

Bleichmar Fonti & Auld LLP Launches New Delaware Office with Partner Derrick Farrell Joining the Firm

Derrick Farrell has joined Bleichmar Fonti & Auld LLP ("BFA") as a partner and will help expand BFA's growing Delaware practice representing shareholders in class and derivative actions. BFA has been actively litigating in Delaware, and "now is the right time to increase our presence by establishing our office in Wilmington," said Founding Partner Joseph Fonti, who is co-lead counsel in the derivative case involving excess compensation of Tesla's board of directors.

Derrick brings substantial experience on a number of high-profile matters. Derrick served as one of the lead lawyers in *In re: Dell Technologies Inc. Class V Stockholders Litigation*, which challenged the acquisition of Dell's Class V tracking stock by Dell's controllers. In November 2022, the parties reached an agreement to settle the case for \$1 billion. If approved by the Delaware Court of Chancery, it will be the largest settlement in Delaware state court history.

Most recently, following a \$3.1 million partial settlement in *In re Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores Inc. Stockholders Litigation*, Derrick served as a lead member of the trial team against the remaining Defendants in February of this year and successfully argued and won a motion to exclude the testimony of one of Defendants' expert witnesses. The case is currently in post-trial briefing.

BFA Founding Partner Javier Bleichmar said, "I am delighted to launch our new Delaware office and welcome Derrick as our partner." He added, "Derrick's experience, knowledge and dedication make him an excellent addition to BFA."

Derrick's other representative trial matters, include: *In re Appraisal of Ancestry.com, Inc.*; *IQ Holdings, Inc. v. Am. Commercial Lines Inc.*; and *In re Cogent, Inc. Shareholder Litigation*. He has argued before the Delaware Supreme Court on multiple occasions.

Derrick started his career as a Clerk for the Honorable Donald F. Parsons, Jr., Vice Chancellor, Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, and thereafter gained substantial M&A experience as a defense lawyer at Latham & Watkins, LLP. Prior to joining BFA, Derrick was Of Counsel at a plaintiffs' securities law firm.

He has guest lectured at Harvard University and co-authored numerous articles for various publications, including the *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation* and *PLI*.

Derrick received his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from the Georgetown University Law Center. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University.