

Thomas A. Evans

Partner

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Consumer class actions require thoughtful solutions and a seasoned perspective. An essential member of Alston & Bird's Litigation Group, Tom Evans's confident guidance will help clients navigate even the most complicated class action litigation.

Tom focuses his practice on defending and resolving cases alleging violations of false advertising, unfair competition and consumer fraud laws throughout the country, as well as claims under RICO and similar statutes. He has defended food and dietary supplement companies in cases involving the intersection of federal statutes and regulations with state consumer protection laws. When defending life insurance companies in class and individual actions, Tom combines his understanding of comprehensive state regulatory schemes with his experience defending against claims under consumer protection laws. He has also guided class settlements toward court approval, including defending against objections from private class members or public agencies.

Tom's practice also extends to defending against claims by public enforcement agencies and private citizens under state statutes, including California's Unfair Competition Law, Consumers Legal Remedies Act, False Advertising Law and Proposition 65.

Representative Experience

- Won a full defense verdict in a three-week jury trial in Orange County Superior Court in favor of a life insurer against plaintiffs claiming that they had been misled into purchasing multimillion-dollar life insurance policies. Argued the case before the California Court of Appeal, which affirmed the defense verdict.
- Argued and won summary judgment in Los Angeles Superior Court on all certified claims in a class action alleging breach of annuity contracts. Defeated a renewed motion to certify additional claims. The decision was affirmed by the California Court of Appeal.
- Defended a putative class action in the Southern District of California alleging that protein supplement labels overstated the protein content of the products. The plaintiffs dismissed after a motion for summary judgment was filed.
- Won dismissal of a case in Alameda County Superior Court claiming that organic infant formula contained ingredients not authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or California organic standards.
- Defended life insurers against class actions in federal courts in several states relating to the sale of equity indexed annuities, asserting claims under RICO, unfair trade practices and fraud.
- Defeated a motion for certification of a nationwide class of annuity purchasers.
- Defended product retailers and manufacturers in courts throughout California against claimed violations of Proposition 65.

Education

- University of Michigan (J.D., 1993)

- Georgetown University (B.S.F.S., 1990)

Admitted to Practice

- California
- Alaska

Related Services

Class Action & Multidistrict Litigation | Commercial | Financial Services Litigation | Insurance | Insurance Litigation & Regulation | FDA/Food, Drug & Device | Proposition 65 | Policyholder Class Action Defense | High Exposure Claims, Coverage & Bad Faith Defense | Insurance Regulatory Guidance | Insurance-Related Antitrust Defense | Policy Drafting and Product Development | Food, Beverage & Agribusiness