

Class Actions

Brown, Goldstein & Levy has had extensive experience and success as lead counsel in class actions and collective actions in Maryland and throughout the country, as well as serving as local counsel for other firms' class actions in Maryland.

Andy Freeman was selected by his by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2017 in the Mass Tort Litigation/Plaintiffs Class Actions field and he was named *Best Lawyers* 2014 Baltimore Mass Tort Litigation/Plaintiffs Class Actions Lawyer of the Year. Only a single lawyer in each practice area in each community is honored as the Lawyer of the Year." The lawyers honored as Lawyers of the Year have received particularly high ratings in *Best Lawyers'* surveys by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity.

U.S. News & World Report and *Best Lawyers* ranked Brown, Goldstein & Levy Tier 1 Baltimore for Mass Tort Litigation/Plaintiffs Class Action in the 2017 "Best Law Firms" list.

Representative Cases

- *Holzheid v. Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland* - represent the plaintiffs in a lawsuit that challenges the interest rate being applied to certain income tax refunds due to Maryland taxpayers as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland v. Wynne*.
- *Gray v. The Walt Disney Company* - won summary judgment holding that the owners and operators of the ESPN Zone restaurant in Baltimore's Inner Harbor violated the WARN Act when they closed the restaurant without providing the employees with the 60-day notice required by law and without paying them the full amount they would have earned had they received that notice (915 F. Supp. 2d 725 (D. Md. 2013)), and settled the case for a total of \$485,000.
- *Thompson v. HUD* - obtained class-action settlement that will provide 2,400 vouchers (in addition to 1,800 already obtained under partial consent decree) to enable poor African-American families to move from public housing and other segregated areas of Baltimore City to communities of opportunity throughout the Baltimore region (2012). Co-lead counsel for remedies phase of trial, settlement negotiations, and implementation (2006 to present).
- *Luquetta v. Regents of the University of California* - Won \$49 million in a second class action for University of California professional degree students for tuition overcharges. Additional information regarding the distribution of the recovery is available at <http://www.ucfeesclassaction.com/>.
- *Kashmiri v. Regents of the University of California* - Won \$42 million in a class action on behalf of University of California students for tuition overcharges. Judgment affirmed on appeal at 156 Cal. App. 4th 809 (2007). Additional information regarding the case is available at <http://www.ucfeesclassaction.com/>.
- *National Federation of the Blind v. Target Corp.* - Settled class action claim against Target Corporation for its failure to make www.target.com accessible to the blind. The case established the applicability of the Americans with Disabilities Act to websites that relate to physical places of public accommodations and the applicability of California law to all commercial websites. 452 F. Supp. 2d 946 (N.D. Cal. 2006). Target agreed to take necessary steps to make its website fully and equally accessible and to pay \$6 million in damages to a class of blind Californians who had unsuccessfully attempted to use the website.
- Successfully negotiated three separate class action settlement agreements on behalf of school bus drivers and attendants whose employers had failed to pay them proper overtime and straight-time wages. Those settlements paid \$1.25 million in Baltimore City, \$1.5 million in Baltimore County, and \$975,000 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

- *Heath v. Perdue Farms*, 87 F. Supp. 2d 452 (D. Md. 2000), recovered a total of \$2.4 million in overtime pay and fees on behalf of low-wage poultry workers.
- Won verdict and appeal on behalf of workers in Delaware chicken processing plants who were owed wages for time spent donning and doffing protective gear, resulting in a payment of \$975,000.
- Part of a consortium of law firms that represented a certified class of over 570 disabled Social Security Administration workers who claimed that the SSA discriminated against employees with targeted disabilities in affording promotions and other career advancement opportunities, obtaining a settlement that included substantial prospective and monetary relief.

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