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FOCUS AREAS

Securities Fraud

EDUCATION

Arizona State University
B.A. 2014, summa cum laude

Temple University Beasley School of Law
J.D. 2017, cum laude

ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
USDC, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Evan Hoey, an associate of the Firm, focuses his practice in securities litigation.

Current Cases

- First Republic Bank

**CASE
CAPTION**

*In re Alecta
Tjänstepension
Ömsesidigt, et
al. v. Herbert, et
al.*

COURT

United States
District Court
for the
Northern
District of
California

**CASE
NUMBER**

3:23-cv-02940-
AMO

JUDGE

Honorable
Araceli
Martínez-
Olguín

PLAINTIFF

Alecta
Tjänstepension

Ömsesidigt;
Neil Fairman

James Herbert
II; Hafize
Erkan; Michael
Roffler; Olga

DEFENDANTS Tsokova;
Michael
Selfridge; Neal
Holland; and
KPMG LLP

**CLASS
PERIOD** October 21,
2021 to April
28, 2023,
inclusive

This securities fraud class action arises out of misrepresentations and omissions made by former executives of First Republic Bank (“FRB” or the “Bank”) and FRB’s auditor, KPMG LLP, about significant risks faced by FRB that led to its dramatic collapse in May 2023, the second largest bank collapse in U.S. history.

FRB was a California-based bank that catered to high-net worth individuals and businesses in coastal U.S. cities. Leading into and during the Class Period, FRB rapidly grew in size: in 2021 alone, FRB grew total deposits by 36% and total assets by 27%. In 2022, FRB grew by another 17%, exceeding \$200 billion in total assets. During this period, Defendants assured investors that the Bank’s deposits were well-diversified and stable. Defendants also assured investors that they were actively and effectively mitigating the Bank’s liquidity and interest rate risks.

The Complaint alleges that Defendants failed to disclose material risks associated with the Bank’s deposit base and with respect to Defendants’ management of liquidity and interest rate risk. In contrast to Defendants’ representations regarding the safety and stability of FRB, the Complaint alleges that Defendants relied on undisclosed sales practices to inflate the Bank’s deposit and loan growth, including, for example, by offering abnormally low interest rates on long-duration, fixed-rate mortgages in exchange for clients making checking deposits. And contrary to Defendants’ representations that they actively and responsibly managed the Bank’s interest rate risk, the Complaint details how Defendants continually violated the Bank’s interest rate risk management policies by concentrating the Bank’s assets in long-duration, fixed rate mortgages. In 2022, when the Federal Reserve began rapidly raising interest rates, the Bank’s low-interest, long-duration loans began to decline in value, creating a mismatch between the Bank’s assets and liabilities. Internally, FRB’s interest rate models showed

severe breaches of the Bank’s risk limits in higher rate scenarios, and Defendants discussed potential corrective actions at risk management meetings. However, Defendants took no corrective action, continued to mislead investors about the Bank’s interest rate risk, and only amplified the Bank’s risk profile by deepening the Bank’s concentration in long-duration loans.

On October 14, 2022, investors began to learn the truth when FRB announced financial results for the third quarter of 2022, which showed that rising interest rates had begun to impact the Bank’s key financial metrics and that the Bank had lost \$8 billion in checking deposits. Despite these trends, Defendants continued to reassure investors that Bank’s deposits were well-diversified and stable, that FRB had ample liquidity, and that rising interest rates would not limit the growth in FRB’s residential mortgage loan business. In FRB’s 2022 annual report (released in February 2023, and audited by KPMG), Defendants further claimed that, despite the Bank’s increasing interest rate risks, the Bank possessed the ability to hold its concentrated portfolio of long-duration loans and securities to maturity. The undisclosed risks materialized further on March 10, 2023, when peer bank Silicon Valley Bank failed and FRB experienced massive deposit withdrawals of up to \$65 billion over two business days, constituting over 40% of the Bank’s total deposits. Defendants did not reveal these catastrophic deposit outflows to the market and instead reassured investors regarding the Bank’s liquidity position. In the ensuing weeks, FRB’s financial position unraveled further, resulting in multiple downgrades by rating agencies, and additional disclosures regarding the magnitude of FRB’s deposit outflows and the Bank’s worsening liquidity position. On May 1, 2023, FRB was seized by regulators and placed into receivership. These disclosures virtually eliminated the value of FRB’s common stock and preferred stock.

