

# Daily Journal

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

## TOP 40 UNDER FORTY 2024



LATHAM & WATKINS  
LOS ANGELES • AGE 39

### Michael J. Reiss

with a team of colleagues to achieve an excellent result for clients sounded like the perfect opportunity for me."

One of Reiss' notable achievements includes representing the San Diego Padres in a high-stakes arbitration against RSNCO, a non-debtor subsidiary of the bankrupt Diamond Sports Group. When RSNCO failed to honor its contractual obligations, Reiss and his team swiftly initiated arbitration to protect the remaining assets.

Their efforts resulted in an agreement that secured an eight-figure up-front payment and additional significant follow-on payments for the Padres, ensuring the majority of RSNCO's assets were allocated to the team. This allowed the Padres to transition their games smoothly to the MLB Network. *In re: Diamond Sports Group, LLC, et al.*, 23-90116, (Bankr. S.D. Tex., filed March 14, 2023).

"Pushing for and achieving an early resolution was therefore critical to achieving a successful result. However, reaching an agreement in principle on the Padres' recovery was only the first step, as the Padres also needed to disentangle itself from its broadcast partner and resolve the claims of other creditors of RSNCO," Reiss said. "This required a Latham team to understand the intricacies of the Padres' corporate structure and negotiate deals on multiple fronts, ultimately culminating in a 9019 motion to the bankruptcy court for approval of a complex deal."

Another highlight of Reiss' career was his representation of Peloton in a patent infringement suit. He helped lead a team that won the case just two months before jury selection. During fact discovery, they uncovered that the plaintiff had failed to disclose its claims against Peloton in a prior bankruptcy case. *Mad Dogg Athletics, Inc. v. Peloton Inter-active, Inc.*, 2:20cv00382 (E.D. Tx., filed Dec. 14, 2020).

Leveraging this discovery, Reiss moved for summary judgment, seeking to bar the plaintiff from any possible recovery under the doctrine of judicial estoppel and forcing the plaintiff to reopen its prior bankruptcy case.

In ongoing matters for PG&E related to the 2017 and 2018 Northern California wildfires, Reiss said his team is at the forefront of devising defenses for the recent wave of "event-driven" securities litigation, where natural disasters, accidents and mass tort events are now giving rise to shareholder lawsuits across the country.

"This work is especially groundbreaking because the securities claims are being pursued in bankruptcy court against PG&E, which was a solvent debtor, and separately against PG&E's former directors, officers and underwriters in district court," he said. "Nearly 9,000 claims were asserted in the bankruptcy case and approximately 8,400 of those claims have now been resolved. The district court case remains ongoing."

**M**ichael Reiss is a commercial litigator with 14 years of experience under his belt and a focus on intellectual property, trademark, sports litigation, securities, bankruptcy litigation and business disputes..

"First, I always enjoyed simplifying complex ideas or facts for any audience and finding a way to be concise and persuasive in that presentation," he said. "Second, teamwork and competition were a big part of my upbringing and self-identity, so the prospect of litigating