

***Legal 500* Again Ranks BLB&G Top Firm Nationally for Securities and M&A Litigation**

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The Legal 500 USA Guide ("Legal 500") has once again named BLB&G a first tier firm for plaintiff securities litigation – the only firm to have been given this ranking every year since the publication began the rankings eight years ago. Also, for the third time in a row, BLB&G is ranked a top plaintiff firm for M&A litigation.

Selected as "Leading Lawyers" in the areas of "Mass tort and class action: plaintiff representation – securities" and the "Mergers, acquisitions and buyouts – M&A: litigation" respectively are partners Max Berger and Mark Lebovitch. According to the guide, sources dubbed Mr. Berger as a "dean of the bar" who is "superb at settlement negotiations," while Mr. Lebovitch is recognized as "smart" and "excellent and hardworking." The guide also recommends BLB&G partners John Browne, Timothy DeLange, Salvatore Graziano, John Rizio-Hamilton, and Gerald Silk.

Legal 500 acknowledges that BLB&G is "one of the very best" in the field of securities litigation – a "high-quality firm with depth" – providing a "very high level of service." It highlights Mr. Browne's and Mr. Rizio-Hamilton's roles as lead partners in the subprime-related case against Citigroup, which resulted in \$730 million in recoveries. It also praises Mr. Graziano, who sources cite as "extremely good," for his role in achieving a \$688 million combined settlement in the coordinated litigation against Schering-Plough and Merck.