



# Chris S. Coutroulis

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## Overview

Chris Coutroulis handles business and complex litigation matters in a wide range of areas, including antitrust, class actions, mass torts, environmental, professional and accounting malpractice, securities fraud, and insurance coverage. His clients operate in numerous industries.

Chris has particular experience with class actions, and successfully defending against class certification. He has served as lead trial counsel in numerous cases, including trials on the issue of class certification. Additionally, he has significant experience in antitrust cases. He has handled many of these cases through trial and binding arbitration on behalf of clients including credit card companies; professional sports leagues; and insurance, automotive, and energy companies.

## Experience

### Antitrust Litigation

- *Segal v. PEMEX*, No. 8:05-cv-2390, 2008 WL 4900257 (M.D. Fla. Nov. 12, 2008).
- *Gilchrist v. State Farm Mut. Auto Ins. Co.*, 390 F.3d 1327 (11th Cir. 2004).
- *JES Props., Inc. v. USA Equestrian, Inc.*, 253 F. Supp. 2d 1273 (M.D. Fla. 2003).
- *Execu-Tech Bus. Sys., Inc. v. Appleton Papers, Inc.*, 743 So. 2d 19 (Fla. 4th DCA 1999) (denying class certification).
- *Metro. Dade Cty. v. Fla. Power Corp.*, No. 96-594 (S.D. Fla. June 25, 1998) (unpublished, granting summary judgment in alleged monopolization case).

- *State ex rel. Atty. Gen. Morales v. Zeneca Inc.*, No. 3:97-cv-01526, 1997-2 Trade Cas. (CCH) 71,888 (N.D. Tex 1997).
- *In re Agric. Chems. Antitrust Litig.*, No. 4:94-cv-402016, 1995-2 Trade Cas. (CCH) 71,197 (N.D. Fla. 1995) (denying class certification).
- *Henry v. Chloride, Inc.*, 809 F.2d 1335 (8th Cir. 1987).
- *Nat'l Bancard Corp. (NaBanco) v. VISA U.S.A. Inc.*, 596 F. Supp. 1231 (S.D. Fla. 1984), *aff'd*, 779 F.2d 592 (11th Cir. 1986).

## Business Litigation

- *Wellcare v. AISLIC*, 16 So. 3d 904 (Fla. 2d DCA 2009).
- *Riddle v. Mobil Oil Corp.*, No. 8:86-cv-01636, 1992 WL 81321 (M.D. Fla. 1992).
- *In re ESM Gov't Sec., Inc.*, 52 B.R. 372 (S.D. Fla. 1985).

## Class Action Litigation

- *Nolen v. Fairshare Vacation Owners Ass'n*, No. 6:20-cv-00330 (M.D. Fla. Mar. 10, 2022). Obtained final summary judgment against plaintiffs in a 900,000-plus certified class action in federal court.
- *DeCastro vs. Small Planet*, No. 9:14-cv-80033 (S.D. Fla. 2014) (class action involving alleged mislabeling of natural snack foods; case dismissed).
- *Heretick v. Publix Super Markets, Inc.*, 841 F. Supp. 2d 1247 (M.D. Fla. 2012) (class action involving alleged improper charges at ATMs; order denying motion to remand putative consumer class action removed to federal court under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (CAFA); case dismissed).
- *Perret v. Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc.*, 889 F. Supp. 2d 1333 (S.D. Fla. 2012) (order granting motion to dismiss and closing case).
- *Lam v. Gen. Mills, Inc.*, 859 F. Supp. 2d 1097 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (dismissing in part consumer protection claims challenging labeling of defendant's fruit snack products; case subsequently resolved with no class certified).
- *Veal v. Crown Auto Dealerships, Inc.*, No. 8:04-cv-00323, 2007 WL 2700969 (M.D. Fla. 2007).
- *Bragg v. Bill Heard Chevrolet, Inc.-Plant City*, No. 8:02-cv-00609, 2007 WL 2781105 (M.D. Fla. 2007).
- *Grimes v. Fairfield Resorts, Inc.*, No. 6:05-cv-01061 (M.D. Fla. Apr. 27, 2006) (denying class certification of putative class of vacation class holders).
- *Hoyte v. Stauffer Chem. Co.*, No. 98-3024-CI-7, 2002 WL 31892830 (Fla. Cir. Ct. Nov. 6, 2002).
- *Mills v. Stauffer Chem. Co.*, No 8:97-cv-01197 (M.D. Fla. May 12, 1999) (unpublished) (denying class certification of putative class of property owners adjacent to Superfund site).

## Multidistrict Litigation

- *In re Chinese-Manufactured Drywall Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 626 F. Supp. 2d 1346 (J.P.M.L. June 15, 2009).
- *In re Seroquel Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 6:06-md-01769, 2009 WL 618240 (M.D. Fla. Mar. 12, 2009).
- *In re Seroquel Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 598 F. Supp. 2d 1271 (M.D. Fla. 2009).

