



Angela C. Agrusa

Partner

**MANAGING PARTNER, LOS ANGELES OFFICE
CO-CHAIR, FOOD AND BEVERAGE SUBSECTOR
MEMBER OF DLA PIPER'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

angela.agrusa@dlapiper.com

Los Angeles (Century City)

T: +1 310 500 3591

F: +1 310 595 3361

Angela Agrusa is an experienced trial lawyer concentrating in reputational defense. She and her team have successfully defended corporations and celebrities against courtroom allegations in some of the most high-profile cases filed across the country.

Angela understands that reputational integrity is critical to a brand. As a trial attorney, she obtains winning verdicts and defeats cases in their nascent stages. In the last five years alone, she has successfully defended brand holders in over 50 putative class actions with combined potential exposure of more than US\$100 billion. She often works with clients to find administrative or legislative solutions in addressing multi party and class litigation.

- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations

- Media, Sport and Entertainment
- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail

- Leading the defense of Danone in first of its kind lawsuit attempting to hold big corporations, such as Danone, The Clorox Company, Proctor & Gamble, PepsiCo, and others, responsible for plastic pollution
- As lead counsel to WhiteWave Foods in multi-district class actions with over \$550 million of potential damages at stake, led in negotiating a settlement that preserved the client's ability to continue making its label claims
- As lead trial counsel for investors in a highly publicized lawsuit against the State of California over a \$2.3 billion sales contract entered into by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Angela negotiated a \$24 million settlement from the state after two months of trial
- As lead counsel to Hilton Hotels, winning the dismissal of two nationwide privacy actions filed in California seeking statutory penalties aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars
- As lead counsel to The Cosmopolitan Hotel of Las Vegas, settling a privacy class action filed in California with over \$2 billion in damages at stake, for \$14.5 million
- Defending NeuroBrands when the company was faced with investigation by the City of Los Angeles and City of Santa Monica, with over \$150 million in exposure for alleged false advertising, and arriving at a settlement that protected the popular brand's rights to bring new products to the marketplace and to advertise them

- Defending Exxon Corporation for 10 years as a principal trial lawyer in three antitrust crude oil pricing actions brought by the State of California and City of Long Beach, with over \$750 million in alleged damages at stake in each trial. The months-long trials resulted in defense verdicts for all three matters
- Lead counsel to Peter Frampton in a trademark infringement dispute brought against Billabong International which ended in a confidential monetary settlement for the rock star
- Lead California counsel to Corning, the shareholder of a large manufacturer of breast implants, in over 1,000 California actions, winning summary judgment that defeated direct liability claims and corporate liability allegations

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- California

Recognitions

Angela is rated one of California's top lawyers. *The Los Angeles Daily Journal* consistently names her among the "Top Women Lawyers" in California, and *Los Angeles Magazine* consistently ranks her as a "Top 100 Lawyer." In 2019, the *Los Angeles Business Journal* honored her as Los Angeles' Litigator of the Year.

- *The Legal 500 United States*
2019 - Recommended, Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action: Consumer Products (including Tobacco)
- *Los Angeles Business Journal*: Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Lawyers (2020)
- *The Recorder's* California Trailblazers (2019)
- *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Most Influential Women Attorneys (2018-2019)
- Century City Bar Association - Trial Lawyer of the Year (2019)
- *Los Angeles Business Journal* Top Litigators and Trial Lawyers (2018-2019)
- *Super Lawyers* - Top List Achievement (2017)
- *Los Angeles Daily Journal's* Top 100 Lawyers in California (2017)
- Top Entertainment Attorney, *Variety's* Legal Impact Report (2017)
- *Los Angeles Daily Journal's* Top Women Lawyers in California (2014-2018)
- *Southern California Super Lawyers* - Top 100 (2007-2018)
- *Southern California Super Lawyers* - Top 50 Woman (2007-2018)
- *Best of Los Angeles* Women's Business Award (2012)

Education

- Loyola Law School Los Angeles
cum laude
- University of California, Los Angeles

INSIGHTS

Publications

EPA's new ultralow PFAS health advisory levels portend regulatory and litigation risks – but do not overextend them

29 June 2022

There is much more to come in PFAS regulation; in the context of liability risk, it is critical to analyze HALs for what they are – and what they are *not*.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

21 June 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Bill seeks to tighten FDA regulation of GRAS; court rules California pesticide-spraying program is unlawful; Canada seeks comment on labels for foods sold via ecommerce.

