

BFA Establishes California Office with Addition of Lesley E. Weaver as Partner

Bleichmar Fonti & Auld LLP is pleased to announce it has opened an office in Oakland, California. Seasoned plaintiffs' attorney Lesley E. Weaver joins the Firm's new office as a Partner to focus on antitrust and consumer litigation, along with Mili G. Desai, an Associate, and Britt Cibulka, a Special Projects Attorney.

"With the addition of these talented attorneys rounding out our plaintiff-side representation and our expanded bicoastal footprint, BFA is on the strategic path we envisioned when founding the firm just two years ago," said Javier Bleichmar, founding partner of BFA. "Lesley's shared commitment to put the interests of our clients first and employ a results-oriented approach to complex litigation make her a natural fit for our partnership."

In her nearly twenty-year career, Ms. Weaver has worked tirelessly to protect the public interest and uphold the rights of investors, consumers and public entities. Among her notable appointments, she is currently appointed by U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for *In re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, prosecuting customer claims in connection with Volkswagen's high-profile diesel emissions scandal.

Ms. Weaver previously played a significant role in several securities class actions, including: *In re Marsh & McLennan Secs. Litig.* (\$400 million settlement); *In re Cardinal Health Secs. Litig.* (\$600 million settlement); and *In re Cisco Secs. Litig.* (\$99 million settlement). She has also represented sophisticated institutional investors in securities actions, including Amalgamated Bank, the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, and the California Public Employees Retirement System. Ms. Weaver's extensive trial experience has spanned her career, and her public service commitment extends to an array of not-for-profit board positions. She received her J.D. from the University of Virginia, and holds degrees from Harvard College and the University of Bonn (Germany).