

2015's TOP 100 Lawyers in California

LITIGATION

STEPHEN C. NEAL

COOLEY LLP | SAN DIEGO | TRIALS

Riding a wave of victories that includes winning a client exclusive ownership over a groundbreaking treatment for Hepatitis C, Neal recently resolved a high-profile securities class action for Hewlett-Packard Co. CEO Meg Whitman.

Resulting in a court-approved final deal this summer, Neal aided in hammering out the \$100 million settlement that will dismiss allegations brought against HP and several of its executives stemming from the company's \$11.1 billion acquisition of British software firm Autonomy Corp. HP later took an \$8.8 billion write-down on the deal, accusing Autonomy of improperly reporting hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue before the purchase.

As part of the settlement, HP executives and board members would be released from any securities claims tied to Autonomy.

"My view is that Meg throughout this thing performed in an exemplary way. It allowed her to concentrate on what she does best, which is running the business," Neal said.

Neal, a Stanford Law School graduate, has worked in more than two dozen areas of law, aiding tech giants, pharmaceutical companies and the automotive industry. Over the

course of his career, Neal has acted as lead trial counsel on more than 45 jury and non-jury cases and argued more than 20 appeals in courts around the country. He's currently chairman of Cooley.

Last year, Neal helped Gilead Sciences Inc. when the company became embroiled in arbitration with F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, another pharmaceutical company, over ownership of a key ingredient in a drug that helps treat Hepatitis C.

With Neal acting as a lead trial attorney, an arbitration panel found that Hoffmann-La Roche failed to establish any ownership claims over the ingredient sofosbuvir. As a result, Gilead expects the deal will help the company generate more than \$10 billion in sales per year for the new treatment.

"We had a great team from Cooley and a great team from Gilead too," Neal said. "We won everything. They ruled our way on all the key issues. It really was a winner-takes-all situation."

Also this year, Neal resolved a trade secrets case brought by the Department of Justice against Kolon Industries Inc., ending six years of criminal and civil litigation. Neal's resolution involved Kolon pleading guilty to criminal charges and paying \$360 million in



criminal fines and restitution after the DOJ alleged Kolon Industries conspired with former DuPont employees to steal trade secrets involving Kevlar bulletproof vests.

>> Ryan Velzer