

As Seen In... Forbes, March 15, 2010

Charlston, Revich & Wollitz LLP

When government regulators demanded that Union Oil Company of California (Unocal) clean up alleged environmental hazards, Unocal sued its insurance carriers to compel the carriers to pay for the costs of the cleanup. With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, several key insurance companies turned to the Los Angeles law firm of Charlston, Revich & Wollitz LLP (CRW) for help.

"The language of the policy was in dispute, and a tentative court ruling had been entered in favor of Unocal," says partner Ira Revich. "While we could have continued to litigate, we seized upon an opportunity to negotiate a very favorable settlement that resolved the existing and future claims for a fraction of their face value."

Exit strategies are ordinarily associated with business partnerships, not insurance policies. But when it comes to defending major insurance claims, the ability to negotiate a timely favorable settlement is as valuable as winning at trial. CRW specializes in developing creative strategies that enable insurance companies to exit from high-exposure litigation and resolve disputes with their policyholders and other insurers in a cost-effective manner.



From left: Partners Howard Wollitz, Ira Revich, Jeffrey Charlston, Tim Harris

"The most important thing is experience," Revich says. "When the other law firm recognizes your reputation, ordinarily they will listen and think twice before suing. However, we are very aggressive if a matter proceeds in litigation and goes to trial."

Revich and his partners are the lawyers a number of insurance companies hire to protect their interests, or the interests of their insureds, in a wide range of high-exposure matters. Revich specializes in environmental, asbestos and other mass tort insurance coverage litigation. Jeffrey Charlston focuses on professional liability, director and officer liability, and general liability insurance matters. Howard Wollitz specializes in commercial, construction defect, bad faith defense and specialized liability coverage issues. Tim Harris specializes in the defense of employment and high-exposure bodily injury claims.

Whether through negotiation or litigation, CRW is adept at taking on

the toughest adversaries and achieving favorable outcomes in matters involving some of the largest exposures faced by its clients. For example, CRW represents a major insurance company in the highly publicized Corning bankruptcy and insurance coverage asbestos cases that involve billions of dollars in potential losses. Another example is a recently tried toxic tort case in which CRW attorneys prevailed on behalf of a pesticide company whose products were alleged to be responsible for a child's autism.

CRW's lawyers combine big-firm experience with the

"We are experts at handling high-risk exposures and resolving them as quickly and economically as possible."

— Ira Revich, Managing Partner

efficiency of a boutique law firm that focuses exclusively on insurance-related matters. Its clients include a number of the nation's most prestigious insurance companies, for which it provides advice throughout the United States. Some of CRW's cases have established legal precedent in California and in other states.

"Our clients turn to us for one principal reason — we are experts in handling high-risk exposures and resolving them as quickly and economically as possible," Revich says.

Practice Areas

- Bad Faith Litigation
- Business & Commercial Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- Environmental & Toxic Tort
- General Insurance Defense Litigation
- Insurance Coverage/ Reinsurance
- Professional Liability

Charlston, Revich & Wollitz LLP

1925 Century Park East, Suite 1250 | Los Angeles, CA 90067-2746
310.551.7020 | www.crwllp.com