

Food Advertising, Labeling, and Litigation Conference
September 27-28, 2023
Speaker Biographies



BENJAMIN P. ABEL is an Associate at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.



MATTHEW G. BALL is a litigation partner in the San Francisco office of K&L Gates LLP. He focuses on class action defense and strategic commercial litigation for consumer-focused industries, such as makers of food, dietary supplements, and homeopathic remedies, among other consumer products. He has been named a Northern California Super Lawyer from 2010 to 2022 in Class Actions/Mass Torts. He was named a “Legal Lion” in Law360 for his work defending consumer class actions brought against National Beverage Corporation, challenging the labeling of their La Croix product.



DAVID T. BIDERMAN, a partner in Perkins Coie's San Francisco and Los Angeles offices, focuses his practice on mass tort litigation and consumer class actions. He heads the firm's Consumer Products & Services Litigation group. He has represented a wide variety of companies in state and federal courts in California for 30 years. Regarding consumer class actions, David represents consumer packaged goods and food companies whose nutritional or health claims have been challenged. He also has represented search engines and other online companies as well as consumer finance companies. He has a record of favorable results for clients. He successfully tried a major consumer fraud class action on behalf of one of the world's major search engines in a case involving online gambling advertisements. For that same client, he negotiated a favorable settlement of a class action challenging its online advertising pricing. He represented a major coffee retailer in defeating a class action on standing grounds. He also has litigated pre-emption defenses arising out of food labeling and obtained a dismissal for a client whose nutritional statements were challenged.



JANA CARACCILO is an associate at GrayRobinson, providing an astute knowledge of food labeling regulation and interpretation and counsel on food safety-related issues. She provides legal counsel and compliance guidance to farmers, ranchers, producers, processors, distributors, and retailers on compliance issues with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and various state agencies' requirements on food safety, food and beverage labeling and packaging, and product development. Prior to joining GrayRobinson, Jana served as a staff attorney at the National Agricultural Law Center, researching and analyzing food safety and food labeling issues. Jana holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, and is currently pursuing her LL.M. degree in food and agricultural law from the University of Arkansas College of Law..



Washington University Law School and received her B.A. with honors from the Johns Hopkins University.

JACQUELINE J. CHAN serves as Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory & Marketing at Unilever. She works closely with Unilever's cross-functional teams across the product lifecycle including related to labeling, advertising and promotion, enforcement and litigation risk assessment, post-marketing obligations, agency submissions, and regulatory strategy and compliance. Prior to joining Unilever, Ms. Chan practiced FDA regulatory and advertising law in private practice. She earned her J.D. from the George



and food service companies, as well as their trade associations.

VERONICA COLAS is a senior associate at the law firm Hogan Lovells US LLP. Ms. Colas counsels clients on the regulations and policy issues affecting food companies from farm to table. Using her keen awareness of today's litigation environment, Veronica helps develop new products, label claims, advertising materials, and promotional campaigns. She has a deep understanding of both current and forthcoming food labeling and production requirements ranging from nutrition and menu labeling, to the regulatory issues surrounding genetically engineered foods and organic food production. She represents all segments of the food industry, including manufacturers, retailers, restaurants,



development, good manufacturing practices, regulatory compliance programs, agency comment preparation, listing requirements, product recalls, FDA inspections, and assisting with government enforcement actions.

KYLE A. DIAMANTAS advises food, dietary supplement, drug, cosmetic, and other life sciences clients on a wide range of U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulatory, compliance, and enforcement matters. He regularly provides strategic advice and counseling to clients in connection with pre- and post-marketing reviews and submissions, labeling and advertising matters and claims



SAMANTHA DIETLE is Legal Counsel of Food Law and Regulatory at Nestlé USA.

