



## MARK QUIGLEY

PARTNER

GREENE BROILLET & WHEELER, LLP

EMAIL: MQUIGLEY@GBW.LAW

PHONE NUMBER: 866-224-7865

FAX NUMBER: 866-224-7865

**PIONEER SPIRIT** Mark Quigley began his career as a paralegal at a large defense firm in Los Angeles. "I didn't enjoy it, but I stuck it out." Then Quigley was hired as a paralegal by an aviation plaintiffs' lawyer, Ned Good. "He was looking for someone with a background in photography, which I had. I changed firms and did nothing but plaintiffs' work. Then I went to law school." When Good moved his practice, Quigley moved laterally to his current firm. "I feel like I'm doing some good, and I get some self-satisfaction from my work. I never want to go back."

**TRAILS BLAZED** Quigley has been practicing employment law since the late 1980s. "It was an up-and-coming area of law in California. There were a lot of corporate cutbacks and layoffs in Southern California, which led to a lot of lawsuits. The law was evolving, and I have seen significant changes in the law since then." Quigley also focuses on the area of insurance bad faith, and he has recovered tens of millions of dollars in damages from insurance companies on behalf of his clients.

Quigley also does whistleblower cases, including representing Dr. Robert Pedowitz of the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. "Before he started, he saw a Wall Street Journal article about the U.S. Senate and kickbacks from pharmaceutical companies. UCLA was under the microscope and one particular surgeon was under investigation. Dr. Pedowitz dug in to find out what was going on, despite resistance from the legal and compliance departments. He found a number of documents about his staff receiving big money from medical device companies. Dr. Pedowitz told everyone who worked for him they had to stop and disclose their activities. And the surgeons revolted. They concocted a story that got him fired as the department chair. And we sued the Regents of the University of California on his behalf. Ultimately, we tried the case, proved that the story was concocted, Dr. Pedowitz was right, and the jury was going to clobber them. So the Regents paid him \$10 million and issued a written apology." As a result of that case, Quigley has received phone calls from more physicians who have been retaliated against. "I represent doctors who have cases against major hospitals because they blew the whistle on illegal or fraudulent business practices that affect patient safety. That's been my niche for nearly a decade."

Quigley also served as co-lead counsel for Micki Jafa-Bodden in a whistleblower case over sexual harassment/retaliation and wrongful termination against celebrity yoga guru Bikram Choudhury. Jafa-Bodden worked as head of legal and international affairs at Choudhury's Los Angeles headquarters from 2011 to 2013, when she was abruptly fired. "Choudhury was a scoundrel all the way. He harassed, fired and threatened to kill her. We tried that case to a jury and received a verdict of about \$1 million plus seven times that in punitive damages. We currently have a lot of Choudhury's assets and are working with the U.S. trustee to take over control of his assets worldwide."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** Current trends will continue. "Despite the work I and others in this business do, getting big verdicts and settlements does not seem to stop the illegal conduct in the medical profession. There are doctors like Dr. Pedowitz and some others who see bad medicine and stand up against these big-time institutions that receive a lot of outside money. Institutions have to decide whether they will support the physician who blew the whistle and lose all their funding. So they do the wrong thing and hammer the whistleblower, just so that money can keep flowing in the door. It blows my mind that there is no protection and whistleblowers have their careers destroyed. I want to keep fighting for them, because even when they win, no one wants to hire a whistleblower. Their careers are shattered. It's my job to make them as whole as possible, so they can go on and do other things for the remainder of their careers."

866-224-7865

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## GREENE BROILLET & WHEELER, LLP



### Proudly Congratulates Geoffrey Wells and Mark Quigley Named NLJ's 2018 Plaintiffs' Lawyers Trailblazers

#### Exposing Dangerous Conditions

Geoffrey Wells obtained a substantial verdict on behalf of a child who suffered a traumatic brain injury after a car struck her while she tried to cross the street in order to board her school bus. The verdict exposed how the bus company violated its own safety policies and procedures for failing to report and prevent mid-street crossings.

#### Fighting for Workers Rights

Mark Quigley secured a significant jury verdict against the celebrity founder of "Hot Yoga" in a trial involving sexual harassment, retaliation and the wrongful termination of a female employee. The jury also made a unanimous finding of malice, oppression and fraud by returning a punitive damages award to punish the defendant for his despicable conduct.

#### A Plaintiff's Firm

GB&W is a dynamic team of highly skilled, hard-hitting trial lawyers who are undeterred by challenges and are dedicated to every case we take. Our firm has devoted more than 40 years to representing people injured by the negligent, reckless or intentional acts of individuals, companies and public entities.

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www.gbwlaw / t: 310 576 1200 / 866 576 1200 / f: 310 576 1220  
100 Wilshire Blvd., 21st floor P.O. Box 2131 / Santa Monica, CA 90407-2131