

**Curriculum Vitae Highlights of William M. Audet, J.D., LL.M., LL.D.**

**Education**

- ❖ Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco, CA (Juris Doctor, 1984)  
(graduated *summa cum laude* and recipient of multiple American Jurisprudence Awards)
- ❖ University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI. (Masters in Law, 1987)
- ❖ Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco, CA (Doctorate of Law [hc] 2013)

**Professional Employment**

- ❖ Professor of Law (Clinical) and Staff Attorney at Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons at University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wisconsin (1984-1987).
- ❖ Law Clerk for the United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit (S.F. Division) (1987 to 1989) (staff attorney and ‘roving’ law clerk as needed for sitting Ninth Circuit Judges)
- ❖ Law Clerk for the Honorable Fern M. Smith, United States District Court for the Northern District of California (1989) (Judge Smith’s inaugural law clerk).
- ❖ Law Clerk for the Honorable Alphonso Zirpoli, United States District Court for the Northern District of California (1989 to 1990). (Judge Zirpoli’s final law clerk).
- ❖ Associate/Partner at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP (San Francisco Office) (1990 to 1998).
- ❖ Partner, Alexander, Hawes & Audet, LLP (1998 to 2006).
- ❖ Managing Partner, Audet & Partners, LLP (2006 to present).

**Noteworthy Class Action/Mass Tort Appointments:**

- ❖ ***In re Navistar MaxxForce Engines Marketing, Sales Pracs. and Prods. Liab. Litig.***, No. 1:14-cv-10318, (N.D. Ill.) – Mr. Audet served as Co-Lead Counsel in a lawsuit brought on behalf truck purchasers alleging defectively designed vehicles equipped with MaxxForce Advanced “Exhaust Gas Recirculation” diesel engines. The Class was overcharged as a result of the defect. Settlement announced in May 2019 awarding \$135 million to the Class.
- ❖ ***Loretz v. Regal Stone, Ltd. (Cosco Busan)***, No. 07-cv-05800, (N.D. Cal.) – Mr. Audet was appointed by Judge Samuel Conti as Lead Counsel, representing seafood processors, Native American tribes, fisheries and fisherman. Mr. Audet successfully sought under Maritime law the arrest and seizure of the *Cosco Busan*, the ship responsible for colliding with the San Francisco Bay Bridge, and invalidating waivers obtained by the Defendants from class members. The parties settled, with relief including a payment of \$3.65 million.
- ❖ ***Galanti v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*** No. 03-cv-209 (D.N.J.) – Mr. Audet served as Class Counsel in a case resulting in a groundbreaking multinational (United States and

Canada) class wide \$324 million settlement involving a defective radiant heating system that caused leaks, corrosion and damage to boilers, including catastrophic failures to heating systems. The class was made up of homeowners whose homes contained the defective systems.

- ❖ ***Andrews v. Plains All American Pipeline LP (2015 Santa Barbara Refugio Oil Spill)***, No. 2:15-cv-04113 (C.D. Cal.) – Mr. Audet serves as Co-Lead Counsel in a class action case (certified) involving economic impact of 2015 Refugio Oil Spill in Santa Barbara, California. The action seeks damages and restitution from the oil company that operated the pipeline. The case involves a class of fishers and real property owners damaged as a result of the spill.
- ❖ ***In re Zyprexa Litigation II***, MDL No. 1596, (E.D.N.Y.) – Mr. Audet and his firm represented over 300 clients who allegedly developed diabetes after ingesting Zyprexa. Mr. Audet was appointed by Judge J. Weinstein as Chairperson of the Plaintiffs Executive Committee, and later appointed as the sole chairperson of the Executive Committee. The parties eventually settled for \$700 million.
- ❖ ***Alexander v. Abbott Labs., Inc. (In re Depakote)***, No. 12-cv-52-NJR-SCW (N.D. Ill.) – Mr. Audet was appointed to the Plaintiffs Steering Committee and represented hundreds of families with children injured as a result of parental ingestion of the defective drug Depakote with insufficient warning of the risks. Mr. Audet secured confidential settlements for a significant number of clients.
- ❖ ***Bhatia v. 3M Co.***, Case No. 0:16-cv-01304, (D. Minn.) - Class action filed by the firm on behalf of a nationwide class of dentists claiming 3M breached a 10-year limited warranty for their Lava Ultimate Restorative, used as a dental crown. Mr. Audet served on the Executive Committee and in March 2019, 3M Co. agreed to pay \$32.5 million to settle this class action.
- ❖ ***In re Menu/Pet Food Recall Litigation***, Case No. 07-02867, (D.N.J.) – William M. Audet was appointed Co-Lead Class counsel in a case involving recalled pet food. The ground breaking case and settlement resulted in a significant monetary payment to class members. Mr. Audet served as settlement counsel and co lead counsel, overseeing over 100 cases filed and consolidated in New Jersey federal court. The parties reached a \$24 million settlement.

