

Daily Journal

DECEMBER 4, 2024

TOP ANTITRUST LAWYERS 2024



AMANDA BONN

SUSMAN GODFREY

LOS ANGELES

the nuances of the antitrust laws,” Bonn said. “Bill taught me the importance of learning how to take complicated facts and legal issues and distill them in a way that a lay jury will understand.”

One of her most notable cases in recent years is the NFL Sunday Ticket Antitrust trial. In re: National Football League’s Sunday Ticket Antitrust Litigation, 2:15-mi-02668 (C.D. Cal., filed Dec. 10, 2015). She joined the legal team to prepare the case for a jury trial, where she played a pivotal role in crafting trial theories and delivering the opening statement.

Bonn’s team obtained a victory after three weeks of trial with the jury finding the NFL engaged in a conspiracy and violated the antitrust laws through its Sunday Ticket offering. The jury awarded \$4.7 billion damages, which the trial court vacated on a post-trial motion, while leaving untouched the jury’s determination that the NFL violated two different provisions of the Sherman Act. Proceedings in the matter are ongoing.

“The biggest obstacle has come after trial, as the trial court reversed its earlier rulings admitting certain of plaintiffs’ expert testimony under Daubert and granting JNOV for the NFL and its member teams,” Bonn said. “The case is now on appeal and we are fighting to have the jury’s verdict reinstated.”

Bonn is also co-lead counsel for Vitol Inc., an independent energy trading company. She is defending Vitol in an antitrust suit filed by the California Attorney General in San Francisco state court and a follow-on class action in federal court. *The People of the State of California v. Vitol, Inc. et al.*, CGC-20-584456 S.F. Super. Ct., filed May 11, 2020); In re California Gasoline Spot Market Antitrust Litigation, 20-cv-03131 (N.D. Cal., filed May 6, 2020).

Both actions allege that Vitol engaged in manipulative trading of gasoline in California’s spot market, violating the state’s Cartwright Act and Unfair Competition Law.

“One of the more interesting trends in the past year has been significant antitrust cases actually being tried to verdict -- both NFL Sunday Ticket and also the Realtors case,” Bonn said, referring to a team of Susman Godfrey lawyers that achieved a groundbreaking \$418 million joint settlement on behalf of a nationwide class of home sellers with the National Association of Realtors that will resolve claims in four antitrust class actions against NAR. “While most cases settle, it is significant that antitrust class counsel are willing to take these cases to the mat, so to speak, if doing so is in the best interests of the class.”

With 14 years of experience, Amanda Bonn said she was drawn to antitrust law due to the intriguing blend of challenging facts, economic theory and legal strategy it presents. Throughout her career, she has been mentored by firm partners Marc Seltzer and Bill Carmody.

“Marc taught me the importance of mastering the facts and learning all of