufman**, **Abby Rubinson**, **Marco B. Simons** and **Jacqui Zalberg** of EarthRights International in Washington, D.C.; **Susan Farbstein** of the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School; **Paul Hoffman** of Schonbrun DeSimone Seplow Harris & Hoffman LLP in Venice, Calif.; and **Julie Shapiro**, a professor at the University of Seattle School of Law.
- Facing powerful defendants determined to crush all complaints about the Missouri pig farm's impact on its neighbors, a team of attorneys led by **Richard H. Middleton, Jr.**, of The Middleton Firm L.L.C. in Savannah, Ga., **Charles F. Speer** of The Speer Law Firm P.A. in Kansas City, Mo., and **Stephen A. Weiss** of Seeger Weiss L.L.P. in New York City - and assisted by **Stephen A. Sael** of The Middleton Firm L.L.C. and **Britt Bieri** and **Gerald Lee**

**Cross, Jr.**, of The Speer Law Firm P.A - prevailed against the corporate meat industry in *Owens v. ContiGroup Companies* After nearly eight years of litigation and a month-long trial, the legal team won a jury verdict of over \$11 million in compensatory damages for 15 local residents.

- The family of Gregorio de la Rosa turned to **Ronald Rodriguez** of The Law Offices of Ronald Rodriguez in Laredo, Texas, for help when Gregorio, an honorably discharged National Guardsman, was beaten to death in a privately run prison by fellow prisoners wielding socks filled with metal padlocks. Just four days away from release on a six-month sentence, De la Rosa was beaten as prison guards and wardens stood idly by and laughed. After eight years of aggressive, hard fought litigation, the Texas Court of Appeals last year upheld a jury verdict of \$42.5 million in punitive and compensatory damages against the private prison company and one of its wardens.
- When Exxon Mobil Corp. insisted on going to court over the City of New York's charges that the oil giant had contaminated the drinking water supply with the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), the city hired San Francisco attorney **Victor Sher** of Sher Leff LLP to lead the battle. Sher recruited **Robert Chapman** of Greenberg Glusker in Los Angeles to head up the legal team with him. With assistance from **Marnie Riddle** and **Nick Campins** of Sher Leff LLP, **Harvey Friedman** and **Julia Hays** of Greenberg Glusker, and **Susan Amron**, **Daniel Green**, **Amanda Goad**, **Ramin Pejan**, **Chris Reo** and **Bill Plache** of the New York City Law Department, Office of the Corporation Counsel, they won a \$104.7 million jury verdict in *City of New York v. Exxon Mobil Corp.* for Exxon's contamination of five wells in Queens.

We look forward to honoring these superb legal teams next month and hope you will join us. For tickets and sponsorship information, [click here](#).

Again, congratulations to our incredible finalists, who bring such pride and honor to the public interest and the legal community.

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