

Daily Journal

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

TOP

40

UNDER FORTY 2024



Joseph Saveri Law Firm
SAN FRANCISCO • AGE 35

Like the firm where he is a partner, Christopher Young specializes primarily in representing plaintiffs in antitrust class actions. Some of the cases he has been working on recently are anything but ordinary.

One case, filed in January, accuses the defendant business of being a monopsony, the less common inverse of a monopoly. The class action claims the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is the dominant hospital system in Pennsylvania that hires skilled health care workers like radiologists, nurses or pharmacists.

Christopher K.L. Young

The case lies at “the intersection of labor and antitrust,” Young said, because it targets “a dominant employer as opposed to a dominant seller.” *Ross v. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center*, 1:24-cv-00016 (W.D. Penn., filed Jan 18, 2024).

“It’s one of the first cases of its kind filed,” Young said. “We had been looking into market concentration, especially for hospitals, for a while and the effects on mobility and wages for hospital workers.”

He said the Pittsburgh hospital system refuses to allow workers to unionize. “We’ve discovered evidence that they’ve implemented a secret blacklist, a do-not-hire list,” he said. For example, if a nurse is “a rabble-rouser or someone they don’t like” who wants to transfer from one Pennsylvania hospital to another, “they just won’t hire you because the blacklist is UPMC wide.”

Young and the firm filed their opposition to the motion to dismiss earlier this month.

A batch of unusual, newer cases are further along. Young is helping lead the strategy in seven high-profile class actions being brought against the makers of generative AI products on behalf of the writers, artists and coders the AI companies used to train their systems.

The class actions involve “complex, very hyper-technical issues that are

really cutting edge, just given the novelty of the technologies,” he said. Plus, “applying old law to a lot of new and interesting facts” presents additional challenges.

In August, U.S. District Judge William Orrick denied much of a motion to dismiss an action brought by a class of artists against a company known for its text-to-image AI system, Young said. *Andersen v. Stability AI Ltd.*, 3:23-cv-00201 (N.D. Cal., filed Jan. 13, 2023).

Other cases against OpenAI and its ChatGPT system and against Meta and its LLaMA system are also moving along. “We’re about to take our first depositions in almost all these cases,” he said.

One of the older cases he has been working on is very nearly complete. Ten years ago, the firm sued makers of certain types of capacitors for fixing prices, and last year it won a \$165 million settlement for many small businesses and other purchasers.

The money has now been distributed, and 99.9% of the checks have been cashed, “which is remarkable,” Young said.

“It’s something we’re very proud of.” He said the firm does its work “to help our clients as much as we can. And part of that is when the money’s out actually trying to get the money in their hands.”