

## Florida Supreme Court Rules for Client Philip Morris USA in Engle Class Action

JULY 2006

On July 6, 2006, the Florida Supreme Court ruled in favor of Winston & Strawn client Philip Morris USA in the *Engle* class action, vacating the \$145 billion classwide punitive damages award and ordering decertification of the class.

*Engle* was the first smokers' case to be certified as a class action anywhere in the country, and the first to be tried to judgment. Winston attorneys have played a major role throughout the case, trying the named plaintiffs' liability and compensatory damages phase and the classwide punitive damages phase in a two-year jury trial, and chairing the joint defense group's appellate effort.

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