On February 13, 2024, Plaintiffs filed a 203-page complaint on behalf of a putative class of investors who purchased FRB common stock and preferred stock, alleging violations of Sections 10(b), 20(a), and 20A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The parties are currently engaged in briefing on Defendants’ motions to dismiss.

- General Electric Company

CASE CAPTION	<i>Sjunde AP-Fonden, et al., v. General Electric Company, et al.</i>
COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
CASE NUMBER	1:17-cv-08457-JMF
JUDGE	Honorable Jesse M. Furman

PLAINTIFFS

Sjunde AP-Fonden and The
Cleveland Bakers and
Teamsters Pension Fund

DEFENDANTS

General Electric Company
and Jeffrey S. Bornstein

CLASS PERIOD

March 2, 2015 through
January 23, 2018, inclusive

This securities fraud class action case arises out of alleged misrepresentations made by General Electric ("GE") and its former Chief Financial Officer, Jeffrey S. Bornstein (together, "Defendants"), regarding the use of factoring to conceal cash flow problems that existed within GE Power between March 2, 2015, and January 24, 2018 (the "Class Period").

GE Power is the largest business in GE's Industrials operating segment. The segment constructs and sells power plants, generators, and turbines, and also services such assets through long term service agreements ("LTSAs"). In the years leading up to the Class Period, as global demand for traditional power waned, so too did GE's sales of gas turbines and its customer's utilization of existing GE-serviced equipment. These declines drove down GE Power's earnings under its LTSAs associated with that equipment. This was because GE could only collect cash from customers when certain utilization levels were achieved or upon some occurrence within the LTSA, such as significant service work.

Plaintiffs allege that in an attempt to make up for these lost earnings, GE modified existing LTSAs to increase its profit margin and then utilized an accounting technique known as a "cumulative catch-up adjustment" to book immediate profits based on that higher margin. In most instances, GE recorded those cumulative catch-up earnings on its income statement long before it could actually invoice customers and collect cash under those agreements. This contributed to a growing gap between GE's recorded non-cash revenues (or "Contract Assets") and its industrial cash flows from operating activities ("Industrial CFOA").

In order to conceal this increasing disparity, Plaintiffs allege that GE increased its reliance on long-term receivables factoring (i.e., selling future receivables to GE Capital, GE's financing arm, or third parties for immediate cash). Through long-term factoring, GE pulled forward future cash flows, which it then reported as cash from operating activities ("CFOA"). GE relied on long-term factoring to generate CFOA needed to reach publicly disclosed cash flow targets. Thus, in stark contrast to the true state of affairs within GE Power—and in violation of Item 303 of Regulation S-K—GE's Class

Period financial statements did not disclose material facts regarding GE’s factoring practices, the true extent of the cash flow problems that GE was attempting to conceal through receivables factoring, or the risks associated with GE’s reliance on factoring. Eventually, however, GE could no longer rely on this unsustainable practice to conceal its weak Industrial cash flows. As the truth was gradually revealed to investors—in the form of, among other things, disclosures of poor Industrial cash flows and massive reductions in Industrial CFOA guidance—GE’s stock price plummeted, causing substantial harm to Plaintiffs and the Class. In January 2021, the Court sustained Plaintiffs’ claims based on allegations that GE failed to disclose material facts relating its practice of and reliance on factoring, in violation of Item 303, and affirmatively misled investors about the purpose of GE’s factoring practices. In April 2022, following the completion of fact discovery, the Court granted Plaintiffs’ motion for class certification, certifying a Class of investors who purchased or otherwise acquired GE common stock between February 29, 2016 and January 23, 2018. In that same order, the Court granted Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to amend their complaint to pursue claims based on an additional false statement made by Defendant Bornstein. The Court had previously dismissed these claims but, upon reviewing Plaintiffs’ motion—based on evidence obtained through discovery—permitted the claim to proceed. On September 28, 2023, the Court entered an order denying Defendants’ motion for summary judgment, sending Plaintiffs’ claims to trial. In March 2024, the Court denied Defendants’ motion for reconsideration of its summary judgment decision. Trial is set to begin in November 2024.

