

# Daily Journal

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023



*Joseph R. Saveri*

**Joseph Saveri Law Firm LLP**

San Francisco

Litigation

**T**raditional plaintiff-side antitrust cases remain prominently on the docket of Joseph Saveri Law Firm LLP, the shop Saveri founded in 2012 after leaving his managing partner position at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP.

Yet the 20-attorney Saveri boutique also handles novel matters like its suit against OpenAI and Meta Platforms, Inc. for allegedly misappropriating copyrighted material to train their large language models to mimic human intelligence.

Among Saveri's clients in the new litigation: Comedian Sarah Silverman and authors Christopher Golden and Richard Kadrey. "It's critical that we recognize and protect the rights of artists such as these against unlawful theft and fraud," Saveri said. *Kadrey et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, 3:23-cv-03417 (N.D. Cal., filed July 7, 2023).

In late August, Saveri was in Las Vegas, where a trial judge formally certified a class of professional mixed martial arts fighters who are suing the sport's Ultimate Fighting Championship organization in a case with up to \$5 billion in alleged dam-

ages. *Le v. Zuffa LLC*, 2:15-cv-01045 (D. Nev., filed June 3, 2015).

"We have trials set for next year in the MMA case and in the cheer case," Saveri said, referring to his class action for competitive cheer families against defendants who allegedly conspired to raise, fix, and stabilize prices associated with the sport. *Jones et al. v. Varsity Brands et al.*, 2:20-cv-02892 (W.D. Tenn., filed Aug. 20, 2020).

"These cases are a continuation and an outgrowth of what we have done from the beginning," Saveri said.

This year, in a traditional antitrust matter, he completed settlements totaling \$604.55 million for direct purchasers of electronic components. *In re Capacitors Antitrust Litigation*, 3:14-cv-02801 (N.D. Cal., filed July 18, 2014).

The new cases build on the old. "We are always looking to identify areas where people have been hurt and the law hasn't previously been applied. It's like when we were first with our no-poach cases — we were able to apply antitrust principles where no one had before," Saveri said.

—John Roemer

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## Daily Journal's Top 100 Lawyers



*Steven N.  
Williams*

**Joseph Saveri Law Firm LLP**  
San Francisco  
Litigation

When the prominent antitrust authority Steven N. Williams moved to the Joseph Saveri Law Firm LLP in 2018, he sought to broaden his reach.

"I wanted to do some different work, work that would have an immediate impact," he said.

Over the past dozen years, Williams has been lead or co-lead counsel in more plaintiff antitrust cases than perhaps any other attorney in the U.S., recovering more than \$2 billion for clients and expanding the rights of claimants to bring antitrust actions.

This year, he'd finally settled for a total of \$604.55 million the last elements of a decade-old case challenging a cartel that conspired to fix, raise, and stabilize prices in the multibillion-dollar market for capacitors, a component used in electronic devices. *In re Capacitors Antitrust Litigation*, 3:14-cv-03264 (N.D. Cal., filed July 18, 2014).

"I felt that as I moved into this phase of my career, I wanted to do some civil rights work," he said. Williams spoke just after having conferred with new clients in West Oakland who are about to sue over pollution in their neighborhood from a facility at which frequent fires contaminate the area.

"This is very much in line with what I want to be doing," he said.

Williams has successfully pioneered a new type of suit on behalf of social media content moderators who suffer PTSD and other trauma from viewing extreme and graphic violence as part of their jobs.

He obtained a groundbreaking \$52 million settlement that included workplace improvements with Facebook, Inc. in 2020 over the issue. *Scola v. Facebook, Inc.*, 18CIV05135 (S. Mateo Co. Super. Ct., filed Sept. 21, 2018).

That win gained Williams and law partner Joseph R. Saveri a 2022 CLAY Award. Now, Williams has filed similar claims for content moderators at TikTok's parent company for "doing a thankless job that exposes them to the worst aspects of humanity" without proper protection. *Young et al. v. ByteDance Inc. et al.*, 3:22-cv-01883 (N.D. Cal., filed Mar. 24, 2022).

"We just beat their motion to dismiss," Williams said. "And to his credit, the judge suggested we accelerate the class certification stage because the serious harms we allege can't wait for resolution."

— John Roemer