***Javier v. Assurance IQ, LLC et al.*: Ninth Circuit issues ruling in session-replay case**

14 June 2022

The ruling leaves open a host of questions about the viability of session-replay cases under state wiretapping statutes.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

20 May 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA warns about consumption of copycat products that contain THC; Canada tackles food fraud; Kansas enacts meat analog labeling law.

California Attorney General subpoena – latest development in legal efforts targeting plastics

11 May 2022

The intensified regulatory focus on plastics is gaining traction across the US.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

6 May 2022

HHS moves against menthol in tobacco, Canada seeks to strengthen food system through digital food hub, plus caramels, Kansas, Closer to Zero.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

21 April 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA announces new approach to food allergens; oyster recall in Canada and US; bird flu update; and the price of food has never been higher.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

8 April 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

USDA revises organic dairy production rules; Manitoba combats food insecurity; plant-based meat, poultry, potato wart, peanut butter.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

25 March 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Global Sanctions Alert

Rising strain on global grain markets; California AG ends sales of drinkable sunscreen; Canada to support youth jobs in agri-food; FDA issues positive ruling for bioengineered cattle.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

11 March 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

EPA revokes tolerances for chlorpyrifos; Russia-Ukraine crisis and the global food supply; can hydroponic crops ever be organic?

Food and Beverage News and Trends

25 February 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

H5N1 avian flu appears on US poultry farms; Mexican avocado ban lifted; Senate confirms Califf as new FDA chief.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

3 February 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

California court postpones effective date of Proposition 12 for pork sales; FDA plans new rule for blockchain-based food tracking; 2022's food trends.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

13 January 2022

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Disclosure rule on bioengineered food is now in effect; Senate conducts confirmation hearing for top FDA nominee; new plant-based food packaging fights bacteria.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

17 December 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

USDA developing climate-friendly standards for food and beverages; nonprofits sue FDA to act against phthalates; plus news on Brazilian beef, bioengineered foods, and a beverage tax.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

2 December 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Suspend imports of fresh beef from Brazil, US cattle group says; plant-based producers take new approach in suit over Oklahoma labeling law; plus salt, soda, and news from Hawaii

Food and Beverage News and Trends

12 November 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Avoid foods with glittery garnishes, CDC says; USDA considers whether Salmonella should be declared an adulterant; soaring energy costs this year may mean widespread food shortages next year.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

28 October 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA announces initiative to improve children's diets; massive study finds using salt substitute is low-cost way to reduce stroke risk; onion recall expands.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

1 October 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA announces winners of food traceability challenge; Pennsylvania rations sale of some popular liquors; not enough vegetables?

Food and Beverage News and Trends

17 September 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA approves a new blue; senators seek COOL labels; pet food, Pop Tarts, Parnells.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

26 August 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Vegan butter company prevails; California olive oil producers reach agreement on labeling; key part of Kansas ag-gag bill struck down.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

12 August 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

White House says order on USDA labeling rules is coming soon; appeals court rejects challenge to California's Prop 12 and its rules for housing farm animals; no vax, no service.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

23 July 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA reassures public on the safety of PFAS in the food supply; trial of former Blue Bell CEO is postponed.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

9 July 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA sets 2022 deadlines for sodium reduction goals and milk alternative labeling; restaurant grant program officially closes.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

28 June 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA leader points to major changes in nation's food system; in many places, cocktails to go are going on.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

11 June 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Supreme Court declines to act on vaping regulations, FDA proposes "common sense reform" for dietary supplements industry, USDA and CDC investigate Salmonella linked to chicken parts.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

26 May 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA discloses post-pandemic plans for routine facility inspections, Alabama eases alcohol delivery rules, WHO issues new sodium standards.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

7 May 2021

Federal court upholds FDA ruling on heme; bipartisan lawmakers introduce Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act; key senator calls for White House conference on hunger and nutrition.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

22 April 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

USDA extends universal free school lunch program; FDA updates leafy-greens action plan; should gluten be disclosed in drugs?