[Read Fifth Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint Here](#)
[Read Opinion and Order Granting and Denying in Part Motion to Dismiss Here](#)
[Read Order Granting Motion for Class Certification and for Leave to Amend Here](#)
[Click Here to Read the Class Notice](#)
[Read Opinion and Order Here \(9/28/23\)](#)
[Read Memorandum Opinion & Order Here \(3/21/24\)](#)

- Lucid Group, Inc.

CASE CAPTION	<i>In re Lucid Group, Inc. Sec. Litig.</i>
COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
CASE NUMBER	3:22-cv-02094-JD
JUDGE	Honorable James Donato

PLAINTIFF

Sjunde AP-Fonden ("AP7")

DEFENDANTS

Lucid Group, Inc., Peter Rawlinson, and Sherry House

CLASS PERIOD

November 15, 2021 to August 3, 2022, inclusive

Defendant Lucid designs, produces, and sells luxury EVs. This securities fraud class action arises out of Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions regarding Lucid's production of its only commercially-available electronic vehicle ("EV"), the Lucid Air, and the factors impacting that production.

To start the Class Period, on November 15, 2021, Defendants told investors that Lucid would produce 20,000 Lucid Airs in 2022. This was false, and Defendants knew it. According to numerous former Lucid employees, Defendants already knew then that Lucid would produce less than 10,000 units in 2022, and admitted this fact during internal meetings preceding the Class Period. They also knew why Lucid could not meet this production target—the Company was suffering from its own unique and severe problems that were stalling production of the Lucid Air, including internal logistics issues, design flaws, and the key drivers of parts shortages. These problems had not only prevented, but continued to prevent Lucid from ramping up production of the Lucid Air. Despite the actual state of affairs at Lucid, on November 15, 2021, and at all times thereafter during the Class Period, Defendants concealed these severe, internal, Company-specific problems. At every turn, when asked about the pace of production, or to explain the factors causing Lucid's production delays, Defendants blamed the Company's woes on the purported impact of external, industrywide supply chain problems and repeatedly assured investors that the Company was "mitigating" that global impact. These misrepresentations left investors with a materially false and misleading impression about Lucid's actual production and internal ability and readiness to mass produce its vehicles. Against that backdrop, Defendants then lied, time and again, about the number of vehicles Lucid would produce. Even when, in February 2022, Defendants announced a reduced production target of 12,000 to 14,000 units, they continued to point to purported industry-wide supply chain problems and once more assured the market that the Company was thriving in spite of such issues. When the truth regarding Lucid's false claims about its production and the factors impacting that production finally emerged, Lucid's stock price cratered, causing massive losses for investors.

On December 13, 2022, Plaintiffs filed a 138-page consolidated complaint on behalf of a putative class of investors alleging that Defendants Lucid, Rawlinson, and House violated 10(b) and 20(a) of

the Securities Exchange Act. On February 23, 2023, Defendants filed a motion to dismiss. Briefing on that motion was completed in June 2023, and the Court heard oral argument in August 2023. The motion remains pending.

- Natera, Inc.

CASE CAPTION

John Harvey Schneider, et al. v. Natera, Inc., et al.

COURT

United States District Court
for the Western District of
Texas

CASE NUMBER

1:22-cv-00398-LY

JUDGE

Honorable Lee Yeakel

PLAINTIFFS

British Airways Pension
Trustees Limited ("BAPTL")
and Key West Police & Fire
Pension Fund ("Key West
P&F")

DEFENDANTS

Natera, Inc., Steve Chapman,
Michael Brophy, Matthew
Rabinowitz, Paul R. Billings,
Roy Baynes, Monica
Bertagnolli, Roelof F. Botha,
Rowan Chapman, Todd
Cozzens, James I. Healy, Gail
Marcus, Herm Rosenman,
Jonathan Sheena, Morgan
Stanley & Co. LLC, Goldman
Sachs & Co. LLC, Cowen and
Company, LLC, SVB Leerink
LLC, Robert W. Baird & Co.
Inc., BTIG, LLC, and Craig-
Hallum Capital Group LLC

