



ANDREW KASSOF

AGE

39

LAW SCHOOL

The George Washington University Law School

AREA OF PRACTICE

Complex Commercial Litigation

FIRMKirkland & Ellis LLP
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Professional at all times.

Andrew Kassof, 39, has a long track record of unique and exceptional results for his clients. Kassof, a partner at Kirkland & Ellis since 2003, has acted as lead trial, appellate and arbitration counsel in both individual and class action suits involving complex claims in a variety of practice areas, including commercial disputes, consumer fraud, contracts, deceptive trade practices, antitrust, product liability, false advertising, bankruptcy, labor and employment, toxic tort, and insurance matters.

Kassof currently is trying the *Tronox v. Anadarko Petroleum* case, a closely watched trial in which his client, Anadarko Litigation Trust, is seeking billions in damages. Trial began May 15 and is expected to last until September.

Earlier in his career, he first-chaired a jury trial for Exxon Mobil in South Carolina state court, which resulted in a complete defense verdict after less than an hour of deliberations. The following year he first-chaired an injunction trial for Exxon in Virginia state court, where the court ruled in Exxon's favor immediately after closing arguments. Kassof also first-chaired an arbitration for United Air Lines against contract claims challenging bankruptcy-related savings by United's salaried and management employment. There, the result was an arbitration award for United, with no liability or damages.

Kassof has had success on appeal as well. Kassof took over a case for 7-Eleven following an adverse jury verdict awarding the plaintiff a forfeiture of 7-Eleven's

prized property across the street from Wrigley Field. Shortly after Kassof's argument, the Appellate Division reversed the jury verdict and ruled in 7-Eleven's favor as a matter of law.

These are just a few of the many successful outcomes Kassof has received. Benjamin W. Hulse, of Blackwell Burke P.A., worked with Kassof at Kirkland & Ellis. In 2006, Hulse witnessed Kassof argue summary judgment in a difficult case against one of the most formidable plaintiff's attorneys in southern Illinois, Joe Phebus. "Andrew's argument, I recall, went about 90 minutes. Andrew had a dynamite PowerPoint presentation to go along with the argument, and the judge was rapt the entire time," Hulse said. "The court granted summary judgment following the argument." Hulse worked on the South Carolina Exxon case with Kassof. He said the jurisdiction was a tough one, and the plaintiff's attorney opposing them was top-notch. "I watched the jury closely from the beginning and Andrew had them from his opening argument," Hulse said. "He conducted a relentless cross of the plaintiff in which he impeached him at least a dozen times in succession."

Kassof's clients are happy with his work. Gregory Kenney, with Exxon Mobil, has relied on Kassof as one of his "go to" lawyers for several matters. "Facing a talented team of opposing lawyers, Andrew singlehandedly destroyed 10 class representatives, leading to a dismissal of a very challenging commercial case," Kenney said.

Those who face him in the courtroom know they have a tough fight ahead, but also know Kassof to be professional at all times. Edward Soto, with Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, first met Kassof while serving as co-counsel on a case for Exxon. "Andrew is extremely detailed in the way he approaches a task and an issue," Soto said. "He also has a tremendously respectful way of dealing with everyone he works with at every level, from his own colleagues to his co-counsel and opposing counsel."

Christina Guerola Sarchio, with Patton Boggs, LLP, was opposing counsel to Kassof in a complex litigation matter from 2009 to 2011. They continue to remain in contact and now share a mutual client. Guerola Sarchio said the two interacted frequently during the course of the litigation, facing off in court on various motions, disputing discovery and, finally, negotiating a settlement agreement. "Andrew demonstrated a great command of the facts and the law, and was a formidable opponent in a case that, from the outset, seemed like a sure winner for plaintiffs and a loser for Andrew's client. Andrew turned that around to give his client a very good fighting chance, which resulted in a fair settlement for his client."

Kassof is a board member of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago. The foundation works with elementary and secondary schools to develop critical thinking skills, civic responsibility, and commitment to the rule of law among young people.