

## **Joseph M. Sellers**

Joseph Sellers, a Partner at the Firm and head of the Civil Rights & Employment practice group, joined Cohen Milstein in 1997.

Mr. Sellers has represented victims of discrimination and other illegal employment practices individually and through class actions. He has tried several civil rights class actions to judgment before juries and has argued more than 25 appeals in the federal and state appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court. He has served as class counsel, and typically lead counsel, in more than 30 civil rights and employment class actions.

Those cases have included: *Beck. v. Boeing Company* (W.D. Wash.), which included a class of more than 28,000 women employees at Boeing facilities in Washington state alleging sex discrimination in pay and overtime decisions; *Conway, et al. v. Deutsch* (E.D. Va.), for a class of all female undercover case officers at the CIA alleging sex discrimination in promotions and job assignments; *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* (N.D. Cal.), where the Court has certified the largest class in such a case: more than 1.5 million women employees at Wal-Mart stores, alleging sex discrimination in promotions and pay decisions; *Johnson, et al. v. Freeh* (D.D.C.), for a class of African-American FBI special agents alleging racial discrimination in promotion and job assignments; *Keepseagle v. Veneman* (D.D.C.), for a class of Native American farmers and ranchers denied equal credit opportunities by USDA; *Neal v. Director, D.C Dept. of Corrections* (D.D.C.), the first sexual harassment class action tried to a jury, for a class of women correctional employees and women and men subject to retaliation at the D.C. Department of Corrections; and *Trotter, et al. v. Perdue Farms* (D. Del.), for a company-wide collective action brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act for violations of federal wage and hour law.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sellers has also been active in legislative matters. He has testified more than 20 times before Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives on various civil rights and employment matters. He worked on the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act of 2009.

Mr. Sellers has trained lawyers at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice on the trial of civil rights cases and has lectured extensively throughout the country on various civil rights and employment topics. He was an Adjunct Professor at the Washington College of Law at American University, where he taught Employment Discrimination law, and at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he taught a course on Professional Responsibility.

He served on the Clinton/Gore Transition Team in 1992 and 1993. He headed the teams reviewing the operations of the EEOC, the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and various sections of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. He also served as a Co-Chair of the Task Force of the D.C. Circuit on Gender,

Race and Ethnic Bias and was appointed by panels of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

At the request of the Ford Foundation and the American Bar Association, Mr. Sellers delivered a series of lectures and designed and delivered a mock trial on civil rights law to Chinese judges, lawyers and other government officials in China.

Mr. Sellers has been recognized as one of the top lawyers in Washington and as one of the top 10 plaintiffs' employment lawyers in the country. In 2010, he was recognized as one of "The Decade's Most Influential Lawyers" by *The National Law Journal*. He is a professionally-trained mediator and has served as the President of the Washington Council of Lawyers.

Prior to joining Cohen Milstein, Mr. Sellers served as head of the Employment Discrimination Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs for over 15 years.

Mr. Sellers received a J.D. from Case Western Reserve School of Law (1979), where he served as Research Editor of the *Case Western Reserve Law Review*, and a B.A. in American History and Literature from Brown University (1975).

Mr. Sellers is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia.

### **Christine E. Webber**

Christine Webber, a Partner at the Firm and a member of the Civil Rights & Employment practice group, joined Cohen Milstein in 1997. Ms. Webber represents plaintiffs in class action employment discrimination and Fair Labor Standards Act cases. Ms. Webber's current docket includes *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.* (N.D. Cal.), challenging Wal-Mart's treatment of women employees with complaints of discrimination in pay and promotion; and *In re Tyson Foods FLSA MDL*, (M.D. Ga.), a collective action involving FLSA claims at over 40 Tyson chicken processing plants. Ms. Webber was also counsel to the plaintiff class in *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*, and is currently administering the claims process through which \$760 million of relief will be awarded to Native American farmers and ranchers who were denied loans or loan servicing by the USDA. Ms. Webber was part of the team recognized by Public Justice as finalists for their Trial Lawyer of the Year award in 2011 for the work done in *Keepseagle*.

She represented plaintiffs in *Beck v. The Boeing Co.* (W.D. Wash.), a class action alleging sex discrimination in compensation and promotions which settled in 2004 for \$72.5 million. She was also lead counsel in *Hnot v. Willis* (S.D.N.Y.), representing a class of women at the vice-president level and above whose challenge to sex discrimination in compensation resulted in a settlement averaging \$50,000 per class member in 2008. She was counsel in *Trotter v. Perdue* (D. Del.), representing plaintiffs

who were wrongly denied payment of overtime wages, and obtaining a \$10 million settlement.

In 2004 and 2007, Ms. Webber was named one of the Top Lawyers in Washington, D.C. by Washingtonian Magazine and was named one of the 2007 Washington, D.C. Superlawyers in the Civil Rights category. In 2011, Ms. Webber was recognized as one of the Top Women Lawyers in the Northeast in the labor and employment category by Arrive magazine.

Prior to joining Cohen Milstein, Ms. Webber received a Women's Law and Public Policy fellowship and worked for four years at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs in their Equal Employment Opportunity Project. She worked on a variety of employment discrimination cases, and focused in particular on the sexual harassment class action *Neal v. Director, D.C. Department of Corrections, et al.* Ms. Webber participated in the trial of this ground-breaking sexual harassment class action in 1995. Ms. Webber also tried the race discrimination case *Cooper v. Paychex* (E.D. Va.), and successfully defended the plaintiffs' verdict before the Fourth Circuit.

Ms. Webber is a member of the National Employment Lawyers' Association (NELA) and co-chair of their Class Action Committee. She is also co-chair of the Class Action Subcommittee of the D.C. Bar Labor and Employment Law Section. She speaks regularly at CLE programs on employment discrimination and class actions, including presentations for NELA.

She graduated from Harvard University with a B.A. in Government (*magna cum laude*, 1988) and the University of Michigan Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1991, Order of the Coif). Following law school, Ms. Webber clerked for the Honorable Hubert L. Will, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Ms. Webber is admitted to practice in Illinois and the District of Columbia.

### **Abby Shafroth**

Abby Shafroth joined Cohen Milstein as an Associate in 2010 and is a member of the Civil Rights & Employment practice group.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Shafroth was a fellow and associate counsel for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in the Fair Housing and Employment Discrimination Projects, where she litigated complex civil rights cases challenging exclusionary zoning and employment discrimination. She also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Richard A. Paez of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Ms. Shafroth graduated from Harvard College with an A.B. in Psychology (*cum laude*, 2004) and Harvard Law School (*cum laude*, 2008). During law school, Ms. Shafroth served as Articles Editor for the *Harvard Law Review* and as Editor for the *Civil Rights* -

*Civil Liberties Law Review*. She also assisted in the employment civil rights group at the WilmerHale Legal Services Center and worked with Ghana Legal Services in studying local health care delivery in rural Ghana. In addition, Ms. Shafroth spent summers working with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Covington & Burling, and the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Shafroth is admitted to the New York State Bar and she is practicing under the supervision of Joseph M. Sellers, a member of the D.C. Bar.