CLASS PERIOD

February 26, 2020 to March
14, 2022, inclusive

This securities fraud class action arises out of Natera's representations and omissions about the purported "superiority" of its kidney transplant rejection test, Prospera, compared to a competitor's product, AlloSure, and the revenues and demand associated with the Company's flagship non-invasive prenatal screening test, Panorama. During the Class Period, Defendants touted Prospera's superiority over AlloSure based on what they represented as a head-to-head comparison of underlying study

data. However, internal Natera emails revealed that Natera recognized that the comparisons were unsupported and misleading. Further, Defendants consistently highlighted the impressive revenue performance and seemingly organic demand for Panorama. However, the market was unaware that Natera employed several deceptive billing and sales practices that inflated these metrics. Meanwhile, Defendants, CEO Steve Chapman, CFO Matthew Brophy, and co-founder and Executive Chairman of the Board, Matthew Rabinowitz, sold more than \$137 million worth of Natera common stock during the Class Period. Natera also cashed in, conducting two secondary public offerings, selling investors over \$800 million of Natera common stock during the Class Period. The truth regarding Prospera's false claims of superiority and the Company's deceptive billing and sales practices was disclosed to the public through disclosures on March 9, 2022, and March 14, 2022. Natera's stock price fell significantly in response to each corrective disclosure, causing massive losses for investors. On October 7, 2022, Plaintiffs filed an 89-page amended complaint on behalf of a putative class of investors alleging that Natera, Chapman, Brophy, Rabinowitz, and former Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs, Paul R. Billings, violated Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act. Plaintiffs also allege that Defendants Chapman, Brophy, and Rabinowitz violated Section 20A of the Exchange Act by selling personally held shares of Natera common stock, while aware of material nonpublic information concerning Prospera and Panorama. In addition, Plaintiffs claim that Defendants Chapman, Brophy, Rabinowitz, several Natera directors, and the underwriters associated with Natera's July 2021 secondary public offering violated Sections 11, 12(a)(2), and 15 of the Securities Act. On December 16, 2022, Defendants filed motions to the complaint, which Plaintiffs opposed on February 17, 2023. On September 11, 2023, the Court entered an Order granting in part and denying in part Defendants' motions to dismiss the complaint. In the Order, the Court sustained all claims arising under Sections 10(b), 20(a), and 20(A) of the Exchange Act based on the complaint's Panorama allegations. The Court also sustained Plaintiffs' Securities Act claims based on the Panorama fraud that arose from Defendants' disclosure violations under two SEC regulations (Item 105 and Item 303), both of which required the provision of certain material facts in the Company's offering materials. The case is now in fact discovery.

[Read Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint Here](#)

- Perrigo Co. plc

CASE CAPTION

*Carmignac Gestion, S.A. v.
Perrigo Co. plc, et al.; First
Manhattan Co. v. Perrigo Co.
plc, et al.; Nationwide Mutual*

Funds, on behalf of its series Nationwide Geneva Mid Cap Growth and Nationwide S&P 500 Index Fund, et al. v. Perrigo Co. plc, et al.; Aberdeen Canada Funds – Global Equity Fund, a series of Aberdeen Canada Funds, et al. v. Perrigo Co. plc, et al.; Schwab Capital Trust on behalf of its series Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund, Schwab Total Stock Market Index Fund, Schwab Fundamental U.S. Large Company Index Fund, and Schwab Health Care Fund, et al. v. Perrigo Co. plc, et al.; Principal Funds, Inc., et al. v. Perrigo Co. plc, et al.; and Kuwait Investment Authority, et al. v. Perrigo Co. plc, et al.

