

John Rizio-Hamilton



Partner
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John is one of America's top shareholder litigators. He works on the most complex and high-stakes securities class action cases, and has recovered billions of dollars on behalf of institutional investor clients. Highlights of John's trial experience include the following:

- Led the trial team that recovered \$240 million for investors in *In re Signet Jewelers Limited Securities Litigation*, a precedent-setting case that marks the first successful resolution of a securities fraud class action based on allegations of sexual harassment. To our knowledge, it is also the first time claims of this nature have been certified for class treatment in the securities context and is one of the very few securities fraud cases in which statements in a Code of Conduct have been held actionable. This case sends a message to corporate executives and corporate boards that alleged systemic sexual harassment and gender discrimination can have serious ramifications through securities fraud class actions. Both the class certification decision and the Judge's decision that the Company's statements about gender equality and sexual harassment could be actionable in a securities class action are landmark decisions that exceed even the significant financial recovery achieved for shareholders.
- Key part of the trial team that prosecuted *In re Bank of America Securities Litigation*, which settled for \$2.425 billion, "the largest securities class action recovery related to the subprime meltdown," per *Law360*, the largest security ever resolving violations of Sections 14(a) and 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act, and one of the top securities litigation recoveries in history.
- Served as counsel on behalf of the institutional investor plaintiffs in *In re Citigroup, Inc. Bond Action Litigation*, which settled for \$730 million, the second largest recovery ever in a securities class action brought on behalf of purchasers of debt securities.
- Member of the team that prosecuted the *In re Wachovia Corp. Bond/Notes Litigation*, in which the firm recovered a total of \$627 million on behalf of investors, one of the 15 largest securities class action recoveries in history.
- Key member of the team that recovered \$150 million for investors in *In re JPMorgan Chase & Co. Securities Litigation*, a securities fraud class action arising out of misrepresentations and omissions concerning JPMorgan's Chief Investment Office, the company's risk management systems, and the trading activities of the so-called "London Whale."

In addition to his direct litigation responsibilities, John is responsible for the firm's client outreach in Canada, where he advises institutional investor clients on potential securities fraud and investor claims. He is one of the partners who oversees the firm's Global Securities and Litigation Monitoring Team, which monitors global equities traded in non-U.S. jurisdictions on prospective and pending international securities matters, and provides critical analysis of options to recover losses incurred on securities purchased in non-U.S. markets. John also manages the firm's settlements and claims administration department, which is responsible for obtaining court approval of all settlements and for distribution of the proceeds to investment class members.

For his remarkable accomplishments, John was recently named a "Litigation Trailblazer" by *The National Law Journal*. He has previously been recognized by *Law360* as a "Rising Star" and one of the country's "Top Attorneys Under 40." John is regularly named to lists of leading practitioners by *Lawdragon* and Thomson Reuters' *Super Lawyers*.

Before joining BLB&G, John clerked for the Honorable Chester J. Straub of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the Honorable Sidney H. Stein of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Education

- Brooklyn Law School, 2004, J.D., *summa cum laude*; Editor-in-Chief of the *Brooklyn Law Review*; first-place winner of the J. Braxton Craven Memorial Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition
- Johns Hopkins University, 1997, B.A., with honors

Admissions

- New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

Publications

- April 1, 2013 - "Unfinished Business: A Look at Wall Street, America's Financial Markets and the Obama Administration's Second Term" by John Rizio-Hamilton and Michael Blatchley
- January 2009 - "Investors, Reeling From Financial Collapse, Look to Obama Administration With a Hopeful Eye" by John Rizio-Hamilton

Awards

- October 5, 2020 - *Law360* Names John Rizio-Hamilton a 2020 "Legal MVP" for Securities
- August 2020 - *Lawdragon* Names BLB&G Partners to The 2020 Edition of the "500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers" List
- May 2020 - *The National Law Journal* Names John Rizio-Hamilton and Katie Sinderson 2020 Plaintiffs' Lawyers Trailblazers
- March 11, 2020 - BLB&G Tops List of ISS SCAS Top 50 Securities Fraud Settlements in 2019
- February 2020 - Bernstein Litowitz Dominates ISS SCAS List of Top 100 Securities Settlements of All Time
- January 2020 - BLB&G Named A Top Securities Practice by *Law360*
- September 2019 - *Lawdragon* Names 20 BLB&G Attorneys Among its "500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers" list
- September 2019 - 20 BLB&G Attorneys Named by *Super Lawyers* to its 2019 New York Metro Edition
- October 2018 - 20 BLB&G Attorneys Named by *Super Lawyers* to its 2018 New York Metro Edition
- June 2017 - BLB&G Named National Tier 1 Firm for Securities and M&A Litigation by *The Legal 500*
- July 2016 - *Legal 500* Ranks BLB&G a National Tier 1 Firm for Securities and M&A Litigation
- September 16, 2015 - 19 BLB&G Attorneys Selected to 2015 Super Lawyers New York Metro Edition
- June 2015 - *Legal 500* Names BLB&G a National Top-Tier Firm for Securities and M&A Litigation
- October 28, 2014 - 13 BLB&G Attorneys Selected to 2014 *Super Lawyers* New York Metro Edition
- June 2014 - *Legal 500* Again Ranks BLB&G Top Firm Nationally for Securities and M&A Litigation
- April 14, 2014 - *Law360* Names John Rizio-Hamilton a 2014 Rising Star
- June 2013 - *Legal 500* Once Again Ranks BLB&G a First Tier Firm for Plaintiff Securities Litigation and a Top Firm for M&A Litigation; Seven BLB&G Attorneys Recognized

Events

- May 12, 2020 - Partner John Rizio-Hamilton Will Be Speaking at the Professional Liability Underwriting Society's May 13 Webinar on "Virtually Resolving Complex D&O Disputes"
- March 11, 2020 - John Rizio-Hamilton to Speak at Preventing Fraud in Settlement Funds Conference

- September 10, 2014 - John Rizio-Hamilton Participates in Securities Docket Webcast on Supreme Court Janus Decision

Cases

- Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.
- Akorn, Inc.
- Bancorp Inc.
- Bank of America, N.A.
- Bank of America/Merrill Lynch Merger Litigation
- Bankrate, Inc.
- CVS Health Corporation
- Citigroup, Inc.
- Cognizant Technology Solutions
- DFC Global Corporation
- Facebook, Inc. (IPO)
- Fremont General Corporation
- HeartWare International, Inc.
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Luckin Coffee
- MBIA Inc.
- Mattel, Inc.
- OPKO Health, Inc.
- Oracle Corporation
- Penn West Petroleum Ltd.
- RAIT Financial Trust
- Ryder System, Inc.
- Salix Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.
- Signet Jewelers Limited
- Wachovia Corp.
- WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
- Willis Towers Watson