

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

Education and Qualifications

- ❖ 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)
- ❖ Member of The Sedona Conference on E-Discovery

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. Class counsel in that case, which includes Audet & Partners, LLP, reviewed and analyzed in excess of 2 million documents produced by Navistar and third parties, conducted dozens of interviews, and proceeded with over 25 depositions of key witnesses. Settlement announced in May 2019 awarding \$135 million to the Class.
- ❖ ***In Re: Philips Recalled CPAP, Bi-Level PAP, And Mechanical Ventilator Prods. Litig.***, No. 21-mc-1230 (W.D. Pa.) – Mr. Audet serves as a member of the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee and Discovery Chair in this wide-ranging MDL involving claims against a multinational corporation and suppliers for personal and economic injury relating to defective CPAP devices. As discovery chair, Mr. Audet has overseen the managing of a wide ranging production from both Plaintiffs and Defendants as well a helped employ technology to assist attorneys in their review.

- ❖ ***Andrews v. Plains All American Pipeline LP***, 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. Ultimately, the case involved the production of over 360,000 documents by the Parties and third parties, totaling over 1.5 million pages, including numerous highly technical documents and data sets relating to pipeline integrity, spill volume, and fish landings. Mr. Audet’s efforts led to a recovery of \$240 Million for the Class.
- ❖ ***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.
- ❖ ***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 totaling millions of dollars.
- ❖ ***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 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 groundbreaking case and settlement resulted in a significant 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.) – William Audet filed the first class action complaint seeking to represent class members harmed by the effects of Roundup (Mr. Mark Burton from Audet & Partners served as MDL Liaison Counsel), with one jury trial verdict originally awarding \$2 billion in punitive damages.
- ❖ ***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).

Publications of Note:

Audet, Fanady & Kuang, *Handling Federal Discovery* (James Publishing) (24th 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 3rd 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 and ‘Champion of Justice’ in 2005 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)