COURT

United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

CASE NUMBER

No. 2:17-cv-10467-MCA-LDW;
No. 2:18-cv-02291-MCA-LDW;
No. 2:18-cv-15382-MCA-LDW;
No. 2:19-cv-06560-MCA-LDW;
No. 2:19-cv-03973-MCA-LDW;
No. 2:20-cv-02410-MCA-LDW;
No. 2:20-cv-03431-MCA-LDW

JUDGE

Honorable Madeline Cox Arleo
and Honorable Leda Dunn
Wettre

PLAINTIFFS

Carmignac Gestion, S.A., First Manhattan Co., Schwab Capital Trust, *et al.*, Principal Funds, Inc., Kuwait Investment Authority, *et al.*, Nationwide Mutual Funds, *et al.*, and Aberdeen Canada Funds – Global Equity Fund, *et al.*

DEFENDANTS

Perrigo Company plc (“Perrigo”), Joseph C. Papa, and Judy L. Brown

CLASS PERIOD

April 21, 2015 through May 3,

2017, inclusive

These seven shareholder opt-out actions stem from drug maker Perrigo’s efforts to mislead investors to stave off a hostile takeover bid by pharmaceutical rival Mylan in 2015. The plaintiff investment funds allege that Perrigo and its senior officers misrepresented the true state of the company’s \$4.5 billion acquisition of Omega Pharma, an over-the-counter healthcare company based in Belgium, and fraudulently touted its ability to withstand pricing pressure from the influx of competing drugs in the generic drug markets.

In 2018, we filed the first of these actions in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey on behalf of institutional investors in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Kuwait. The Honorable Madeline Cox Arleo denied Defendants’ motions to dismiss the actions in 2019. The parties concluded discovery in November 2021 and are awaiting summary judgment motion practice.

[Read Charles Schwab v. Perrigo Amended Complaint Here](#)
[Read First Manhattan v. Perrigo Amended Complaint Here](#)
[Read First Manhattan v. Perrigo Motion to Dismiss Opinion Here](#)
[Read Kuwait v. Perrigo Complaint Here](#)
[Read Nationwide v. Perrigo Complaint Here](#)
[Read Nationwide v. Perrigo Motion to Dismiss Opinion Here](#)
[Read Principal v. Perrigo Complaint Here](#)
[Read Aberdeen v. Perrigo Complaint Here](#)
[Read Carmignac Gestion v. Perrigo Complaint Here](#)
[Read Carmignac Gestion v. Perrigo Motion to Dismiss Opinion Here](#)

- Rivian Automotive Inc.

CASE CAPTION	Charles Larry Crews, Jr., et al. v. Rivian Automotive Inc., et al.
COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California Western Division

**CASE
NUMBER** 2:22-cv-0524

JUDGE Honorable
Josephine L.
Staton

PLAINTIFFS Sjunde AP-
Fonden,
James
Stephen
Muhl

Rivian
Automotive,
Inc. ("Rivian"
or the
"Company"),
Robert J.
Scaringe,
Claire
McDonough,
Jeffrey R.
Baker, Karen
Boone,
Sanford
Schwartz,
Rose
Marcario,
Peter
Krawiec, Jay

DEFENDANTS Flatley,
Pamela
Thomas-
Graham,
Morgan
Stanley & Co.
LLC,
Goldman
Sachs & Co.,
LLC, J.P.
Morgan
Securities
LLC, Barclays
Capital Inc.,
Deutsche
Bank
Securities
Inc., Allen &
Company

LLC, BofA
Securities,
Inc., Mizuho
Securities
USA LLC,
Wells Fargo
Securities,
LLC, Nomura
Securities
International,
Inc., Piper
Sandler &
Co., RBC
Capital
Markets, LLC,
Robert W.
Baird & Co.
Inc.,
Wedbush
Securities
Inc.,
Academy
Securities,
Inc., Blaylock
Van, LLC,
Cabrera
Capital
Markets LLC,
C.L. King &
Associates,
Inc., Loop
Capital
Markets LLC,
Samuel A.
Ramirez &
Co., Inc.,
Siebert
Williams
Shank & Co.,
LLC, and
Tigress
Financial
Partners LLC.

