

Susman Godfrey Named a 'Class Action Group of The Year' by Law360

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Susman Godfrey has been named a 'Class Action Group Of The Year' by *Law360* due to its banner 2016 which was marked by over one billion dollars in settlements for a variety of plaintiffs across the U.S. The firm was one of just five law practices selected nationwide to this list, and one of just three law practices doing plaintiff-side class action work among over 600 submissions across all practice areas.

Susman Godfrey's success in a series of complex — and wildly different — class actions secured its place on this prestigious list. To this point, Los Angeles Partner [Marc Seltzer](#) told *Law360*, "We do all different kinds of commercial civil litigation. I think that gives us a generalist experience and approach to practicing law. We really have a unique perspective on how these cases can be litigated efficiently." That perspective led to over \$1 billion in awards and settlements to plaintiffs who included auto part customers, rock stars, animators and packaged consumer goods companies.

This precedent-setting amount comes from the success the firm achieved for plaintiffs who include automobile owners in *In re Autoparts*, where so far approximately \$673 million in partial settlements have been achieved to the consumer class; consumer packaged goods companies in *Dial Corporation v. News Corporation* who were awarded a \$244 million to be paid out by News Corporation; rock stars The Turtles and other artists who own pre-1972 recordings who Sirius XM agreed to pay up to \$99 million in both retroactive and future royalties in *Flo & Eddie Inc. v. Sirius XM Radio Inc.*; and nearly \$170 million in *In re Animation Workers* for a class of animators and visual effects employees who sued several of Hollywood's biggest movie studios over claims the studios had a "gentleman's agreement" not to poach each other's employees or get into bidding wars to hire them. A \$100 million settlement with The Walt Disney Co., Pixar and Lucasfilm Ltd. was reached in late 2016 and publicly announced on January 31, 2017.

Los Angeles Partner Steven Sklaver told *Law360* that the firm's history in class actions — and its ability to adapt quickly to serving clients in varying industries — comes down to a single specific skill, "[The firm has] an ability to take a complex, thorny problem, analyze it and present it in a clean, simple manner." While the firm uses it in all the work that it does, "that skill set applies in class actions. The stakes get bigger."