

Daily Journal

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TOP 40 UNDER 40

California's leading lawyers of 2017

Perlette M. Jura

Over the past dozen years, Jura has helped develop and launch Gibson Dunn's Transnational Litigation and the Aerospace and Related Technologies groups.

"Transnational litigation is a relatively new area of the law, emerging from our increasing global interconnectedness," she said. "These tend to involve issues of fundamental fairness as we help our clients navigate our new global community without a road map."

In March, Jura was among the lead attorneys who helped obtain a dismissal on extraterritoriality grounds of transnational supply chain claims against Nestle USA for alleged human trafficking and forced labor on cocoa farms on the Ivory Coast.

Using the Alien Tort Statute, the plaintiffs sought to hold Nestle liable for alleged crimes committed overseas by unidentified foreigners working on local farms who sold some of their product into Nestle's supply chain. The court also rejected the plaintiffs' effort to use allegations about lobbying and corporate social responsibility programs as evidence of wrongdoing. *Doe v. Nestle USA*, 05-cv-05133 (C.D. Cal., filed July 14, 2005). Jura noted that Gibson Dunn was retained in 2016 after the case was sent back to the trial court by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

For client Yahoo Inc., she helped secure dismissal of the plaintiffs' complaint in a \$2.75 billion Racketeer Influenced and



Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Los Angeles

Practice: Transnational litigation

Age: 37

Corrupt Organization Act claim against the company and its Mexican affiliate.

With law partners Theodore J. Boutrous Jr. and Scott A. Edelman, Jura persuaded U.S. District Judge Alison J. Nathan of New York to reject claims based on alleged conduct in an underlying Mexican lawsuit.

The plaintiffs alleged that Yahoo's Mexican trial attorneys at Baker McKenzie

colluded with Yahoo to improperly influence a Mexican trial court judge and then bribed an appeals court to reverse a massive judgment over breach of contract claims related to a phone directories production deal.

"The district court found that plaintiffs did not plausibly allege any wrongful conduct on the part of Yahoo or Yahoo Mexico," Jura said. "And the court found that the RICO claims failed because the plaintiffs had not satisfied other RICO pleading requirements." The judge also dismissed claims against Baker McKenzie. *Worldwide Directories SA de CV v. Yahoo Inc.*, 1:14-cv-07349 (S.D. N.Y., filed Sept. 10, 2014).

Jura also prevailed for client Philip Morris USA on claims by Argentine tobacco farmers that their children suffered from birth defects stemming from exposure to the herbicide Roundup.

Nearly 400 plaintiffs sought compensatory and punitive damages in the mass tort suit against Philip Morris, Global Brands Inc. and Monsanto Co. Jura said she persuaded a Delaware Superior Court judge that her client would suffer "overwhelming hardship" if forced to defend in Delaware alleged wrongs that occurred in Argentina.

"It would really have amounted to a due process violation," she said. *Hupan v. Alliance One International et al.*, N12C-02-171 (New Castle Super. Ct. (Del.), filed Feb. 14, 2012). The plaintiffs have appealed the September 2016 dismissal to the Delaware Supreme Court.

— John Roemer