



## ERICA L. CALDERAS PARTNER



### Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

200 Public Square  
Suite 2800  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

**phone:** 216.274.2533

**email:** elcalderas@hahnlaw.com

### PRIMARY PRACTICES

Litigation

Class Action Litigation

Complex Commercial Litigation

Tort Litigation

Real Estate

Real Estate Industry Services

Erica L. Calderas has extensive experience representing commercial clients of varying sizes as plaintiffs and as defendants in complex matters in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Erica has a deep understanding of a wide range of litigation matters impacting businesses, including business torts, contract disputes, consumer protection claims, trademark infringement, employment disputes, fraud claims, enforcing and defending against claims regarding non-competition agreements and trade secrets, and claims under RESPA, TCPA, and TILA. Erica has had substantial first-chair and second-chair experience in jury trials, bench trials, arbitrations, mediations, and appellate arguments.

In class-action defense matters, Erica has experience in high-stakes, statewide and nationwide class actions across the United States, including victories in two multi-week class-action bench trials. Erica has a successful track record of early victories in class actions achieved through defeat of class certification, securing dismissal of or summary judgment on the claims of the class representatives, and negotiating favorable settlements.

### REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- *Chultem v. Ticor Title Insurance, Co.*, Cook County Illinois Circuit Court Case No. 06 CH 09488; and *Colella v. Chicago Title Insurance, Co.*, Cook County Illinois Circuit Court Case No. 06 CH 0948.
  - Acquired defense of two consolidated class actions after the classes were certified. Plaintiffs challenged the split of premiums between title insurers and their attorney agents as alleged illegal kickbacks of unearned fees to the agents in violation of RESPA as incorporated by the Illinois Title Insurance Act. Served as lead defense counsel in two-week bench trial in September 2013 where plaintiff consumers sought damages in excess of \$250 million, trebled. The trial court entered judgment in favor of defendants, the court of appeals affirmed, and the Illinois Supreme Court denied the plaintiffs' petition for leave to appeal.
- *Villanueva v. Fidelity National Title, Co.*, Santa Clara County, CA, Superior Court Case. No. 1-10-cv-173356
  - Defended escrow holder in four-week bench trial of certified class action. Plaintiffs challenged, under California's unfair competition law, the propriety of escrow consumers having to pay for overnight delivery fees and document preparation fees. Trial victory defeating claims seeking restitution of over \$35 million and attorneys' fees of \$9 million. Prior to the bench trial, successfully eliminated, through dispositive motion practice, six additional claims for which plaintiffs sought millions in additional damages, including punitive damages, against the defendant and two additional, affiliated companies.
- *France v. Ticor Title of Washington, Inc.*, Superior Court, King



- County, Wash., Case No. 12-2-25688-8-SEA
  - Defended escrow holder against certified class action where plaintiff consumers sought to recover collected reconveyance fees. Obtained dismissal and summary judgment to most causes of action pre-trial. Final trial resulted in defense decision.
- California Real Estate Software Class Actions
  - Defended title insurers, escrow holders, and other real estate service providers in seven putative class actions filed throughout California alleging various state law claims in connection with an alleged kickback scheme involving sublicense fees for management software. In arbitration of individual claims of class representatives of one action, successfully obtained defense arbitration award and attorney fee award against individual plaintiffs in excess of \$1.185 million.
- *Cornelius v. Fidelity National Title Co.*, U.S. District Court, W.D. Wash. Case No. 2:08-cv-00754
  - Defended escrow holder against claims by plaintiff consumers who sought to recover in excess of \$5 million for reconveyance fees collected by the escrow holder. Obtained dismissal of some claims and summary judgment of remaining claims, including a RESPA claim.
- *Donald Webster v. Freedom Debt Relief*, U.S. District Court, N.D. Ohio Case No. 1:10-cv-01587
  - Defended debt resolution company in putative class action claims by consumers regarding debt resolution practices. Successfully moved to compel arbitration and obtained arbitration award that claims could not be arbitrated on a class-wide basis. When plaintiffs engaged in forum shopping by filing an action in the Southern District of Ohio to vacate the arbitration award, successfully transferred the action back to the Northern District where the court denied the petition to vacate the award.
- *Stakelum v. Zoom Tan*, U.S. District Court, M.D. Fla., Case No. 6:12-CV-1120 and *Rutherford v. Zoom Tan*, U.S. District Court, M.D. Fla. Case No. 2:12-CV-00509
  - Defended tanning salon in two putative class actions by consumers alleging violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act for alleged transmission of text advertisements. Cases settled favorably as individual claims and no classes were ever certified.
- *Fielder v. Penn Station, Inc. and Heartland Payment Systems, Inc.*, U.S. District Court, N.D. Ohio Case No. 1:12-CV-02166
  - Defended credit card processor in a putative class action by consumers alleging damages caused by a data breach. The case settled favorably as an individual claim and no class was ever certified.

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Ohio, 1994
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of

Ohio, Eastern District of Michigan; U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Sixth, Third and Ninth Circuits.

#### EDUCATION

- Northwestern University School of Law, J.D., 1994
- Cornell University, A.B., distinction in all subjects, 1991

#### AWARDS & HONORS

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation, 2020-26; Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Defendants, 2026
- AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell
- Notable Women in Law, Crain’s Cleveland Business, 2018
- Ohio Super Lawyers®, General Litigation, 2011-20
- Women of Note 2017 Honoree, Crain’s Cleveland Business
- Ohio Rising Stars, Ohio Super Lawyers®, 2005-07

#### MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association, Litigation Leadership Section, 2003-2016
- American Bar Association, Forum on Franchising, Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Andrews Osborne Academy, Board of Trustees, 2017-present
- American Bar Association Judicial Intern Opportunity Program, Volunteer
- National Association of Women Business Owners, Former Corporate Partner Representative
- Cornell Club of Northeastern Ohio, Board Member, 2004-10
- Summer on the Cuyahoga, Board Member, 2005-09
- Arthritis Foundation of Cleveland, Former Advisory Board Member, 2000-01

#### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Partner, Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, 2003-present; Board of Directors, 2006-present; Chair, Recruiting Committee, 2004-06; Associate, 1994-2002; Summer Associate, 1993
- Summer Associate, Thompson, Hine & Flory, 1992