

**William M. Audet, Esq.**  
**Audet & Partners, LLP**

Attorney William M. Audet, J.D., LL.M., LL.D (h.c.), is the founding partner of Audet & Partners, LLP, a nine-attorney, plaintiffs-only law firm recognized for its aggressive and creative prosecution of hundreds of class action and complex litigation cases involving fraud, defective pharmaceutical drugs and devices, product defects, privacy and constitutional rights, environmental, employment, unfair business practices, shareholders' rights and antitrust claims, with offices located one block from the Northern District of California's San Francisco Courthouse.

**Education, Clerkships and Degrees:** After graduating from UC Davis, Mr. Audet earned a Juris Doctor (J.D.) (with *highest honors*) from Golden Gate University School of Law in 1984, where he was the Editor of the *Golden Gate University Law Review* and the student commencement speaker. In 1987, Mr. Audet obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the University Of Wisconsin School Of Law. During his three years at the University of Wisconsin, he taught civil procedure and civil rights as a clinical professor, and worked full time at the law school's LAIP inmate legal services program as a supervising attorney to law students at the clinic.

After completing his LL.M., in 1987 Mr. Audet was hired as a staff attorney at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In 1988, he served as the first Law Clerk to the Honorable Fern M. Smith, Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, and in 1989, as the last Law Clerk to the Honorable Alfonso J. Zirpoli, Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. In 2013, Mr. Audet was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law (LL.D., h.c.) degree from the Golden Gate University School of Law in recognition of his significant contributions to the legal community and the law school itself.

**Professional Work History:** In 1990, Mr. Audet joined the firm then known as "Lieff, Cabraser & Heimann," becoming a partner in five years. In 1996, Mr. Audet moved to a smaller, more trial-oriented law firm, Alexander, Hawes & Audet. In 2007, deciding to focus upon certain areas of the law, Mr. Audet established Audet & Partners, LLP, which since its founding has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars and achieved significant other relief in class action, mass action and other complex litigation throughout the United States. He is admitted to practice in California, Wisconsin, and numerous federal courts.

**Appointments & Noteworthy Cases:** Mr. Audet has been appointed to leadership roles in dozens of significant MDL, federal and state cases, including: *In re Pet Food Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 1850 (D.N.J.) (Co-Lead Counsel)(first of its kind class action settlement relating to recognition of certain claims by pet owners and providing for multinational(U.S.A. and Canada) resolution of the claims); *In re Zyprexa Product Liability Litigation*, E.D.N.Y., MDL No. 1596 (Co-Lead, Chairperson of the Executive Committee); *In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing Sales Practices and Product Liability Litigation*, N.D. Cal. (San Francisco), MDL No. 1699 (Executive Committee); in a groundbreaking case involving an oil spill in the San Francisco Bay entitled *Loretz v. Regal Stone, Ltd.*, No. 07-cv-05800-SC (N.D. Cal.) [the *Cosco Busan* case], (Co-Lead

counsel with the Cotchett, Pitre firm); *Postier v. Louisiana-Pacific Corp*, No. 09-cv-03290-JCS, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 86372 (N.D. Cal.)(sole class counsel); *In re PRK/Lasik Consumer Litigation*, Santa Clara Superior Court, Master File No. CV- 772894 (Lead Counsel). He has been liaison counsel in numerous matters, including *In re Apple iPhone 4 Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 5:10-md-2188-RMW (N.D. Cal.); *In re iPhone Application Litig.*, No. 11-MD-02250-LHK (N.D. Cal.).

In 2014, Mr. Audet and his Mexican co-counsel filed one of the first major class action cases in Mexico, seeking damages and other relief for Mexico-based fisherman and businesses impacted by the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. *Elidio Capela Vela, et al, v. BP, et al*, case #717/2012 (8th District). The case was recently certified to proceed as a class action, a first of its kind under the new law.

Mr. Audet has been instrumental in crafting creative settlements for class members. *See, e.g. United Desert Charities v. Flushmate*, No. 2:12-cv-06878-SJO-SH (C.D. Cal. Aug. 25, 2014) (insurance counsel hired to achieve an \$18 million settlement, with potentially more if certain thresholds met, with payments over 3 year period allowing for immediate repairs); *Richison v. American Cemwood Corp.*, No. 005532 (Cal. Super. 2002) (obtained a successor in interest right to proceed against the insurance carrier for underlying damages and bad faith, multimillion dollar settlement on eve of trial); *Galanti, et al. v. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, No. 03209 (D.N.J.)(SRC)(mediated by Layne Philips, a settlement fund of \$236 million, plus an additional \$40 million tied to Goodyear's future performance, was achieved).

**Publications, Recognitions & Charitable Work:** Over the past twenty years, Mr. Audet and his co-author have published a primer for law practitioners entitled *Handling Federal Discovery*, Audet & Fanady (James Publishing)(now in its 20th edition). In addition, Mr. Audet authored and published a brochure summarizing the Mexican Class Action procedures in both English and Spanish.

In 2005, Mr. Audet was named as the “Champion of Justice” by the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) for his longstanding contribution to the legal community and his *pro bono* activities in San Francisco. For three years, Mr. Audet also served as a voting member of the BASF's judicial review committee. Mr. Audet recently finished the first of two courses required to serve as a *pro tem* judge in San Francisco Superior Court. Mr. Audet has been repeatedly named as a “Super Lawyer” and “Top Attorney” for the Northern District of California for class actions and mass torts. He has been frequently quoted in regional and national legal and general press articles, and has appeared on CNN and other news stations regarding his cases.

Mr. Audet and his firm have made significant financial contributions to various legal aid organizations, including the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco – Employment Law Center, the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights, BASF and Golden Gate University School of Law. In 2009, Mr. Audet established and continues to sponsor a non-profit organization based in Baja, Mexico (“Little Shoes of Light”) that provides shoes, educational material and food to needy families (mostly single mothers with children).