#### **Noteworthy Unique Cases:**

- ❖ ***In re Roundup Products Liability Litigation***, No. 3:16-md-02741 (N.D. Cal.) – Audet & Partners, LLP attorney Mark Burton served as plaintiff’s co-counsel in the first bellwether Roundup trial, securing a jury verdict. William Audet filed the first class action complaint seeking to represent class members harmed by the effects of Roundup. The class action seeks a binding determination that Roundup causes non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.

- ❖ *Richard X., v. State of Wisconsin* (1986) Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Court – Successfully filed first of its kind case in the United States obtaining early release of inmate based on his HIV status (file sealed due to privacy).
- ❖ *Elidio Capela Vela, et al., v. BP, et al.*, Case #717/2012 (8th District) (2012) – Serving as the only United States’ based attorney in the first civil class action case filed in Mexico under the then recently enacted class action legislation. The case has been certified to proceed as a class action and notice has been disseminated to the class of fisherman.
- ❖ *Homeless Coalition v. California Department of Transportation* (1994) (Oakland Superior Court) - Filed and resolved first case of its kind relating to securing property rights of the homeless (statewide consent decree and injunctive relief still in force).
- ❖ *Spoiled Pet Food Clients v. Chinese Pet Food Production Company*, San Francisco (1999) - First class action case filed in the United States asserting violation of Chinese Constitution against Chinese based pet food manufacturer (dismissed on immunity grounds).

**For Additional Case Work History, See Firm Resume of AUDET & PARTNERS, LLP**

**Publications of Note:**

Audet, Fanady & Kuang, *Handling Federal Discovery* (James Publishing) (24<sup>th</sup> Ed./Rev.) (yearly updated book (and electronic version) on federal discovery, with updates on new important discovery rulings and evolving electronic discovery issues)

Published *Class Action Procedure in Mexico*, a primer for Law Clerks, Judges and Practitioners in Mexico regarding Mexico’s Class Action law (2014).

Co-Author of Case Course Material for 3<sup>rd</sup> year law students at U.W. School of Law (Madison) (entitled: *Civil and Constitutional Rights of Institutional Persons*).

Authored CLE material as moderator/speaker on a variety of legal topics, with focus on class action procedure, electronic discovery and mass torts.

**Notable Law School & Community Services:**

- ❖ Golden Gate University School of Law, Law Review (Author and Managing Editor), 1982-1984
- ❖ Golden Gate University School of Law, Student Representative on Admissions Committee, 1983.
- ❖ Graduation Speaker of the Golden Gate University School of Law, Class of 1984.
- ❖ Panel Speaker/Moderator (1994 and onward) – moderator/panel member of CLE affiliated programs on a variety of topics including class actions, mass torts & medical device preemption.
- ❖ Awarded ‘Advocate of the Year’ in 2013 by The Bar Association of San Francisco.

- ❖ Keynote Speaker at Golden Gate University School of Law Graduation, Class of 2013.
- ❖ Member of the Bar Association of San Francisco Judicial Review Committee, 2013-2016 (The Committee evaluated candidates seeking appointment to the San Francisco Superior Court, the Court of Appeal for the First Appellate District, the Supreme Court of California).