

# Christopher A. Seeger

Partner



A founding partner of Seeger Weiss, Chris is widely recognized as a highly innovative and accomplished plaintiff attorney.

Since founding the firm in 1999, he has led some of the most complex, groundbreaking and high-profile litigations in the U.S., at both the state and federal level.

Chiefly known for multidistrict mass torts and class actions involving drug injury, toxic injury and personal injury, Chris's versatile practice also includes product liability; property damage; consumer, insurance and securities fraud; antitrust; and third-party payer litigation.

Selected by the courts to serve as Lead Counsel, Co-Lead Counsel, Liaison Counsel, or member of the Plaintiffs' Executive and/or Steering Committee in dozens of proceedings, Chris's unique experience makes him a knowledgeable and capable litigator, highly regarded among his colleagues.

In both capacities, he brings all his skill to bear in service of his clients' interests.

Chris is regularly quoted in the press as the plaintiff counsel in nationally and internationally prominent cases, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Bloomberg*, *CBS*, *CNBC*, *USA Today*, *Daily News*, *ESPN* & *HBO Sports*.

Chris started his career as a corporate defense lawyer representing Big Business interests. Struck by the imbalance of power between corporations and the individuals victimized by them, he left to become a plaintiff attorney. Now, whether a class action involving thousands of people against a multinational conglomerate or an individual case protecting one client's rights, he fights with the same passion and conviction. As the son of a union carpenter who worked his way through school, a former amateur boxer and a current Brazilian Jiu Jitsu black belt, Chris believes in standing up for the little guy—and willing to go to the mat for him.

### **Selected Representations:**

- *In re Volkswagen "Clean Diesel" Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2672 (N.D. Ca.). Appointed to Plaintiffs' Steering Committee by the Honorable Charles R. Breyer, representing individuals affected by the **Volkswagen** diesel emissions controversy. Served on the Settlement Committee and was one of the lead negotiators of a **\$21 billion settlement** which includes a massive buyback program for consumers and billions of dollars for environmental remediation.
- *In re National Football League Players' Concussion Injury Litig.*, MDL No. 2323 (E.D. Pa.). Appointed Co-Lead Class Counsel by the Honorable Anita Brody, serving as chief negotiator on behalf of plaintiffs in the highly visible and contentious multidistrict litigation against the **National Football League**. There, Chris faced significant legal and procedural challenges, including those associated with federal preemption, causation and subclassing. Ultimately, he was able to surmount these hurdles and lead settlement negotiations under the auspices of a mediator, and in coordination with subclass counsel. The results achieved there—an **uncapped settlement fund valued at approximately \$1 billion** and

a medical testing program—were overwhelmingly supported by the class and received unprecedented media attention. This settlement was approved by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and certification of appeal was recently denied by the United States Supreme Court.

- *In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litigation*, MDL No. 14-md-2591 (D. Kan.). Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Settlement Negotiating Committee by the Honorable John W. Lungstrum, serving as one of the principal negotiators in representing nationwide corn producers harmed as a result of Swiss agrochemical giant **Syngenta AG's** premature commercialization of genetically modified strains of corn known as Agrisure Viptera and Duracade. A federal jury verdict of **\$217.7 million** in compensatory damages in a Kansas class-wide trial led to the announcement in September 2017 of a preliminary nationwide settlement of **\$1.5 billion**.
- *In re Testosterone Replacement Therapy Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2545 (N.D. Ill.) Appointed Co-Lead Counsel by the Honorable Matthew Kennelly, representing the interests of individuals who were injured by testosterone medications.
- *In re Fresenius Granuflo/Naturalyte Dialysate Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2428 (D. Mass.). Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee by the Honorable Douglas P. Woodlock.
- *In re Zyprexa Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 1596 (E.D.N.Y.). Appointed as Liaison Counsel by the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, serving as one of the chief negotiators in connection with a national **\$700 million settlement** with **Eli Lilly** for over 8,000 claims that **Zyprexa** caused diabetes-related injuries. This was followed by a **\$500 million second-round settlement**. Chris was the first to conceive of and use a global lien resolution administrator in the class or mass action context to resolve government and/or third party liens, resulting in significant savings and quicker payments to class members.
- *In re Depuy Orthopaedics, Inc. ASR Hip Implant Prods. Multidistrict Litig.*, MDL No. 2197 (N.D. Ohio). Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee by the Honorable David A. Katz, involved in negotiating an **almost \$3 billion settlement**.

- *In re Yasmin and YAZ Marketing, Sales Practices and Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2100 (S.D. Ill.). Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee by the Honorable David R. Herndon. Was the first to settle own clients' cases, which ultimately led to the creation of nationwide settlement program **exceeding \$2 billion**.
- *In re Vioxx Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 1657 (E.D. La.). Unanimously selected by the plaintiffs' lawyers as Co-Lead Counsel and appointed by the Honorable Eldon E. Fallo. Developed the overall litigation strategy for the approximately 27,000 separate cases against **Merck & Co.**, securing a settlement for **\$4.85 billion** following five years of intense litigation, but mere months after obtaining a **jury verdict of \$47.5 million** in a client's bellwether trial (*Humeston v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, case no. ATL-L-2272-03, N.J. Super. Ct. Atlantic County). Conceived and used a global lien resolution administrator, resulting in significant savings and quicker payments to class members.
- *In re Chinese-Manufactured Drywall Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2047 (E.D. La.). Appointed as Chair of the Plaintiffs' Trial Committee by the Honorable Eldon E. Fallon in, serving as lead trial counsel in obtaining successful verdicts in a succession of bellwether liability and damages trials on behalf close to 5,000 property owners who used the allegedly toxic drywall, many in rebuilding homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. These verdicts served as the precursor to a national settlement valued at approximately **\$1 billion** with worldwide drywall distributor **Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin (KPT)** in 2011.
- *In re Invokana (Canagliflozin) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 2750 (D.N.J.). Appointed by the Honorable Brian R. Martinotti as Co-Lead Counsel of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee on January 24, 2017, representing plaintiffs against **Johnson & Johnson Co.** and **Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**, claiming injuries including diabetic ketoacidosis, acute kidney failure and amputations as a result of taking the drug Invokana. Case pending.
- *In re Actos (Pioglitazone) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, Case no. 6:11-md-2299 (W.D. La.). Appointed by the Honorable Rebecca F. Doherty to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee of the consolidated MDL, obtaining a jury verdict of **\$9 billion** in punitive damages, the seventh-largest verdict in US history (later reduced to **\$36.8 million**), against **Takeda Pharmaceutical Co.**, Asia's largest drug maker, and marketing partner **Eli Lilly & Co.**, on behalf of