**CLASS
PERIOD**

November
10, 2021
through
March 10,
2022,

inclusive

This securities fraud class action case arises out of Defendants' representations and omissions made in connection with Rivian's highly-anticipated initial public offering ("IPO") on November 10, 2021. Specifically, the Company's IPO offering documents failed to disclose material facts and risks to investors arising from the true cost of manufacturing the Company's electric vehicles, the R1T and R1S, and the planned price increase that was necessary to ensure the Company's long-term profitability. During the Class Period, Plaintiffs allege that certain defendants continued to mislead the market concerning the need for and timing of a price increase for the R1 vehicles. The truth concerning the state of affairs within the Company was gradually revealed to the public, first on March 1, 2022 through a significant price increase—and subsequent retraction on March 3, 2022—for existing and future preorders. And then on March 10, 2022, the full extent Rivian's long-term financial prospects was disclosed in connection with its Fiscal Year 2022 guidance. As alleged, following these revelations, Rivian's stock price fell precipitously, causing significant losses and damages to the Company's investors.

On July 22, 2022, Plaintiffs filed a Consolidated Class Action Complaint on behalf of a putative class of investors alleging that Rivian, and its CEO Robert J. Scaringe ("Scaringe"), CFO Claire McDonough ("McDonough"), and CAO Jeffrey R. Baker ("Baker") violated Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act. Plaintiffs also allege violations of Section 11, Section 12(a)(2), and Section 15 of the Securities Act against Rivian, Scaringe, McDonough, Baker, Rivian Director Karen Boone, Rivian Director Sanford Schwartz, Rivian Director Rose Marcario, Rivian Director Peter Krawiec, Rivian Director Jay Flatley, Rivian Director Pamela Thomas-Graham, and the Rivian IPO Underwriters. In August 2022, Defendants filed motions to dismiss, which the Court granted with leave to amend in February 2023. On March 16, 2023, Defendants filed motions to dismiss the amended complaint. In July 2023, the Court denied Defendants' motions to dismiss the amended complaint in its entirety. The case is now in fact discovery and the parties are engaged in briefing on Plaintiffs' motion for class certification.

[Read Consolidated Class Action Complaint Here](#)

[Read Amended Consolidated Class Action Complaint Here](#)

- Wells Fargo (SEB)

CASE CAPTION

*SEB Investment Management AB,
et al. v. Wells Fargo & Co., et al.*

COURT

United States District Court for
the Northern District of

	California
CASE NUMBER	3:22-cv-03811-TLT
JUDGE	Honorable Trina L. Thompson
PLAINTIFFS	SEB Investment Management AB; West Palm Beach Firefighters' Pension Fund
DEFENDANTS	Wells Fargo & Company, Charles W. Scharf, Kleber R. Santos, and Carly Sanchez
CLASS PERIOD	February 24, 2021 to June 9, 2022, inclusive

This securities fraud class action arises out of Wells Fargo's misrepresentations and omissions regarding its diversity hiring initiative, the Diverse Search Requirement. According to Wells Fargo, the Diverse Search Requirement mandated that for virtually all United States job openings at Wells Fargo that paid \$100,000 a year or more, at least half of the candidates interviewed for an open position had to be diverse (which included underrepresented racial or ethnic groups, women, veterans, LGBTQ individuals, and those with disabilities).

Throughout the Class Period, Defendants repeatedly lauded the Diverse Search Requirement to the market. In reality, however, Wells Fargo was conducting "fake" interviews of diverse candidates simply to allow the Company to claim compliance with the Diverse Search Requirement. Specifically, Wells Fargo was conducting interviews with diverse candidates for jobs where another candidate had already been selected. These fake interviews were widespread, occurring across many of Wells Fargo's business lines prior to and throughout the Class Period. When the relevant truth concealed by Defendants' false and misleading statements was revealed on June 9, 2022, the Company's stock price declined significantly, causing significant losses to investors.

On January 31, 2023, Plaintiffs filed a complaint on behalf of a putative class of investors alleging that Defendants Wells Fargo, Scharf, Santos, and Sanchez violated Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. In addition, the complaint alleged that Scharf, as CEO of Wells Fargo, violated Section 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Defendants filed a motion to dismiss on April 3, 2023, which the Court granted with leave to amend on August 18, 2023. On September 8, 2023, Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint. Defendants' moved to dismiss the amended complaint in October 2023. Briefing on that motion will be complete in January 2024.

[Read the Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal](#)

[Securities Laws Here](#)