



Leigh Ann Benson

Associate

Philadelphia

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Leigh Ann Benson focuses her practice on commercial disputes, complex litigation, class actions, and cyber security. She has significant experience representing large manufacturers in the food and beverage industry, including snack and pet food manufacturers, in class actions and commercial disputes. These representations have included commercial dispute, product defect and mislabeling matters, as well as regulatory matters.

Leigh Ann serves as a member of the Young Lawyer Editorial Board of The Legal Intelligencer. She also is a member of Villanova Law J. Willard O'Brien American Inn of Court.

Leigh Ann joined Cozen O'Connor's Litigation Department in Philadelphia in 2014. She received her J.D. from Villanova University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, in English from Virginia Tech. While at Villanova, Leigh Ann served as an associate editor of the *Villanova Law Review*.

Experience

Successfully moved to dismiss a putative class action against our airline client facing breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and a variety of other claims stemming from alleged false advertising regarding its enhanced economy class. In dismissing the complaint, which carried potential exposure of millions of dollars, the court accepted our arguments that the claims were time-barred and/or preempted. Before moving to dismiss, we successfully sought an order staying discovery in the case.

Won summary judgment on behalf of a financial institution specializing in debt collection that faced more than 100 claims of alleged violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). We were engaged to replace prior counsel, entered the case just before summary judgment motions were due, and secured dismissal of all claims with prejudice. This win was affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Defeated a motion for class certification in a putative class action filed in California state court against our client, a major food manufacturer, alleging that the packaging for a specific type of dog treat misrepresented that the product was "wholesome." The plaintiffs sought approximately \$8.4 million on behalf of the putative class, plus punitive damages and attorneys' fees under California's consumer protection statutes. We defeated class certification, and plaintiffs agreed to drop all claims.

Practice Areas

- Class Action & Mass Tort
- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation

Industry Sectors

- Food & Beverage

Education

- Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 2014
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2011

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- New Jersey
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Young Lawyer Editor Board, The Legal Intelligencer
- Villanova Law J. Willard O'Brien American Inn of Court

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