

**Lieff
Cabraser
Heimann &
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Attorneys at Law

Phong-Chau Nguyen

Partner

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Phong-Chau G. Nguyen is a partner in Lieff Cabraser's San Francisco office specializing in consumer and defective product cases, as well as personal injury/mass tort matters. He is part of the leadership team in the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions multidistrict litigation, which secured an unprecedented \$14+ billion in settlements on behalf of U.S. owners and lessees of Volkswagen diesel vehicles, won the California Daily Journal's "California Lawyer of the Year" award, and secured a finalist position for the 2017 Consumer Attorneys of California "Consumer Attorneys of the Year" award. Phong is also involved in similar work on Lieff Cabraser's leadership team in the Fiat Chrysler diesel emissions case.

Phong's other cases include the representation of injured persons nationwide in lawsuits relating to Toyota sudden acceleration accidents, as well as the GM ignition case, where he represents GM vehicle owners and lessees whose cars include defective ignition switches in litigation focusing on economic loss claims. He has also worked on behalf of consumers in the Takata airbag litigation, involving 70 million dangerous and defective airbags found to have been installed in over 40 million vehicles worldwide and which have caused at least 20 deaths and over 80 serious injuries. In November of 2017, an aggregate settlement in the case was announced with Toyota, BMW, Subaru, and Mazda valued at \$741 million.

Other cases include the representation of hip implant patients injured by defective and dangerous DePuy artificial hip devices. Phong also litigated personal injury claims in the Medtronic Infuse litigation.

Education

University of San Francisco School of Law, San Francisco, California,
J.D. - 2012

Honors: USF Moot Court Board (Development Director)

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California
B.A. - 2008

Honors: Highest Honors; Distinction in General Scholarship

Bar Admissions

California, 2012
U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Circuit, 2013
U.S. District Court, Central District of California, 2013
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, 2023
U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, 2013
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 2015

Professional Associations and Memberships

Asian American Bar Association for the Greater Bay Area
Bar Association of San Francisco
Law360 Editorial Advisory Board, Environmental, 2018, 2019
San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association
State Bar of California
Strafford Class Action Advisory Board, 2023

Presentations & Publications

Speaker, "Class Action and Antitrust MDLs - An Overview," Fourth Annual Shades of Mass Conference, September 2025
Presenter, "Class Action Ethical Challenges: Intra-Class Conflicts, Communication With Class Members, Attorney Fees, and More: Avoiding Legal Ethics Violations and Malpractice Liability," Strafford Interactive CLE, September 2024
Speaker, "California Competition in Consumer Claims," Consumer Attorneys of California Class Action Seminar, September 2024
Speaker, "Class Action and Securities MDLs – A Primer," Second Annual Shades of Mass Conference, September 2023
Faculty, "Managing Class Representative Discovery: Plaintiffs' Strategies for Winning Certification," Strafford CLE Webinar, April 2023
Faculty, "Selecting and Protecting Class Representatives: Defending Plaintiff Depositions; Proving Adequacy, Typicality," Strafford CLE Webinar, December 2022
Panelist, "Civil Law Brown Bag — Case Management: Best Practices Whether Remote or In-Person," Northern District Practice Program, 2022
Speaker, "First-Generation Professionals Plaintiff-Side Work Panel," Berkeley Law School, 2021
Speaker, "How to Effectively Manage People & Build Teams," Barristers Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco, August 2020
Moderator, "Choose Your Own Adventure: A Discussion on Different Career Paths in Law," Barristers Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco, November 2020
Moderator, "Professional Etiquette, Tips for Navigating Social & Networking Events," Barristers Club of the Bar Association of San Francisco, November 2019

Honors & Awards

Selected for inclusion by peers in The Best Lawyers in America in the field of "Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Plaintiffs" and "Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs," 2023-2026
"Top 40 Under 40 Lawyer," Daily Journal, 2025
Super Lawyer for Northern California, Super Lawyers, 2024, 2025
"Rising Star of the Plaintiffs' Bar" National Law Journal, 2025
"Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers in America," Lawdragon, 2023-2025
"Lawdragon 500 X – The Next Generation," Lawdragon, 2023, 2024
"40 and Under Hot List," Benchmark Litigation, 2018-2023

“Rising Star for Product Liability Law,” Law360, 2022
“Rising Star for Northern California,” Super Lawyers, 2018 - 2022
“California Lawyer of the Year,” California Daily Journal, 2018
“Outstanding Volunteer for Pro Bono Work,” Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco, 2015-2017
“Consumer Attorney of the Year Finalist,” Consumer Attorneys of California, 2017