

Employment Plaintiffs Firms of the Year

By Abigail Rubenstein

Law360, New York (January 01, 2010) -- Law360's notable employment plaintiffs firms of 2009 saw years of hard work pay off last year, securing big settlements for classes of workers in long-running wage-and-hour and discrimination cases.

Plaintiffs attorneys say workers have become increasingly aware of their rights — especially those rights protected by the Fair Labor Standards Act — and 2009 showed the results those workers can see when that knowledge gets paired with top-notch litigation skills.

Law360's top employment plaintiffs law firms of 2009 — Marlin & Saltzman LLP, Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, The Mills Law Firm, Berger & Montague PC, Outten & Golden LLP, Nichols Kaster PLLP, Carney Williams Bates Bozeman & Pulliam PLLC and Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP — secured massive settlements for their clients in some of the year's most notable cases.

Marlin & Saltzman LLP

Marlin & Saltzman won its spot on Law360's roster of top employment plaintiffs firms for getting a California judge to approve a \$29.5 million settlement that resolves a class action brought by a group of Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse Inc. employees who claimed they were forced to work off the clock without pay.

The firm teamed up with The R. Rex Parris Law Firm and Schwartz Daniels & Bradley to put the deal in place on behalf of a class of 45,000 workers, bringing closure to a seven-year legal battle.

The eight-attorney firm specializes in California wage-and-hour and consumer protection class actions, and despite its size, "we compete with big firms and big corporations at their level," firm founder Stanley Saltzman said.

"We don't file and settle," Saltzman said. "We push hard and litigate aggressively and fairly."

The firm's achievements in 2009 also include a \$15 million settlement with Countrywide Home Loans Inc. for the alleged misclassification of underwriters and a \$6.75 million settlement for a class of technical writers at Cisco Systems Inc. who alleged overtime violations.

Marlin & Saltzman also won class certification for drivers seeking recovery of alleged unpaid wages from trucking company J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc. this year.

MARLIN & SALTZMAN, LLP

www.marlinandsaltzman.com