RACHEL EDELSTEIN became the Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) on June 7, 2020. Edelstein leads the Agency's efforts to modernize regulations, improve instructions to FSIS field personnel and eliminate unnecessary burden to the industry. These efforts align with FSIS' Strategic Goals 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health and Goal 2: Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches. Previously, she served as Deputy Assistant Administrator of OPPD since 2012. Edelstein's policy work has covered a range of issues that are important to both consumers and the industry. She finalized the policy that declared certain non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing E. coli to be adulterants in non-intact raw beef products and directed the development of related sampling instructions for inspectors. Following various outbreaks, Edelstein promoted stronger food safety protections through policy requiring establishments to reassess their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for ground and comminuted poultry products. She also led the development of policies and procedures for the new sampling and testing of comminuted poultry products for Salmonella and Campylobacter. As OPPD's Assistant Administrator she led the development of the rules, guidance, and

instructions to the field to modernize poultry slaughter inspection and swine slaughter inspection. Edelstein has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Arts Degree in English from the University of Virginia.



FRANCES FLEMING-MILICI is Director of Marketing Initiatives for the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity. She received her PhD in Communication at the University of Connecticut. For over 10 years she has conducted research and published reports and academic papers analyzing the amount, type, and nutrition of food and beverages marketed to children, adolescents, and parents of young children, including assessing race/ethnicity-based targeted marketing practices.



STEFANIE JILL FOGEL is a partner and Co-Chair of DLA Piper's Global Consumer Goods, Food and Retail Sector and Co-Chair of the U.S. Food and Beverage sub-sector, focusing her practice on multi-national food and consumer product regulation and compliance, food and consumer product recall response, corporate compliance, and commercial, class action and multi-plaintiff litigation. Stefanie works with large multinationals and start-ups in trending areas of the food and supplement space to include plant-based alternatives and hemp-based CBD products. She represents national and international manufacturers of foods and dietary supplements, retail clothing, manufacturing equipment, chemical products, bio-technology detection devices and a variety of consumer products. Stefanie serves as a national and international advisor to these clients in the area of product safety, cross-border distribution and enforcement, crisis management response, and industry trends. She has extensive experience advising on FDA, USDA, TTB, and CPSC related regulations, including label compliance, claims risk assessment, import and export issues, FSMA, and supply chain management. She is also a seasoned trial lawyer and has represented clients both locally and as national coordinating counsel in toxic torts, consumer fraud, mislabeling and misuse and product liability matters, against individual, multi-district, and class action claims. She has also developed a global multidisciplinary crisis management team to quickly and effectively address issues arising out of recalls, contamination, natural disasters, equipment failure, and environmental leaks and spills. Stefanie has lectured across the country on subjects relating to food regulatory, litigation and compliance matters, supply chain risk and management, food safety, information management, and in-house and expert witness preparation, as well as civil practice litigation issues. She is well-versed in food and dietary supplement industry trends and has experience necessary to navigate the complex and nuanced food regulatory arena. She is a member of DLA Piper's governing Policy Committee and the Hiring Committee and is also proud to be the co-founder and co-chair for DLA Piper's National Leadership Alliance for Women (LAW) Program. Stefanie is admitted to practice in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York and has been admitted in various other states pro hac vice.



DALE GIALI is a litigator who represents companies in complex food and beverage, dietary supplement and consumer product false advertising matters, including defending consumer class actions and prosecuting and defending competitor lawsuits.



JASON W. GORDON is a partner in the Entertainment & Media Group at Reed Smith LLP. He represents Fortune 100 brands, media companies, independent advertising agencies, airlines, quick service restaurants, consumer packaged goods companies, and other advertisers in all aspects of advertising, marketing, new media, branding, privacy, mobile marketing, behavioral advertising, right of publicity, and traditional trademark and copyright prosecution and counseling. His practice includes the review of advertising copy; advising on issues such as claim substantiation, false advertising and related intellectual property and privacy/publicity issues; and negotiating and drafting a broad array of contracts, including agency/client agreements, media buying agreements, sponsorship agreements and talent agreements. In the new media area, his practice includes drafting and advising on contracts related to social media, blogging, mobile marketing, behavioral advertising, application development and execution, music licensing, and charitable solicitations. In the intellectual property area, he advises on the protection, maintenance, and licensing of copyrights and trademarks. He also advises clients on sweepstakes, contests, and other promotions. Jason also has experience in resolving complex issues and disputes raising false advertising, unfair competition, copyright infringement, misappropriation of ideas, e-commerce, and contract concerns. Jason is an adjunct professor at Chicago Kent College of Law; he is teaching Advertising and Marketing Law.



ANNA H. GRUMMON is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and (by courtesy) Health Policy at the Stanford University School of Medicine. She is a behavioral scientist whose work seeks to identify and evaluate policies that encourage healthy eating. A signature theme in her work is combining randomized trials, quasi-experiments, and simulation modeling to evaluate how food policies like front-of-package labels affect what we eat and how healthy we are. She also studies strategies for encouraging people to choose foods that are more environmentally sustainable. Dr. Grummon earned a PhD and MSPH in Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health and a BA with Honors in Human Biology from Stanford. She completed her postdoctoral training at Harvard.



AMY E. HANCOCK is General Counsel and Executive Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at American Beverages Association.



AUGUST T. HORVATH is a partner in Foley Hoag's Advertising & Marketing practice and a noted advertising and antitrust attorney. He counsels clients on how to substantiate and defend marketing claims they wish to make for their products and services, helps them challenge false and disparaging advertising by their competitors and assists them in managing relationships with competitors, customers, and suppliers without running afoul of antitrust laws.



HOWARD HIRSCH has devoted his career to representing plaintiffs in public interest litigation to enforce consumer protections, conserve natural resources, and protect human health from toxic chemicals. After obtaining two years of training and experience at complex litigation with a large commercial law firm, Mr. Hirsch spent five years as a staff attorney at a national, non-profit environmental group representing individuals and non-profit groups in citizen suits against polluters under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and other federal statutes. Mr. Hirsch joined the Lexington Law Group in 2003 and is a principal of the firm. Since joining LLG, Mr. Hirsch's practice has included significant experience enforcing California's Proposition 65 and litigating class actions against, among others, technology companies, airlines, and health care providers and insurers. These cases have resulted in significant reductions in human exposures to toxic chemicals, changes in deceptive business practices, and the recovery of millions of dollars for the benefit of consumers. Mr. Hirsch has also volunteered his legal services to the homeless community of San Francisco and currently serves as a volunteer arbiter for the San Francisco Department of Human Services resolving disputes between homeless shelters and their residents. Mr. Hirsch graduated from the University of California Berkeley Boalt Hall School in 1996 and from Boston College in 1993.



JENSEN N. JOSE works as Regulatory Counsel for The Center for Science in the Public Interest where he focuses on food additive and dietary supplement safety issues. Previously, Jensen served as regulatory policy specialist for the American Optometric Association. He also worked as an associate counsel for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and a research associate for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Jensen earned his JD from the University of Maryland law school, and a BS in Biology and BA in Political Science from the University of Washington.



MAIA KATS is founding member of Just Food Law, and former Litigation Director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. She is nationally recognized as a leading expert in food class actions. Maia has led and resolved numerous consumer class actions, including against PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, General Mills, Campbell Soup, Kellogg's, GNC, and CVS. Her cases have been featured on Good Morning America and ABC News, and many others have been reported in a variety of publications including the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, New York Times, BBC News, Bloomberg, the Los Angeles Times, as well as in several international news outlets. She is a member of Law360's Consumer Protection Editorial Board. An honors graduate (magna cum laude) of the University of Michigan and Michigan Law School, Maia began her litigation career on Wall Street with the law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed.



CLAUDINE KAVANAUGH is the Director of the Office of Food and Nutrition Labeling at the US Food and Drug Administration. She has been with the FDA for 18 years and her recent activities include leading the commissioner's nutrition innovation strategy, restaurant menu and vending machine labeling, updating the nutrition facts label, and sodium reduction. Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Kavanaugh was a cancer prevention fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Kavanaugh received her PhD in nutrition from Purdue University and a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She is also registered dietitian.



