

# Elizabeth J. Cabraser



Elizabeth Cabraser, a founding partner of Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP, concentrates her practice on representing plaintiffs in complex civil litigation primarily in the areas of mass torts, products liability, securities and investment fraud, and consumer fraud, as well as pro bono representation of plaintiffs in civil and human rights litigation.

Ms. Cabraser possesses unparalleled expertise in complex civil litigation class certification, class notice, settlement, the structuring of class trials, and appellate issues. She has served as a court-appointed lead or class counsel in over 80 federal multidistrict and state coordinated proceedings and has participated in the design, structure, and conduct of eight nationwide class action trials. Ms. Cabraser has argued before the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Circuits. She has held leadership roles in multiple cases that resulted in landmark settlements, verdicts, and precedent-setting rulings for consumers and tort victims, including litigation involving the Exxon Valdez disaster, breast implants, polybutylene pipe, home construction defects, smokers, multistate tobacco suits for state and city governments, Fen-Phen (diet drugs), Provident credit cards, the Tri-State Crematory tragedy, and Holocaust victims. She has served in leadership roles in the Vioxx, Bextra/Celebrex, and Guidant MDL litigation, among many others.

Long an advocate of the underserved and most vulnerable, Ms. Cabraser has worked to defend the right of the oppressed, including through direct pro bono representation, serving on steering committees and boards of nonprofits dedicated to low-income individuals, and funding legal services agencies and causes that seek to advance social justice. Ms. Cabraser is widely considered one of the most philanthropic individuals in the Bay Area.

Under Ms. Cabraser's leadership, Lief Cabraser has become one of the largest law firms in the nation that represents plaintiffs exclusively. She has been a friend, colleague, mentor, and role model for countless female lawyers and law clerks through the past three decades. She has assisted significant numbers of women in becoming partners in her firm and at other firms around the country. Thanks to her guidance and advocacy, more than 40 percent of Lief Cabraser's partners are women, including nearly the same representation in the equity partnership.

Within the plaintiffs' bar, a field traditionally dominated by male attorneys, Ms. Cabraser broke through the glass ceiling and has excelled as a leader. For decades, she has served as a role model for female attorneys nationwide and provided long coattails to help other women in the

trial bar achieve success in their own right. She has partnered with women across the plaintiffs' bar to ensure that the next generations of female lawyers have even more great female role models. She was a founder and long-time coordinator of the ABA National Institute on Class Actions, where she worked to encourage the placement of women attorneys on Institute panels.

Ms. Cabraser has written scholarly and practical articles, including 10 major law review articles and innumerable articles for ABA programs, and has lectured extensively on federal civil procedure, complex litigation, and substantive tort law issues. She has served as a visiting professor at Columbia University and Vanderbilt University Law Schools and teaches classes at UC Berkeley School of Law (from which she received her J.D. in 1978). She is editor-in-chief of *California Class Actions Practice and Procedures* (LexisNexis). Ms. Cabraser has lectured and conducted seminars for the Federal Judicial Center, ALI-ABA, the National Center for State Courts, and the Practising Law Institute. She is an American Law Institute Council member and advised on its groundbreaking 2010 *Principles of the Law of Aggregate Litigation*.

Ms. Cabraser repeatedly has been recognized as one of the foremost litigators in the United States. She was named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" in 2006, 2000, and 1997 and as one of the "50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America" in 2007 and 1998. The *California Daily Journal* consistently has identified her as one of the "Top Women Litigators in California." In 2006, Legal Momentum recognized Ms. Cabraser with its Women of Achievement Award, and in 2007, the University of San Francisco School of Law honored her with its Public Interest Excellence Award.

A colleague offers perhaps the best description of Ms. Cabraser and her achievements. Ms. Cabraser is "a lawyer's lawyer; indefatigable fighter for gender diversity in the legal profession; life-long defender of rights of women, minorities, the LGBT community, and the poor; iconoclastic law professor and writer; rock musician; and wicked wit."