



Amanda Groves

Partner

Los Angeles
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Amanda serves on the firm's Executive Committee and is co-chair of the Compensation Committee. She has successfully represented consumer product companies, national retailers, technology companies and lending institutions in high-stakes disputes since 1996. Amanda is recognized for her work in commercial litigation by *Chambers USA* and *The Legal 500 USA*, and has been named by the *Charlotte Business Journal* as an Outstanding Woman in Business.

Amanda has successfully represented consumer product and technology companies, national retailers, and lending institutions in complex commercial litigation since 1996. She focuses her practice on consumer class actions, business to business contract and tort disputes, and other high-stakes litigation matters. She has a national practice with a particular emphasis on California and its unique legal landscape, including its consumer fraud statutes, arbitration procedures and enforcement issues, and commercial law.

With her extensive experience with consumer protection statutes, Amanda successfully defends clients in consumer class actions by obtaining dismissal orders and summary judgment, and negotiating settlements with no cash payments by the client. These cases include nationwide consumer class actions brought on behalf of millions of plaintiffs, as well as statewide cases alleging false advertising, unfair competition, warranty claims fraud, and violation of consumer privacy statutes.

Amanda's clients benefit from her ability to prepare accurate budgets and her practical, problem-solving approach to litigation issues. They have also remarked that they particularly appreciate her responsiveness and personal attention to their matters.

Key Matters

Practice Areas by Industry

Financial Services:

Amanda's financial services practice focuses on claims challenging banking practices and policies, particularly in the following areas:

- *Credit and Mortgage Practices Challenges*—Regularly defends credit card and mortgage companies in class actions challenging mortgage origination practices, add-on products, and collection policies and practices, including claims under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), and California's Rosenthal FDCPA.
- *Privacy and Data Breach*—Responding to government inquiries, conducting an internal investigation into a financial institution's borrower data breach, and defense of privacy claims by consumers.
- *Ponzi Scheme and Customer Fraud Cases*—Regularly defends banks against damage claims by alleged victims of a bank customer's fraud.
- *Retail Fees and Banking Practices*—Regularly defends consumer class actions alleging improper fee collection or improper/inadequate consumer policies at retail banking outlets.

In addition to successfully resolving class actions for financial institutions, Amanda also represents banks and other corporate clients in vendor litigation, business to business contract disputes, and successor liability suits.

Food and Beverage:

Amanda is a leading practitioner in labeling cases, and recently has defended the following brands, among others, in false advertising class actions brought under state consumer protection laws: Costco's Kirkland Signature products; an American packaged food brand's culinary walnuts; a major food processing company's distilled white vinegar; an international manufacturer's potato chips; Pacific Foods' soy milk products; Jim Beam whiskey; Maker's Mark bourbon; Pretzel Crisps; Pacific Foods; Breckenridge Bourbon; Pop Secret Popcorn; and certain nutritional supplements of a major herbal supplement manufacturer, including St. John's wort, ginkgo biloba, ginseng, and echinacea.

Amanda has also defended companies in cases alleging contamination and safety issues, including:

- A class action resulting from an employee at a national pizza chain contracting hepatitis A;
- Class and individual claims following recalls;
- A walnut oil product distributed in Europe allegedly contaminated with mineral oil; and
- The inclusion of partially hydrogenated oil (PHO) in microwave popcorn.

National Retailers, Technology and Manufacturing Companies:

Amanda also defends class actions alleging consumer fraud and privacy breaches for national retailers, technology, and manufacturing companies. She also has defended class actions alleging consumer fraud and product performance issues for major national retailers and electronics companies. She has recently served as lead counsel in the defense of major national retailers and an herbal supplement manufacturer in dozens of class actions alleging false advertising and related state law claims across the country.

Amanda has also advised and litigated on other-high stake disputes for companies in these industries, including:

- Defending a manufacturing company in US\$20 million breach of fiduciary duty and alter ego litigation arising out of stock sales by minority shareholders.
- Litigating a variety of complex real-estate disputes including long-term lease issues, real estate finance disputes, and LLC disputes related to real-estate project management.
- Defending and prosecuting commercial disputes with suppliers and customers related to product quality and performance, delivery issues, and contract termination.
- Enforcing arbitration provisions and class action waivers in state and federal courts.

Recent Experience

Snack Company Dismissed from PHVO Ingredient Class Action

Kainos Capital's Acquisition of Nutrisystem

Forum Merger II Corp. Business Combination with Ittella International, Inc.