DEEPTI A. KULKARNI is a partner at Covington & Burling where she provides strategic advice to clients on a wide range of complex matters involving FDA and USDA regulatory oversight. She has played a key role in the development and implementation of the regulatory frameworks for alternative proteins as well as bioengineered food and agriculture products. Deepti advises companies developing and marketing animal products, foods, dietary supplements, and cosmetics at nearly every step of the product lifecycle. She also counsels clients on potential crises, such as product recalls, import refusals, and other regulatory actions. Deepti previously served as an Associate Chief Counsel in the FDA's Office of Chief

Counsel. While at FDA, she counseled various components of FDA and HHS on a broad scope of issues related to animal products, foods, dietary supplements, and cosmetics, as well as cross-product matters involving imports and exports, advisory committees, and constitutional issues. Deepti received several awards during her time at the FDA, including the FDA Award of Merit (FDA's highest award), Commissioner's Special Recognition Award, and the CFSAN Director's Special Citation Award.



MATTHEW J. LASH is an Assistant Director with the Department of Justice, Consumer Protection Branch in Washington, D.C. Mr. Lash represents the United States in criminal and civil cases implicating the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and other statutes impacting American consumers. Mr. Lash serves as a case supervisor on many of the Consumer Protection Branch's food safety matters as well as cases related to opioids, other prescription drugs, and medical devices. Mr. Lash joined the Department of Justice in 2011 and previously worked in private practice. Mr. Lash graduated, cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center.

BETHANY G. LUKITSCH is Partner at Baker & Hostetler LLP.



GARY E. MASON is a nationally recognized leader of the class action bar. Focusing on consumer class actions and mass torts, Gary has recovered more than \$1.5 billion in the 30 years he has represented plaintiffs. Gary has decades of experience litigating privacy cases. He served as Co-Lead Counsel in *In re Dep't of Veterans Affs. (VA) Data Theft Litig.*, No. 1:06-MC-00506, 2007 WL 7621261 (D.D.C. Nov. 16, 2007) (unlawful disclosure of PPI of 28.5 million military veterans and active-duty personnel; \$20 million settlement fund) and *In re Google Buzz Priv. Litig.*, No. C 10-00672 JW, 2011 WL 7460099 (N.D. Cal. June 2, 2011) (\$10 million settlement fund in a case arising for unauthorized disclosure or personal information). He is currently a Court-appointed Liaison Counsel in *In re U.S. Off. of Pers. Mgmt. Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, 266 F. Supp. 3d 1 (D.D.C. 2017). Since 2021, Gary has focused his practice on data breach cases, primarily involving health care providers. He has settled over 100 data breach class action in this sector.



KEITH A. MATTHEWS is Of Counsel at Wiley Rein LLP.



ABBY MEYER is a partner in Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP’s Business Trial Practice Group and co-leads the firm’s Food & Beverage team. She is also a member of the firm’s Class Action Defense, Cannabis, and Healthcare teams. Abby represents her clients in complex civil litigation, business disputes, and consumer class action litigation in state and federal court and in arbitration. She has helped clients successfully resolve breach of contract, fraud, misrepresentation, construction defect, and lender liability claims. On the class action side, she defends against alleged violations of California’s Unfair Competition Law, False Advertising Law, Consumers Legal Remedies Act, and similar alleged violations of other states’ laws.



AVIVA A. MUSICUS is an Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



SHAWN R. OBI is a litigation partner who regularly represents clients in the food and beverage and consumer product industries in resolving pre-suit CLRA demand letters alleging food and beverage labelling violations and in class action lawsuits related to false advertising and product labeling. She has experience defending claims arising from allegations of mislabeled protein and other nutritional content and false advertising premised on customer confusion—claims that plaintiff-based protein manufacturers are likely to face today. Her class action work includes a series of high-impact cases, including work done for one of the first putative nationwide class actions alleging nonfunctional “slack-fill” in product packaging, with a seminal decision by the Ninth Circuit that helped define the “reasonable consumer standard” in consumer protection cases brought under California law. The Ninth Circuit’s precedent is often cited by lawyers seeking to dismiss California-based consumer class actions.

She has been recognized in *Recognized in Lawdragon’s “500 X – The Next Generation”* (2023) and in *Benchmark Litigation US’s “40 & Under List”* (2023).



MEGAN L. OLSEN is Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN) in Washington, DC. At CRN, she provides legal counsel and advice to CRN’s staff and members in the areas of legislation, regulatory compliance and advocacy, and international policy development with respect to dietary supplements and nutrition issues. Prior to joining CRN, Ms. Olsen was in-house counsel for Walgreen Co., where she provided legal advice about Food and Drug Administration, Federal Trade Commission, and other consumer protection regulatory requirements for a wide variety of consumer products, including conventional food, dietary supplements, OTCs, and cosmetics. Ms. Olsen began her career at Kelley Drye and Warren LLP working on a variety of consumer protection, regulatory, and advertising law issues.



MICHAEL OSTHEIMER is a senior consumer protection attorney in the FTC's Division of Advertising Practices. He has over 28 years of experience investigating and prosecuting deceptive and unfair advertising practices and developing the FTC's advertising policies. Mr. Ostheimer played a lead role in revising the FTC's 2009 Endorsement Guides (as well as related materials) to reflect developments such as blogging and social media. He also played a key role in developing the FTC's 2013 business guidance document on how to make disclosures to consumers in digital advertising (including in the mobile marketplace and on social media platforms). Mr. Ostheimer organized the

FTC's public workshop on native advertising and was a primary drafter of the Commission's 2015 Enforcement Policy Statement on Deceptively Formatted Advertisements, which addresses native advertising. He organized a 2016 public workshop that examined the testing and evaluation of disclosures that companies make to consumers about advertising claims, privacy practices, and other information. In the non-digital area, he led Operation Full Disclosure in which staff sent warning letters to more than 60 companies – including 20 of the 100 largest advertisers in the country – that failed to make adequate disclosures in their television and print ads. Throughout his career, Mr. Ostheimer has brought numerous enforcement cases involving weight loss, dietary supplement, food, high-tech and online products and tobacco advertising and engaged in extensive negotiations with a wide range of advertisers. Many of his investigations have involved complex endorsement issues. Mr. Ostheimer also spent four years as a Counsel to the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, providing advice on a wide range of consumer protection matters. He has participated in numerous webinars on endorsement and disclosure issues organized by the private bar and testified regarding the FTC's disclosure requirements in litigation.



RAQIYYAH R. PIPPINS co-leads the Consumer Products Practice Group and the Consumer Products & Retail Industry Team at Arnold & Porter LLP. She has extensive experience representing companies that are engaged in the development, marketing, import, and export of consumer products, including FDA-regulated consumer products, apparel, appliances, and devices. Ms. Pippins focuses her practice in the areas of FDA's regulation of food, dietary supplement, cosmetic, drug and medical-device products sold directly to consumers as well as FTC and state regulation of the marketing and sale of consumer products. She collaboratively partners with litigation teams to defend clients against consumer litigation demands alleging unfair and deceptive advertising

practices. She also routinely represents consumer product companies in advertising challenges before the National Advertising Division (NAD) of the Better Business Bureau National Programs and defends companies in investigations conducted by FDA, FTC, and state agencies regarding product marketing practices. Ms. Pippins has particular experience assisting companies develop promotional strategies that account for the federal and state regulations governing direct-to-consumer product promotion. Her experience includes advising consumer product companies on relevant federal and state laws and regulations governing health-related, performance, and sourcing claims (e.g., natural, organic, and green claims) for apparel, conventional food, dietary supplements, cosmetics, and devices; assisting FDA-regulated companies with product development, monograph compliance, and Rx-to-OTC switches; and counseling companies regarding the development of clinical and sensory studies intended to substantiate advertising claims. She is a trusted advisor of trade organizations supporting manufacturers of FDA-regulated products regarding FTC and state standards that also impact the risk profile for companies' product portfolios, and is regularly invited to work directly with clients' marketing and research and development teams to help identify marketing strategies that are consistent with the desired risk threshold for the company.



MICHAEL R. REESE is the founding partner of Reese LLP, which has been litigating consumer and antitrust cases as class actions and on behalf of individual clients since 2008. Prior to starting Reese LLP, Reese was the partner at a large, nationwide class action firm. Reese previously served as an assistant district attorney at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office as a trial attorney prosecuting both violent and white-collar crime. Achievements by Reese on behalf of consumers span a wide array of actions. Reese is also an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School, specializing in class actions and other aggregate litigation. Reese received a juris doctorate from the University of Virginia in 1996 and his bachelor's degree from

New College in 1993. Reese is a member of the state bars of New York and California as well as numerous federal district and appellate courts.



MAGED SHARAF is EAS Consulting Group Senior Director for Labeling, Cannabis and Claims Consulting. He has a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences and is a well-regarded expert in 21 CFR 111 and 21 CFR 117. He facilitates food, dietary supplement and cosmetic label compliance reviews, develops marketing materials for FDA and FTC compliance, including claims substantiation, and conducts 21 CFR 111 audits, dietary ingredient and product reviews, specifications development and oversees client projects related to product detentions, NDI submissions and cannabis. He is an expert in botanical sciences and regulations. He serves as a volunteer chair of the USP Dietary Supplements and Herbal Medicines Nomenclature Joint Subcommittee and is a member of the USP Nomenclature and Labeling Expert

Committee. He also volunteers as a scientific advisor for the American Herbal Pharmacopeia, reviewer for the American Botanical Council, chair of the international HPTLC Association's Method Review Committee, and is a member of the Specialty Committee of Traditional Chinese Medicines—Pharmaceutical Analysis, World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies. Prior to consulting, Dr. Sharaf was the Director of Scientific Business Development at CAMAG Scientific, the Chief Science Officer of the American Herbal Products Association, and the USP Director of Foods, Dietary Supplements, and Herbal Medicines.



SARAH SORSCHER is an experienced advocate with a passion for public health who fights for a safer, healthier, more transparent food system by promoting consumer safeguards with Congress, federal agencies, and state and local governments. As Director of Regulatory Affairs, she manages CSPI's policy work related to food safety and labeling, allergens, food additives, dietary supplements, and other consumer products. Her work includes serving on federal advisory committees, testifying before Congress and federal agencies, offering technical advice to policymakers, and providing commentary to the media on consumer and food safety issues. Prior to joining CSPI, Sarah worked on health and safety issues at Public Citizen and served as a law clerk for the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She holds a J.D. from the Harvard

Law School, an M.P.H. from Harvard School of Public Health, and a B.A. from Amherst College.



DOUGLAS W. STEARN is currently serving as the deputy director for regulatory affairs for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In this position, he has direct oversight and responsibility for regulatory programs overseeing the food supply under FDA’s jurisdiction, including compliance functions and regulatory programs involving food safety, outbreak response, and dietary supplements. He previously served as the director of FDA’s Office of Enforcement and Import Operations between November 2013 and April 2018, where he had responsibility for overseeing the execution of the agency’s import operations and compliance activities that cut across the commodities FDA regulates.

Between January 2009 and November 2013, Mr. Stearn served as the assistant director and then the deputy director of the Office of Compliance within FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Prior to joining CDER, Mr. Stearn served as the director of the Division of Compliance Policy in the Office of Regulatory Affairs for almost two years. Immediately before joining FDA, Mr. Stearn worked as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Consumer Litigation for over fifteen years. In the course of his work at the Department of Justice, Mr. Stearn litigated numerous civil and criminal cases referred by FDA and other consumer protection agencies.



SARAH SUNDAY is the Assistant General Counsel for Food Law at Nestlé USA.

THOMAS TOBIN is an associate at Perkins Coie’s Seattle office. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and class action matters involving statutory, constitutional, and regulatory issues in a range of industries, including food and beverage, consumer packaged goods, and cannabis. In the food and beverage sector, Tommy has experience defending false advertising claims and consumer protection claims for well-known international corporations. He regularly writes articles on food law and policy issues and is chair of the American Bar Association (ABA)’s Food, Cosmetics and Nutraceuticals Committee. Tommy recently edited the ABA’s Food Law: A

Practical Guide, a resource book for practitioners to assist them in meeting the unique needs of food and beverage clients across various domains of legal practice. Tommy also serves as a Lecturer at UCLA Law, teaching the seminar “Food Litigation: Consumer Protection, Regulation, and Class Actions” with David Biderman, Perkins Coie.

SARAH TOPY is an Assistant General Counsel at the Procter & Gamble Company where she works on health care and oral care businesses. In that role, Sarah manages the legal program for the nitrosamine and other substances of interest work. She has also provided advertising and regulatory support for various brands like Vicks and Oral-B. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and serves on the board of the Cincinnati Bar Association and the Ohio Innocence Project. Sarah graduated from The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati College of Law.



WILL WAGNER focuses his practice on consumer product defense, regulatory compliance, and lobbying consumer product issues in California, with a focus on defending and advising companies on California’s unique Proposition 65 law. His experience includes defending companies against putative or threatened class action lawsuits based on PFAS, greenwashing claims, nonfunctional slack-fill allegations, and claims relating to the purity of a product.



MELISSA S. WEINER a partner at Pearson Warshaw, LLP, is a civil litigator whose work is squarely focused on combating consumer deception, particularly in the consumer products arena. Ms. Weiner has taken a leadership role in numerous complex class actions and multi-district litigations in cases across the country. These include matters challenging tobacco marketing, data breaches, defective construction products and false advertising. Ms. Weiner's astute legal skills and steadfast determination have brought success in the courtroom and at the negotiation table, where she is known to work tirelessly to achieve resolutions that are creative and fair. A contributor to her professional community, Ms. Weiner serves on the Executive Board for Public Justice, in the role of Chair of the Development Committee. Additionally, she serves on the Minnesota Bar

Association Food & Drug Law Council and sits on the Food Law Center Advisory Board for Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Committed to the next generation of food law advocates, Ms. Weiner teaches Food Law as an adjunct professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Ms. Weiner is a frequent lecturer at food law and litigation conferences across the country. In recognition of her outstanding efforts in the legal community, each year since 2012, Ms. Weiner has been named a Super Lawyer by Minnesota Law & Politics.



CHRISTOPHER VAN GUNDY is a partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP. His practice involves counseling and representing food and consumer product manufacturers, distributors, and retailers both in litigation and regulatory matters. He defends companies in consumer false advertising purported class actions, and advises on FDA, USDA, California Proposition 65, and CBD matters.



CLAUDIA M. VETESI is a partner at Morrison and Foerster, focusing her practice on the defense of consumer class actions and on complex commercial litigation, including unfair business competition, false advertising, product liability, and privacy matters. She represents numerous consumer goods manufacturers and retailers in false advertising and mislabeling class action lawsuits. Claudia also regularly counsels clients in the food, cosmetics, retail, and technology industries. She represents companies in false advertising disputes before the National Advertising Division (NAD) of the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc. Claudia is active in Morrison and Foerster's pro

bono efforts and recently traveled to El Paso, Texas, to work with families separated and detained at the border. She is also supervising a pro bono collaboration with Equal Rights Advocates, a nonprofit fighting for gender justice in work places and schools across the country. The initiative will help students who have been victims of sexual assault, attempted assault, or harassment find support and seek justice. Claudia is also a board member of Equal Rights Advocates.



ANDREW PAK counsels businesses on cybersecurity, data protection, risks, compliance, and litigation matters requiring deep technical knowledge. Andrew draws on his experience as a former federal prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and as in-house counsel to a global Fortune 500 financial institution to advise clients on issues ranging from cybersecurity risk, incident response, and privacy to litigation, internal investigations, and regulatory matters. As a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Andrew's skillset includes both legal and practitioner-level knowledge and experience on cybersecurity issues. Andrew is a former assistant U.S. attorney and cybercrime coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, where he litigated malicious hacking cases and fraud-related matters. In this role, he prosecuted the largest computer hacking and securities fraud scheme charged to date, the

largest credit card hacking case charged to date, and an international stock manipulation scam involving botnets. Andrew also previously served as senior trial counsel at the DOJ Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, where he prosecuted cybercrime matters, coordinated national DOJ litigation strategy relating to email search warrants, and worked on policy and legislative matters. Andrew is the recipient of two Federal Law Enforcement Foundation "Prosecutor of the Year" awards and has received letters of recognition for his service from two directors of the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).