## Areas of Focus

### Practices

- Banking, Commercial, and Consumer Finance
- Litigation and Trials
- Mass Tort and Product Liability
- Telecommunications
- Media, Entertainment, Music & Sports
- Energy and Utilities
- Antitrust and Trade Regulation
- Trade Secrets / Noncompete Litigation and Consulting
- Class Actions

### Industries

- Banking, Commercial, and Consumer Finance
- Telecommunications

## Insights

03.22.2016

2016 Carlton Fields Class Action Survey Reveals Important Trends in Class Action Management

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03.21.2016

2016 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation

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04.22.2015

Companies Defending Class Actions More Strategically

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03.16.2015

2015 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation

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04.14.2014

2014 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation

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09.09.2013

Square Pegs in Round Holes: Class Certification in GMO Food Products Cases

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05.03.2013

2013 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation

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04.01.2012

2012 Class Action Survey: Best Practices in Reducing Cost and Managing Risk in Class Action Litigation

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05.01.2006

Business Litigation and Trade Regulation News: Class Action Law Update

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10.05.2003

Back to the Future: Toward a More Rigorous Analysis of Antitrust Class Actions

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12.01.2002

Checkmate in Class Actions: Defensive Strategy in the Initial Move

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12.01.2002

Checkmate in Class Actions: Defensive Strategy in Initial Moves

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01.02.2002

Beating the Odds: Practical Advice on Winning the Class Certification Game by Litigation or Settlement

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03.31.1999

The Pass-On Problem In Indirect Purchaser Class Litigation

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03.31.1999

The Pass-On Problem in Indirect Purchaser Class Litigation

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01.01.1993

Collaboration Prompted By Competition Concerns

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01.01.1993

Antitrust Law Developments

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01.01.1989

Developments in Robinson-Patman Law

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01.01.1988

The Increasingly Pivotal Competitive Injury Requirement in Secondary Line Cases under the Robinson-Patman Act: Relevant Factors in Today's Environment

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01.01.1986

Treble Damages Remedy

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## News

08.31.2023

Carlton Fields Represents Fairshare Vacation Owners Association in Class Action Appellate Victory

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03.11.2022

Certified Class Action Defeated: Federal Judge Rules That Fairshare Vacation Owners Association Did Not Breach Fiduciary Duty to Its Members

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08.19.2021

Eight Carlton Fields Attorneys Named 2022 "Lawyers of the Year"

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05.21.2021

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2021 Guide

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04.23.2020

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2020 Guide

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07.09.2018

Super Lawyers Honors 81 Carlton Fields Attorneys on 2018 Florida “Super Lawyers” and “Rising Stars”

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05.04.2018

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in 2018 Chambers USA Guide

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08.15.2017

78 Carlton Fields Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”

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07.16.2017

Class Action Survey Cited in The Mercury News

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06.23.2017

Florida Super Lawyers Ranks 92 Carlton Fields Attorneys as 2017 “Super Lawyers” and “Rising Stars”

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03.07.2017

Carlton Fields’ 2017 Class Action Survey Featured in the Wall Street Journal Market Talk

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03.06.2017

Class Action Defense Spending Increases for Second Consecutive Year

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02.07.2017

Two Carlton Fields Attorneys Named “BTI Client Service All-Stars” for 2017

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**Recognition**

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- *Chambers USA* (2003–2018, 2021–2023)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*
  - Tampa "Lawyer of the Year," Antitrust Law (2022, 2024)
  - Administrative/Regulatory Law, Antitrust Law, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law (2005–2024)
- Florida Legal Elite, *Florida Trend Magazine* (2005, 2007–2009)
- Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2006–2023)
- BTI Client Service All-Stars (2017)

## Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
- American Bar Foundation
- American Law Institute
- The Florida Bar
  - Antitrust and Trade Regulation Law Certification Committee, Business Law Section
- Hillsborough County Bar Association
- Leadership Tampa
- Master, Cheatwood Inn of Court
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America

## Speaking Engagements

- "Class Action Survey and Trends," Carlton Fields In-House Counsel Forum, Orlando, FL (March 2017)
- "Class Action Survey and Recent Developments," Carlton Fields In-House Counsel Forum, Orlando, FL (March 2016)
- "Class Action Update," Carlton Fields In-House Counsel Forum, Orlando, FL (March 2015)
- "Presentation of 2013 Class Action Survey," Carlton Fields Class Action Symposium, New York (June 2013)
- "McCarran-Ferguson Immunity, the Gilchrist Decision and Implications in Other Contexts," ABA Antitrust Law Section Spring Meeting (2006)
- "High Hurdles in Certifying Indirect Purchaser Class Actions," National CLE Conference, Vail, CO (2000)

- "Indirect Purchaser Price Fixing Litigation," The Cutting Edge Seminar, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (1998)
- "Dealing with Big Buyers Under the Robinson-Patman Act," ABA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (1994)
- "Dealer/Franchisee Collaboration," ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (1992)
- "Fundamentals of Antitrust Law," ABA Antitrust Law Section Spring Meeting, Washington, D.C. (1991 and 1992)
- "Living With the Robinson-Patman Act," Northwestern University Antitrust Seminar (1989)
- "Price-Discrimination," ABA Young Lawyers Division (1989)
- "Antitrust Developments Under the Robinson-Patman Act," ABA Annual Meeting, Hawaii (1989)
- "Competitive Injury Under the Robinson-Patman Act," ABA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada (1988)

## Pro Bono

- *State v. Ronnie Lee Jones*, Florida Supreme Court. Death penalty case, post-trial proceedings, obtained reversal of conviction and death sentence.

## Credentials

### Education

- Columbia Law School (J.D., 1979)
- Wesleyan University (B.A., magna cum laude, 1975)

### Bar Admissions

- Florida

### Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida