

# ANGELA C. AGRUSA

## LITIGATION

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# LINER<sup>LLP</sup>

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## BIOGRAPHY

Over the past several decades, Angela Agrusa and her team of business litigators have been hired in some of the most high-profile cases filed across the country, litigating in federal and state courts from New York to Florida and Massachusetts to Hawaii. Angela tries high-stakes complex commercial, class action and civil cases on behalf of international brands, major companies and prominent individuals. She obtains winning verdicts on both the defense and plaintiff side in courts across the country and successfully defeats numerous class action cases in their nascent stages. She is consistently ranked as one of California's top lawyers, being selected by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* among the "Top Women Lawyers" in California for the past three years, and by *Los Angeles Magazine* as a "Top 100 Lawyer" for the past nine years.

In a wide variety of complex disputes with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, Angela has represented her clients in an array of matters, including brand and individual reputation defense, business torts, consumer fraud and false labeling, competitor false advertising, unfair competition and privacy. Angela also maintains a sophisticated and specialized class action practice, strategically defeating class certification in single and multi-district litigation across the country. Recognized as a trial lawyer, Angela has recently stepped in to lead entertainer Bill Cosby's defense in his civil trials.

Angela's clients include Fortune 500, public and privately held companies, municipalities and prominent public figures in a broad range of industries, including entertainment, media, consumer products and services, advertising and hospitality. She regularly counsels clients on pre-litigation and business strategy issues, and is relied on for her knowledge of current market and industry trends.

## EDUCATION

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles (J.D., *cum laude*)

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University of California Los Angeles (B.A.)

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## NEWS

- September 20, 2017: Angela Agrusa Recognized by the Daily Journal as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California  
*Daily Journal*
- May 24, 2017: Angela Agrusa Honored as one of Daily Journal's Top Women Lawyers in California  
*Daily Journal*
- April 26, 2017: The Brash Plan to Defend Bill Cosby  
*The Hollywood Reporter*
- April 25, 2017: Hilton Says Vacationers Stole Expert In Telemarketing Suit  
*Law360*
- April 4, 2017: Angela Agrusa Honored in Variety's 2017 Legal Impact Report  
*Variety*
- April 3, 2017: Bill Cosby Judge Expects Trial to Last 2 Weeks  
*NBC*
- March 28, 2017: Cosby's Lawyers Want to Keep Quaaludes Testimony From Trial  
*New York Times*
- March 23, 2017: Almond Milk Co. Calls False Ad Suit A Wasteful Attack  
*Law360*
- March 3, 2017: Bill Cosby Wins Another Crucial Court Battle  
*Washington Informer*
- February 24, 2017: Judge rules only one additional accuser may testify at Cosby trial  
*CNN*
- February 24, 2017: Bill Cosby scores big pre-trial win  
*USA Today*
- February 16, 2017: Defamation case against Bill Cosby dismissed  
*USA Today*
- January 23, 2017: Cosby lawyer seeks "brand protection," court wins  
*Los Angeles Daily Journal*

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- January 19, 2017: Bill Cosby's Lawyers Ask Appeals Court to Toss Janice Dickinson Defamation Suit  
*The Hollywood Reporter*
- December 22, 2016: Bill Cosby Is Presented With Two Major Legal Victories Leading Into The Christmas Holiday
- December 16, 2016: LA's \$70M Deal Ending Power Billing Suits Gets OK At Last  
*Law360*
- December 15, 2016: Bill Cosby Wins 3rd Circ. Dismissal of Pa. Defamation Suit  
*Law360*
- October 10, 2016: Meet the L.A. Lawyer Who Just Might Save Bill Cosby from Criminal Conviction  
*The AmLaw Litigation Daily*
- October 7, 2016: Angela Agrusa joins CBSN's Jamie Yuccas with more on Bill Cosby's defense  
*CBS News*
- October 6, 2016: Bill Cosby's Legal Defense Team Files Motion to Dismiss Criminal Charges in Pennsylvania Case
- August 17, 2016: Bill Cosby Replaces Lead Attorney as He Faces Criminal Trial  
*People*
- July 12, 2016: Cosby's New Civil Firm Has Been on Growth Tear  
*The Recorder*
- June 2, 2016: Trial Pros: Liner LLP's Angela Agrusa  
*Law360*
- May 23, 2016: Liner LLP Recognized Among National Law Journal's "Midsize Hot List"  
*The National Law Journal*
- May 5, 2016: Liner LLP and Angela Agrusa Urge 9th Circ. to Uphold Ruling in \$54B Hilton TCPA Suit  
*Law360*
- April 28, 2016: Liner LLP and Angela Agrusa Continue to Break Ground on TCPA Cases  
*JDSupra.com*
- April 20, 2016: Angela Agrusa: Top Women Lawyers  
*The Daily Journal*
- April 15, 2016: 'Neuro' Energy-Drink Maker Settles Calif. False Ad Row  
*Law360*
- April 12, 2016: 9th Circuit Can Fix Food Labeling Split

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*Los Angeles Daily Journal*

- January 26, 2016: The continuing conundrum of the California food fight  
*Inside Counsel*
- October 26, 2015: Priceline Can't Escape Resort Fee Suit, Class Says  
*Law360*
- October 21, 2015: Almond Milk Makers Duck Drinkers' Bid For Label Change  
*Law360*
- September 24, 2015: 9th Circ. Asked To Again Revive Hilton Call-Recording Suit  
*Law360*
- August 17, 2015: LA Reaches \$44M Deal In Suits Over PwC Billing System  
*Law360*
- August 17, 2015: LADWP Reaches Tentative Settlement In Customer Billing Class-Action Litigation  
*CBS*
- August 13, 2015: Omni Can't Force Return Of Sprint Docs In Privacy Class Action  
*Law360*
- July 21, 2015: Omni Says Class Must Return Sprint Customers' Records  
*Law360*
- July 14, 2015: Class Says Omni Can't Cite Privacy To Block Sprint Records  
*Law360*
- June 23, 2015: Omni Callers Denied Quick Appeal Of Cell Discovery Order  
*Law360*
- June 9, 2015: Omni Hotels Blasts Bid For Discovery Appeal In Privacy Action  
*Law360*
- May 13, 2015: Angela Agrusa Honored Among the Daily Journal's Top Women Lawyers in California  
*Los Angeles Daily Journal*
- April 14, 2015: Liner's Agrusa leads trial team in \$2.3 billion California First case  
*Inside Counsel*
- February 24, 2015: State Settles Suit Over Aborted Sale of Court Buildings  
*The Recorder*

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- February 22, 2015: California pays \$24M to settle lawsuit over building sales  
*ABC*
- December 2, 2014: California, investors square off over \$2.3B sale  
*The Washington Times*
- December 2, 2014: \$2.3B sale of California buildings heads to trial  
*Associated Press*
- November 24, 2014: Jilted Bidders Seek State Sites  
*Los Angeles Business Journal*
- November 12, 2014: Work/Life Balance: Angela Agrusa  
*Los Angeles Business Journal*
- October 24, 2014: Dispute Over State-Owned Buildings Heads to Trial  
*Sacramento Business Journal*
- October 19, 2014: Trial date set for dispute over canceled sale of state-owned buildings  
*LA Times*
- September 15, 2014: Class Certified in Omni Hotels Phone Recording Suit  
*Law360*
- July 15, 2014: The Biggest Hospitality Cases of 2014: Midyear Report  
*Law360*
- July 15, 2014: Hilton Escapes Calif. Call-Recording Class Action  
*Law360*
- June 12, 2014: Attys React To High Court's Pom v. Coke Lanham Act Ruling  
*Law360*
- May 20, 2014: Hilton Says Customer Call Recordings Don't Invade Privacy  
*Law360*
- May 7, 2014: Angela Agrusa Honored Among the Daily Journal's 100 Leading Women Lawyers in California  
*Los Angeles Daily Journal*
- April 30, 2014: Ninth Circuit Says District Court Didn't Explain \$3M Attorneys' Fees Award in MagSafe Class Action  
*Legal Newsline Legal Journal*
- April 1, 2014: Appeals Courts Further Muddy Phone-Call Privacy Laws  
*Law360*

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- February 14, 2014: Criminalizing Taped Cell Calls 'Makes No Sense,' Judge Says  
*Law360*
- January 21, 2014: Summary of New FDA Guidance on Distinguishing Liquid Dietary Supplements from Beverages
- January 14, 2014: FDA Leaves Beverage-Labeling Questions Unanswered  
*Law360*
- December 11, 2013: Female Power Brokers Q&A: Liner's Angela Agrusa  
*Law360*
- November 1, 2013: Loyola Lawyer - Law School | Los Angeles  
*Loyola Lawyer Magazine*
- October 30, 2013: Hilton Fends Off Class Cert. In \$54B Robocall Suit  
*Law360*
- August 23, 2013: Ghost of Schwarzenegger stalks Brown administration over lease-back  
*Capitol Weekly*
- August 22, 2013: Soy milk makers want federal judge to dismiss class action  
*Legal Newsline*
- August 5, 2013: Soy Milk Makers Seek KO Of False Labeling Suit  
*Law360*
- July 22, 2013: Calif. Can't Trim Claims It Reneged On \$2.3B Property Sale  
*Law360*
- July 15, 2013: Milk Buyers Challenge 'Cane Juice' Labeling Settlement  
*Law360*
- June 24, 2013: Wiretap Exemption Blocks Recorded-Call Suit, Omni Says  
*Law360*
- May 30, 2013: Angela Agrusa is a speaker at the Nutrition Industry Forum  
*NIA West*
- April 30, 2013: Aetna Skirts Docs' False Ad Claim In Reimbursement Fight  
*Law360*
- March 26, 2013: Summary of New FTC Disclosure Guidelines for Digital Advertisements

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- March 19, 2013: Omni Hotels Hit with Call Recording Class Action  
*Law360*
- March 1, 2013: Welcome to Food Court  
*The Recorder*
- February 21, 2013: 9th Circ. Juicy Juice Ruling Could Curb Food Labeling Suits  
*Law360*
- August 30, 2012: Calif. Medical Group Accuses Aetna Of Blacklisting Its Docs  
*Law360*
- July 3, 2012: Angela C. Agrusa Leads Legal Battle Against Aetna for CA Physicians
- July 3, 2012: Doctors In Calif. Sue Aetna Over Reimbursement Practices  
*Law360*
- July 3, 2012: Doctors' suit against Aetna claims patients denied specialized care  
*Los Angeles Daily News*
- June 4, 2012: Hilton Pulls Plug On 1-800-HAMPTON Privacy Class Action  
*Law360*
- April 3, 2012: Comerica Bank's "Best of LA" Women's Business Award Program  
*LA Lakers*
- February 10, 2012: Horizon Milk Suits Over "Brain Health" Claims Joined In Florida  
*Law360*
- September 28, 2011: Judge OKs Apple's Refund Deal In Faulty Adapter Suit  
*Law360*
- May 28, 2011: Room at the Waterhole: Midsize Firms Making the Most of the Middle  
*At the Intersection*

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## **RECOGNITION**

- *Los Angeles Daily Journal* - Top 100 Lawyers in California (2017)
- Top Entertainment Attorney - *Variety's* Legal Impact Report,

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2017

- *Los Angeles Daily Journal* - Top Women Lawyers (2014 - 2017)
  - *Southern California Super Lawyers* - Top 100 (2007-2017)
  - *Southern California Super Lawyers* - Top 50 Woman (2007 - 2017)
  - *Best of Los Angeles* - Women's Business Award (2012)
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## **REPRESENTATIONS**

- As lead counsel to Bill Cosby in civil and criminal actions for sexual assault and defamation claims in California, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.
- As lead counsel to WhiteWave Foods in a complex settlement regarding DHA-Omega 3 labeling, and an action challenging the labelling of all nut-based milks sold in the United States.
- As lead trial counsel for investors suing the State of California over a \$2.3 billion sales contract entered into by Gov. Schwarzenegger. It was a highly publicized and politicized trial, during which Agrusa negotiated a \$24 million settlement from the State after two months of trial.
- As lead counsel to the City of Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power in the negotiation and entry of a highly complex estimated \$44 million settlement of multiple class actions in which all 1.6 million customer accounts will be made whole.
- As lead counsel to Hilton Hotels, Agrusa won the dismissal of two nationwide privacy actions filed in California seeking aggregated statutory penalties of hundreds of millions of dollars. Agrusa obtained substantially similar outcomes in privacy class actions against clients Best Western Hotels and Vantage Hotels.
- As lead counsel to Hilton Grand Vacations, Agrusa defeated class certification in a nationwide privacy class action filed in California with exposure ranging from \$18 billion- \$54 billion.
- In multi district class actions filed in Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Arizona, Arkansas, and California, with over \$550 million of potential damages at stake, Agrusa lead the maker of Horizon Organic Milk in negotiating a settlement that



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preserved the client's ability to continue making its label claims.

- In a New York false advertising class action threatening the label and identification of all nut-based milks sold in the U.S., as lead counsel to WhiteWave Foods, Agrusa obtained the dismissal of all claims against the Silk brand.
- As lead counsel to The Cosmopolitan Hotel of Las Vegas, Agrusa settled a privacy class action filed in California with over \$2 billion in damages at stake, for \$14.5 million.
- Agrusa was brought in as lead counsel to Hilton Worldwide, replacing prior counsel in four class action cases pending in Hawaii, after classes were certified and with over \$50 million in claimed damages. Having won summary judgement and other pretrial motions, Agrusa settled all of the actions for less than 10% of the damages sought.
- As lead counsel to Bai Brands, and after defeating injunctive relief, Agrusa secured the dismissal of a nationwide class action filed in California for alleged false advertising.
- Faced with investigation by the City of Los Angeles and City of Santa Monica, with over \$150 million in exposure for alleged false advertising, Agrusa led NeuroBrands into a settlement that protected the popular brand's rights to bring new products to the marketplace and to advertise them.
- Following years of litigation maneuvers, Agrusa settled a privacy class action filed in California against Omni Hotels with damage exposure of over \$65 million, for no attorney fees paid and less than \$10,000 in consideration to the class.
- Agrusa obtained the dismissal of Hilton Worldwide in putative nationwide class actions filed in Hawaii and Connecticut alleging deceptive on-line pricing practices in the hotel industry.
- Agrusa spent 10 years as a principal trial lawyer to Exxon Corporation in a series of three antitrust/ crude oil pricing actions brought by the State of California and City of Long Beach, with over \$750 million in alleged damages at stake in each of the trials. The actions spanned conduct that occurred over a 30 year time period and the months long trial of each of the three cases resulted in defense verdict in all three matters.
- As lead trial counsel to Rip Curl International, Agrusa won a defense verdict for allegations arising in trademark, licensing and franchise law.

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- Lead counsel to Peter Frampton in a trademark infringement dispute brought against Billabong International which ended in a confidential monetary settlement for the rock star.
- Lead counsel to the makers of Pirate's Booty, Agrusa defeated class certification in a nationwide false labeling class action.
- Lead counsel to a high-profile, prominent individual in five separate multi-party actions pending in various federal and state courts across the country arising from highly sensitive and defamatory claims that transcended the domestic convertible securities market and impacted major holding companies in Bermuda.
- As lead California counsel to Corning, the shareholder of a large manufacturer of breast implants, in over 1000 California actions, Agrusa won summary judgment defeating direct liability claims and corporate liability allegations.