plaintiffs who developed bladder cancer resulting from their Actos diabetes drug.

- *In re Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) Prods. Liab. Litig.*, MDL No. 1407 (W.D. Wash.). Served as principal negotiator and Co-Lead Counsel in the nationwide settlement of all PPA (phenylpropanolamine)-related injuries resulting from the ingestion of weight loss product **Dexatrim**. Was involved in the litigation against numerous other manufacturers of pharmaceuticals containing PPA, serving on the MDL Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the Western District of Washington and as Liaison Counsel in the New York state court litigation. Plaintiffs were awarded over **\$40 million**.

## **Bar Admissions**

New York

New Jersey

U.S. District Courts of the Eastern District of New York, Southern District of New York, District of New Jersey, District of Colorado

## **Education**

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1990

Hunter College of the City University of New York, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1987

Cardozo Law Alumnus of the Year Award, 2009

Managing Editor of the *Cardozo Law Review*

Hunter College Distinguished Alumni Lawyer Award, 2013

Hunter College Alumni Hall of Fame, 2007

## **Memberships & Associations**

- American Bar Association
- The Association of the Bar of the City of New York
- New Jersey State Bar Association

- New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- International Society of Barristers
- American Bar Foundation
- American Association for Justice
- Trial Lawyers for Public Justice
- Elected Member, American Law Institute
- Advisory Board, RAND Center for Catastrophic Risk Management and Compensation
- Advisory Board, Center on Civil Justice at New York University School of Law
- Advisory Council, Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies
- Dean's Advisory Counsel, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
- Board of Trustees, Hunter College Foundation
- Pre-Law Advisory Board, Hunter College
- Co-General Counsel, Badge of Honor Memorial Foundation, 2008 – present

**Pro Bono**

- Human Rights First

- Hunter College
- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
- New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA)
- Badge of Honor Memorial Foundation

## **Publications & Presentations**

### **Teaching**

Former Adjunct Professor, Trial Advocacy and Complex Litigation (advanced level), Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

### **Lectures & Panels**

“Exceptional Training Opportunity for Young Associates by Leading Judges and Practitioners”

*Bridge Program Conference*

Emory University School of Law

Atlanta, GA, September 14, 2017

“Limits on Judicial Participation in and Approval of Non-class Settlements”

*Multi-district Litigation Roundtable*

George Washington University Law School

Washington, D.C., April 27, 2017

“Case Management Techniques: What Helps, What Backfires, and How to Get to Efficient Resolution”

*FJC/JPML Conference*

Emory Law: The Institute for Complex Litigation and Mass Claims

Atlanta, GA, December 14, 2016

“There’s No Place like Home: The Pros and Cons of Lexecon Waivers and Bellwether Trials in the Modern MDL”

*Current Issues in Pharma, Medical Device and Biotech Litigation*

American Bar Association (regional CLE workshop)

Philadelphia, PA, November 4, 2016

"Bellwether Trials? Purpose, Including Whether to Eliminate Them Altogether, Selection, and Early Dismissal"  
*Emerging Issues in Mass-Tort MDLs Conference (Invitation Only)*  
Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies  
Washington, D.C., October 28, 2016

"NFL – The challenges and rewards of serving as lead counsel in one of the most highly publicized class actions in history"  
*Cutting-Edge Bet the Company Mega Class Action CLE*  
Oregon Law Institute of Lewis & Clark Law School  
Portland, OR, February 16, 2016

"Trials & Error: The NFL Concussion Settlement"  
The Forum on Law, Culture & Society (FOLCS)  
NYU School of Law  
New York, NY, February 2, 2016

"Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Fraud: Arguments for Potential Transfer Venues"  
*Plaintiff-Only Hot Topics and Trends Litigation Seminar*  
American Association for Justice (AAJ)  
New Orleans, LA, December 2, 2015

"Common Benefit Fund"  
*Second Multidistrict Litigation Institute Conference*  
Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies  
Washington, D.C., November 9, 2015

"Common Benefit Fund/Attorney Fees"  
*Future of Multidistrict Litigation Conference*  
Duke Law Center for Judicial Studies  
Washington, D.C., May 2, 2013

## **Practices**

[Drug Injury](#)

[Defective Products](#)

[Class Action Claims](#)

[Whistleblower Claims](#)

[Catastrophic Injury](#)

[Toxic Exposure](#)

[Personal Injury](#)



Chris's practice also includes property damage; consumer, insurance and securities fraud; antitrust; and third-party payer litigation.

## **Contact**

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