



Fletcher C. Alford

PARTNER

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RELATED SERVICES

- Commercial Litigation
- Product Liability
- Appellate
- Trial Practice
- Class Action Defense
- Cyber, Privacy & Data Security
- Environmental & Toxic Tort

OFFICES

- San Francisco

OVERVIEW

Fletcher Alford is a Partner in San Francisco office of GRSM and is a member of the Commercial Litigation, Class Action, Product Liability, and Cyber, Privacy & Data Security practice groups. He focuses on commercial litigation and the defense of class actions along with other complex matters in trial and appellate courts, with an emphasis on claims involving financial services, product liability, consumer fraud, breach of contract and unfair business practices. He has extensive trial and appellate experience and handles complex cases before state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Previously, Fletcher served as a law clerk for the Hon. Anthony Alaimo of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Representative Experience

- Obtained an important defense ruling for one of the largest insurance companies in the United States, in a complex and hard-fought class action matter in which the defense exposure was in excess of \$250 million. The Court held that the client has no duty to disclose the information plaintiffs claim was wrongfully withheld, nor to refund any of the more than \$50 million it collects in finance charges each year. In a similar case against another insurer, the trial court granted summary judgment for the plaintiff class and awarded more than \$100 million in restitution.
- Defeated class certification in an auto insurance “diminished value” case in spite of six previous successful certifications by plaintiff’s counsel against other insurers.
- Obtained very favorable settlement for auto insurer in class action alleging improper use of mileage as rating factor.
- Obtained dismissal on jurisdictional grounds of auto insurer sued in Little Rock, Arkansas in class action alleging improper use of computer software to adjust bodily injury claims.
- Obtained a defense verdict after an eight-week jury trial in a challenging and widely-publicized case brought by children from around the country who claimed that they sustained brain damage as a result of a client’s allegedly defective products. *The Daily Journal* selected the case as one of the Top 10 Defense Verdicts of 2006.
- Obtained an important and precedent-setting ruling from the Court of Appeal, holding that California’s Proposition 65 warning requirements do not apply to prescription drugs.
- Achieved a multi-million dollar settlement on behalf of one of the largest higher-education systems in the U.S. as the plaintiff in a case involving the breach of a software development contract. All of the client’s payments were returned and the vendor received no payments under the contract.
- Defeated national class action annuity case on summary judgment.
- Outstanding record of defeating class certification in dozens of cases.

PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist, *United States Supreme Court: Cases to Watch in 2020*, Standard Insurance Company, February 2020
- Speaker, *Use of Experts in Class Certification Proceedings*, San Francisco

In The Media

Fletcher and his cases have been profiled in several publications, including *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, *The Daily Journal*, and *Who’s Who In American Law*.

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Memberships

- Bar Association of San Francisco
- American Bar Association
- DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar

Education

- J.D., *magna cum laude*, University of California, Hastings College of the Law
 - Thurston Honor Society
 - Order of the Coif
- B.A., *magna cum laude*, University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington
 - Editor-in-Chief of college newspaper

Honors

- *Best Lawyers in America*® “Lawyer of the Year” distinction in Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Defendants (2023)
- *Best Lawyers in America*® distinction in Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants (2018-2025), Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2018-2025)
- Selected, San Francisco Top Attorney in Northern California, *San Francisco Magazine*, 2014
- Described as “...class-action ‘star’ specializ[ing] in medical product liability as well as other complex litigation matters...” (*Who’s Who Legal California, Product Liability Defense Lawyers, 2009-2010*)
- “GCs Name 43 Best-Of-The-Best Attys” (*Law360*, 2013)
- BTI Client Service All-Star, (2012 and 2014)
- Cited in the *Expert Guide to U.S. Product Liability Lawyers*, The Legal Media Group
- *Super Lawyers*® distinction in Civil Litigation Defense, Class Action/Mass Torts, and Appellate (2005-2016, *Law & Politics*)