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A decade ago, Joseph R. Saveri founded the Joseph Saveri Law Firm, fresh from his position as managing partner at Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP. Since then, he and his 16 attorney colleagues have generated more than \$4 billion in settlements and successful resolutions for clients.

“When we opened the firm, I was interested in handling complex multidistrict antitrust class actions,” Saveri said. “These bring business and professional challenges.”

A prime example is Saveri’s role as sole lead counsel for a class of direct purchasers of capacitors used in electronic devices. Saveri launched the litigation two years after he opened the doors, accusing dozens of mostly Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese companies of conspiracy to fix prices. Now in its eighth year, the sprawling litigation has yielded settlements worth \$604.55 million.

A hearing in November over final settlement approval is likely also to confirm that class counsel will obtain more than \$130 million in fees. In 2017, the case expanded into a multidistrict class action. *In re Capacitors Antitrust Litigation*, 3:14-cv-03264; 3:17-md-02801 (N.D. Cal., filed July 18, 2014).

“Complex, interesting, and important in a number of respects,” Saveri said. “It involved investigation and deposition-taking in Asia, extremely complex discovery in non-English languages, and coordination with a parallel criminal investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice.”

The case was exactly the kind of thing he had in mind when he started the firm. “One thing I wanted was to bring cases like this to trial,” he said. “It’s important to go into the courtroom to enforce the antitrust laws.”

A first trial was cut short by COVID-19. “We’d put on our case and the other side had not, so we worried that they had gotten a free look at what we were doing,” Saveri said. At the second trial, the parties agreed to use a trendsetting technique in which four defense economics experts were sworn and testified in open court at the same time in an arrangement that came to be known as the “hot tub.” “The judge asked a lot of questions and let the experts talk to one another about their analyses. It was a little nerve-wracking for the lawyers because, in effect, the judge said, ‘Take your hand off the steering wheel, I’m driving.’”

— John Roemer

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