Winston Obtains Dismissal for Beverage Company in Consumer Class Action

Headline-Grabbing Herbal Supplement Mass Action Resolved Successfully

Recognitions

In 2024, Amanda was recognized in *Lawdragon 500's* "Leading Litigators in America" for Complex Commercial Litigation, Consumer Class Actions, and Financial Services Litigation and in *Lawdragon 500's* "Leading Global Cyber Lawyers" for Class Actions, inc. Consumer Privacy. She was ranked in *Chambers USA* in 2016–2017, 2019, and 2022 for General Commercial Litigation. She was recognized in *The Legal 500 US* in 2018 and 2023. In addition, Amanda was named a 2015 "Food & Beverage MVP" by Law360 and one of 25 "Outstanding Women in Business" by the *Charlotte Business Journal* in 2014.

Activities

Amanda is co-chair of the Compensation Committee and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. She previously chaired the firm's Pro Bono Committee and is the immediate past vice chair of the Class Action and Multi-Party Litigation Committee for the International Association of Defense Counsel. Amanda served as a member of the Mecklenburg County Bar Diversity & Inclusion Committee and was a member of the Legal Services of Southern Piedmont Board of Directors. She is a founding director for the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services and a former board member of Community Legal Services, Inc. in East Palo Alto, California. She is also a board member of the Los Angeles Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Amanda received a B.A. in Communication Studies, *cum laude*, from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1993, and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Santa Clara University of Law in 1996.

ADMISSIONS

- North Carolina
- California

Related Insights & News

- Speaker, “Strategies and Pitfalls in UCL Litigation,” California Lawyers Association’s Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law (UCL) Institute, January 2023
- Speaker, “Deposit Account Litigation Update,” 27th Annual Consumer Financial Services Institute, Practising Law Institute, December 2022
- Speaker, “AI and the Financial Services Industry,” Silicon Valley, September 2018
- Speaker, “How to Manage Reputational and Regulatory Risks in High-Profile Mediagenic Matters,” Philadelphia, June 2018
- Quoted in “Food Litigation 101: Non-Functional Slack Fill... Are you up to Speed?” Food Navigator USA, August 2017
- Speaker, “Of Piggy Backs and Copy Cats: Exploring the Latest Class Action Trends Impacting the Dietary Supplement Industry,” Dietary Supplements Conference, American Conference Institute/Council for Responsible Nutrition, June 2017
- Co-author, “How FDA Warning Letters to Other Companies Increase Your Business’ Litigation Risk,” *Food Manufacturing*, June 2017
- Speaker, “Introduction to Food Law and Regulation,” Food and Drug Law Institute, Washington, D.C., March 2017
- Co-author, “Claim Litigation in the Food Industry,” *Natural Products Insider*, February 2017
- Speaker, “The Recent & Future Trends for Food & Distilled Beverage Manufacturers,” Food & Beverage Litigation Conference: A Look at Hospitality, Liquor and Food Liability, New York, October 2016
- Speaker, “Using ‘Natural’: Walking the Line Between Consumer Expectations, Accusations of Deceptive Practices, and Litigation,” Food 2.0 Conference, June 2016
- Quoted in “After Long Litigation, an LA Jury Sides with Coke Against POM Wonderful in False Advertising Claims Case,” *Daily Journal*, March 2016
- Speaker, “The CFPB and Financial Institutions—Where Do We Stand?” March 2016
- Co-author, “Safe Harbor Defense?” *Beverage World Magazine*, November 2015
- Speaker, “Attention Food & Beverage Industry: False Advertising, Product Liability, and Defamation Litigation is Making an Impact,” May 2015

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in the Inaugural Edition of the *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Cyber Lawyers
APRIL 29, 2024

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors 2023 Retail Law Conference
OCTOBER 25 – 27, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Partners Recognized in 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S. 2023*

JUNE 7, 2023

NEWS

2022 Pro Bono Impact Report

MAY 1, 2023

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Amanda Groves Speaks at the Antitrust and Unfair Competition Law Institute

JANUARY 12, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S. 2022*

JUNE 8, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Chambers USA 2022*

JUNE 3, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Receives NYSBA President's Pro Bono Large Law Firm Award

MAY 2, 2022

BLOG

Ninth Circuit Serves up a Decision in Big Tuna Case

APRIL 29, 2022

BLOG

Noom Settlement Showcases Potential Pitfalls on Auto Renewals

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

BLOG

Chinese Customs Creates Registration Requirement for Companies Involved in Food Import

DECEMBER 13, 2021

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials

Advertising Litigation

Financial Services Litigation

Class Actions & Group Litigation

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Privacy & Data Security

Privacy: Regulated Personal Information (RPI)

Trade Secrets, Non Competes & Restrictive Covenants

Cryptocurrencies, Digital Assets & Blockchain Technology

Financial Services

Food & Beverage

Technology, Media & Telecommunications