



Portfolio Media. Inc. | 230 Park Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor | New York, NY 10169 | [www.law360.com](http://www.law360.com)  
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | [customerservice@law360.com](mailto:customerservice@law360.com)

## Law360's Legal Lions Of The Week

By **Kevin Penton**

*Law360 (February 21, 2025, 2:59 PM EST)* -- Clement & Murphy PLLC, Ropes & Gray LLP, Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP and Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP lead this week's edition of Law360 Legal Lions, after the First Circuit determined that a major avenue for False Claims Act enforcement requires proof that kickbacks directly changed medical treatment decisions.

Tuesday's unanimous opinion by a three-judge panel affirmed a district court win for Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and delivered a victory to drugmakers by adopting an industry-friendly interpretation of disputed words in the Anti-Kickback Statute, often used as a basis for FCA suits. Regeneron is represented by Paul Clement and Matthew Rowen of Clement & Murphy, John Bueker of Ropes & Gray, Theodore Wells Jr. and H. Christopher Boehning of Paul Weiss, and Richard Scheff and Katharine Ladd of Faegre Drinker.

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP triumphed when a New York bankruptcy judge said Thursday he would greenlight budget air carrier Spirit Airlines' Chapter 11 plan to exit bankruptcy and wipe out almost \$800 million of debt. The plan would hand control of the business to creditors and involves third-party releases opposed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and others. Spirit is represented by Marshall Huebner, Darren Klein, Christopher Robertson, Moshe Melcer and Kayleigh Yerdon of Davis Polk.

Labaton Keller Sucharow LLP roared as a California federal judge on Feb. 14 refused to block 69,507 consumers from opting out of a certified class action over the audio recording practices of Google's home devices so they could instead pursue their claims in individual arbitration. U.S. District Judge Beth Labson Freeman determined the individuals had properly excluded themselves from the long-running class action alleging Google Assistant-enabled devices surreptitiously recorded conversations. The arbitration claimants are represented by Jonathan Waisnor, Alexander Schlow and Brandon Heitmann of Labaton Keller Sucharow.

Butler Prather LLP, Page Scramtom Sprouse Tucker & Ford PC and Bondurant Mixson & Elmore LLP succeeded when a Georgia federal jury on Feb. 14 hit Ford Motor Co. with a \$2.5 billion punitive damages verdict, a day after jurors found the automaker liable for the wrongful death of a couple who died in a rollover wreck of their Ford F-250 Super Duty pickup. The children of the deceased couple are represented by James Butler Jr., Ramsey Prather, Daniel Philyaw and Allison Bailey of Butler Prather, LaRae Dixon Moore of Page Scramtom, and Michael Terry and Frank Lowrey IV of Bondurant Mixson.

Covington & Burling LLP makes this week's list after a New York federal judge on Feb. 14 threw out a

proposed investor action alleging Peloton Interactive Inc. overstated the safety of its bikes before 2.2 million products were recalled over a bike seat defect, ruling that the shareholders didn't adequately allege that the exercise company had made any misleading statements. U.S. District Judge Margo K. Brodie granted Peloton's motion to dismiss, though she gave the investors 30 days to file an amended complaint. Peloton is represented by Mark Gimbel, Robert Gianchetti and Jordan Joachim of Covington & Burling.

Freshfields US LLP, Greenberg Traurig LLP and Cooley LLP round out this week's pride after Celsius Holdings Inc. announced Thursday a \$1.8 billion deal to acquire Alani Nutrition, in a push by one of the leading U.S. energy drink companies to bolster its appeal to women and younger consumers. Celsius is represented by Sanjay Murti and Ethan Klingsberg of Freshfields. Alani is represented by Greenberg Traurig. Alani co-founders Katy and Haydn Schneider are represented by Bill Roegge, Jamie Leigh, Stephanie Gentile and Jeremy Morrison of Cooley.

--Additional reporting by Jeff Overley, Alex Wittenberg, Allison Grande, Dorothy Atkins, Hailey Konnath and Al Barbarino. Editing by Robert Rudinger.

---

All Content © 2003-2025, Portfolio Media, Inc.