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D.C. LEADERS IN LAW

A Distinctive Approach

In the courtroom and on Capitol Hill, the attorneys at Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP know how to get results for their clients.

“Something that makes us distinctive is our combination of civility and grit,” says Charles LaDuca, partner and firm chairman at Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP (CGL). “We’re not a large firm, but we regularly take on some of the largest U.S. companies for our class action cases. We face powerful opponents, represented by very smart attorneys. They often try to wear us down before these cases even make it to trial. But our grit keeps us fighting.”

Founded in 1988 by Jonathan Cuneo, the D.C.-based firm has represented clients in some of the nation’s highest-profile class action cases. Cuneo passed away recently, but under his leadership, CGL fought against Joe Camel advertisements, which stopped R.J. Reynolds from marketing cigarettes to minors. In another case, they helped investors recoup over \$7 billion following the Enron scandal. The firm also forced the U.S. government to repay over \$25 million to Hungarian Holocaust survivors. Behind the scenes, CGL works on Capitol Hill to advocate for consumers, unions, and businesses regarding legislative and policy matters.

“We’re primarily a class action law firm, but many of our cases also entail public policy,” LaDuca says. “One of our partners is Pamela Gilbert, the former executive director of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. As a consumer protection lobbyist, she and her team advocate for our clients at the highest

levels of government. Her practice ranges from ensuring rental car safety to promoting vigorous antitrust laws. This combination of law and policy has allowed us to take on an interesting collection of cases, with great success.”

A recent addition to CGL, Michael Flannery has forcefully litigated cases spanning wide-ranging practice areas, and he possesses extensive trial experience, a rare asset in the class action bar. In one case, Flannery and his team recovered \$113.7 million in back pay for 13,000 Missouri correctional officers.

Blaine Finley joined CGL in 2023, leading the firm’s growing antitrust litigation practice. He currently works as lead counsel for small businesses alleging anticompetitive conduct in the packaged meats and fragrance product markets.

ACHIEVING GOALS

LaDuca has seen many of these successes firsthand, as he worked for CGL during college as a bicycle messenger. After law school, he quickly became one of the firm’s most successful litigators. LaDuca has recovered over \$3 billion for clients in consumer protection cases involving defective building products. In 2017, he became firm chairman, a role he’s worked towards his entire career.

“Some people say I’m boring because I’ve only had one job,” LaDuca jokes. “That may be true, but there’s no other job I’d rather do. We help clients pool their resources and achieve



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CHARLES LADUCA, PARTNER, FIRM CHAIRMAN, AND PAMELA GILBERT, PARTNER

results that would be impossible for an individual. We’ve forced industries to change their practices, and we’ve helped lawmakers and regulators protect people. Everything we’ve done has positively impacted our clients’ lives.”

While the firm evolved and grew over the years, CGL’s core principles stayed constant.

“We pride ourselves on being unrelentingly civil in our dealings, deeply persuasive in our arguments, and stubbornly tenacious in our work ethic,” LaDuca says. “We love fighting on for our clients, both in court and on Capitol Hill.”

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