

2015's **TOP 100** Lawyers in California

LITIGATION

MARK P. ROBINSON, JR.

ROBINSON CALCAGNIE ROBINSON SHAPIRO DAVIS, INC. | NEWPORT BEACH | PRODUCTS LIABILITY

Robinson keeps pushing forward on a case with Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckus against several drug companies over marketing for addictive opioids like oxycontin for chronic pain rather than short-term use.

"We're claiming that they actually used outside groups and key opinion leaders to market the drug for purposes that really were not authorized in the label," said Robinson.

But first he has to overcome 11 motions to dismiss, mostly an assortment of demurrers. *People v. Purdue Pharma L.P.*, 2014-00725287 (O.C. Super. Ct., filed May 21, 2014) That took coordinated work between Robinson's firm, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP, and district attorney's offices in Santa Clara and Orange counties throughout the Easter weekend this year.

"I'm just trying to get into court right now," Robinson said.

Meanwhile, the veteran trial lawyer is serving on the executive committee for litigation against General Motors Co. over its ignition systems allegedly killing power to cars, including to airbags.

"We're currently in the discovery phase, taking a lot of depositions," Robinson said. "In addition to being involved in multidistrict litigation based in federal court in New York City, I'm in litigation on behalf of the state of California against General Motors in a case filed here in Orange County." *People v. General Motors LLC*, 2014-00731038 (O.C. Super. Ct., filed June 27, 2014)

For Robinson, lawyering is the family business. His son and daughter work with him at his firm, and his father was a Los Angeles trial lawyer and defense attorney. Like his father, Robinson got his start working for insurance companies.

"Back when I was doing defense work for insurance companies, I thought I was doing well at it," Robinson said. "But there was something missing, for me. When I started representing individuals, persons who were hurt or died at the hands of somebody else, it changed my focus and I've never looked back."

After transitioning to injury and product liability work, Robinson famously won a record-setting \$128 million settlement in 1978 over injuries from exploding gas tanks in Ford Pintos.

>> Gautham Thomas

