

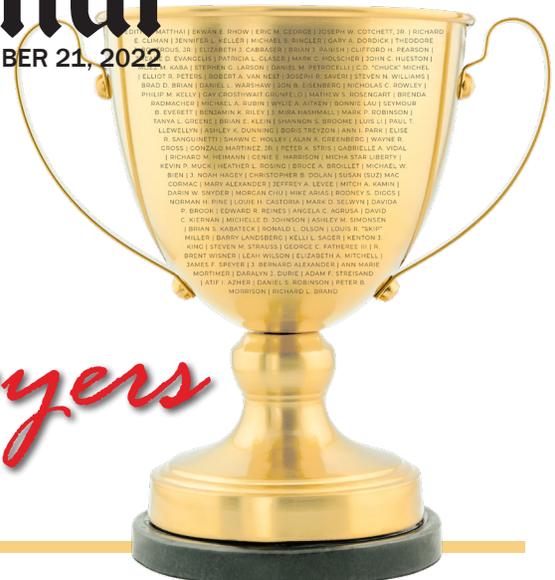
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Top

100

Lawyers
2022



Top
100 | **STEVEN N. WILLIAMS**

JOSEPH SAVERI LAW
FIRM, LLP
SAN FRANCISCO
LITIGATION

Steven N. Williams joined the Joseph Saveri Law Firm in 2018 as Joseph R. Saveri's first partner-level colleague at the litigation boutique.

At the time, Williams called the move "a great, rejuvenating change for me," and nothing has changed his mind. "It was true then, and it's remained true — through the pandemic and through a counterrevolution in our courts as we've watched them pull back from standing for individual rights. It's a volatile time," he said.

Williams arrived at Saveri's shop from a 14-year career at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP. He joined Saveri at a time when the firm's long-running capacitors antitrust litigation was ongoing, with Saveri as sole lead counsel for the direct purchaser class. At Cotchett, Williams had been lead for the indirect purchaser class. "The judge said, 'You've switched sides!'" Williams recounted. "It was seamless for me to jump in here." The plaintiffs have now settled for a total of \$604.55 million. *In re Capacitors Antitrust Litigation*, 3:14-cv-03264; 3:17-md-02801 (N.D. Cal., filed July 18, 2014).

Soon after arriving at Saveri, Williams launched innovative and successful litigation on behalf of content moderators suffering trauma over viewing toxic videos at Facebook, Inc. The case yielded a groundbreaking \$52 million settlement that included workplace

improvements. It won a 2022 CLAY award from the *Daily Journal*. *Scola v. Facebook, Inc.*, 18CIV05135 (San Mateo Co. Super. Ct., filed Sept. 20, 2018).

That case led to similar claims against YouTube, Inc. and TikTok's parent, ByteDance. In August, YouTube settled its case for \$4.2 million plus an agreement for on-site and virtual counseling services and peer support groups for content moderators. *Jane Doe v. YouTube, Inc.*, 4:20-cv-07493 (N.D. Cal., filed Sept. 21, 2020).

The TikTok case remains in litigation. *Young v. ByteDance Inc.*, 4:20-cv-01883 (N.D. Cal., filed March 24, 2022).

"They're taking a much harder position, aggressive and adversarial," Williams said. "There's a different corporate culture at TikTok because they're at the forefront of several continuing social issues and that's created a siege mentality there. They're in a lot of different crosshairs. It's a battle I look forward to."

Williams said additional cases regarding trauma suffered by content moderators are in the works. "So far, the cases have all been for people in the U.S. In our view, content moderators around the world should be able to get relief in the Northern District. Companies say otherwise, but it's a liability dodge."

— John Roemer