

Daily Journal

JUNE 9, 2021



Not many plaintiffs' attorneys take antitrust class actions to trial. Saveri predicts he will do just that two or three times in the next 12 months.

"We have as much experience trying class action cases, particularly antitrust cases, as anybody in the country," he said. "It takes some expertise, ... perseverance and willingness to take some risks and be aggressive."

The first up likely will be a case he and his firm already spent two weeks trying in March 2020 until the pandemic shut the court down. Plaintiffs accuse manufacturers of price-fixing in the multibillion-dollar, international market for capacitors. Saveri is the sole lead counsel for the direct purchasers class. Trial is currently set for November.

There were 22 defendants when the case was first filed in 2014. By the time trial was underway, only two remained. The settlements total \$439.55 million, he said. *In Re Capacitors Antitrust Litigation*, 3:17-md-02801-JD (N.D. Cal., filed Dec. 5, 2017).

His next trial is in a very different field. Saveri is co-lead counsel for mixed martial arts fighters claiming that the Ultimate Fighting Championship organizer uses its dominant position in the market to control fighters and suppress their pay. One estimate put potential lost pay at \$1.6 billion. In December, the judge orally granted class certification. *Le v. Zuffa LLC*, 2:15-cv-01045 (D. Nev., filed June 3, 2015).

In the third class action nearing trial,

Saveri's firm is an interim co-lead counsel for end payor plaintiffs nationally who accuse Allergan Inc. of scheming to delay generic versions of its blockbuster Restasis dry-eyes drops. The case could go to trial toward the end of the year, but Saveri thinks it may settle. *In Re Restasis Antitrust Litigation*, 1:18-md-02819 (E.D. N.Y., filed Jan. 31, 2018).

His firm has also been successful in the past year settling major class actions, including a high-profile case against Facebook Inc. for failing to protect or care for its content moderators. The moderators claim they suffered post-traumatic stress and other psychological injuries due to their work examining and removing offensive and disturbing material from the social media site. "What they were exposed to was quite horrific, literally so, and without a lot of protection," Saveri said. A \$52 million settlement was set for a final approval hearing this June. *Scola v. Facebook Inc.*, 18CIV05135 (S.M. Super. Ct., filed Sept. 21, 2018).

Saveri took on another unusual, high-profile case earlier this year when he and co-counsel sued Robinhood Markets Inc. and nearly three dozen hedge funds and investment firms on behalf of investors who suffered during the GameStop Corp. stock market frenzy. *January 2021 Short Squeeze Trading Litigation*, 1:21-md-02989 (S.D. Fla., filed April 1, 2021).

"During the pandemic, our firm probably had our best year," Saveri said. "We prospered."

— Don DeBenedictis



Joseph R. Saveri

Joseph Saveri Law Firm, LLP
San Francisco

Practice: Antitrust, Class Action, Complex Business Disputes, Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, *Qui Tam* and Whistleblower