Food and Beverage News and Trends

9 April 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Bill aims to change regulatory and tax treatment of kombucha, plus what are "processed" foods anyway?

Food and Beverage News and Trends

26 March 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Consumer groups ask FDA to act against hard seltzers; Berkeley passes healthy checkout-aisle ordinance; plus: wear a mask, get a sandwich.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

12 March 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Biden restaurant grants called a lifeline for the industry; plus sugary cereal, cell-cultured seafood and sesame in the news.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

1 March 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Winter storm devastates Texas agriculture.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

12 February 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

COVID-19 relief package includes restaurant grants; plus: tuna or not? Icelandic or not?

Food and Beverage News and Trends

28 January 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Hahn steps down; USDA to oversee safety of gene-edited animals; plus vanilla, honey, poppy seeds.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

15 January 2021

Food and Beverage News and Trends

New Dietary Guidelines for Americans remain much the same; USDA seeks produce industry input on new food safety survey.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

15 December 2020

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Industry urges vaccine prioritization for food workers; FDA will publicize outbreak investigations weekly; sesame, salmon, soymilk.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

16 November 2020

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA ordered to study risks of GM salmon, health experts urge strict limit on alcohol consumption, plus "lite," listeria, labels.

How COVID-19 has shifted the global grocery landscape

16 November 2020

DLA Piper partners Angela Agrusa and Stefanie Fogel are joined by Maureen Hinton and Joseph Robinson of GlobalData to discuss the impact of the pandemic on the industry, with a focus on current developments and the outlook for 2021.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

23 October 2020

Food and Beverage News and Trends

USDA sued over bioengineered-food rules; as jurisdictions address the pandemic, some developments for restaurants and bars; plus

plant-based burgers, cell-based meat, “natural” applesauce.

Influential leadership: Angela Agrusa

29 September 2020

Strength and Impact Series

In the first video of the *Strength and Impact* series, Los Angeles partner Angela Agrusa discusses her background and experience as a Latina lawyer.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

17 September 2020

Food and Beverage News and Trends

First-ever consent decree under FSMA, plus new egg rules, new grape variety names, carrot cake without carrots, smoked almonds without smoking.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

27 August 2020

Food and Beverage News and Trends

USDA to hold virtual meeting on Salmonella contamination, egg producer charged with price gouging in the pandemic, plus vegan butter, fish, jams, and the onion recall expands again.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

10 August 2020

Food and Beverage News and Trends

FDA announces new food safety blueprint, plus cell-cultured meat, bioengineered foods, soda, onions and a white candy bar, a court says, is white.

Food and Beverage News and Trends

10 July 2020

Food and Beverage News and Trends

Illinois warns bars and restaurants about social distancing, Colorado mandates cage-free hen housing.

Events

Upcoming

Product Liability Symposium

October 26, 2022 | 2:00 - 5:15 pm ET
Webinar

- "Food Marketing Claims: Menu Labeling; Health Related; Nutrient Content; Caloric Content," CLE international's Understanding This Rapidly Evolving Area of Food Law Conference, March 18, 2016
- "Social Entrepreneurship in the Food Sector: Is the Law a Barrier to Innovation?," UCLA School of Law: Innovation Round Table, March 8, 2016
- "Dissecting the Class Certification Requirement of Commonality - What Guidance Can You Glean From The Tyson Foods Supreme Court Case?," American Conference Institute's 4th Annual Summit on Defending Food & Beverage Consumer Fraud Litigation, January 26, 2016
- "Hot Topics in Food Litigation - How to Avoid Pitfalls That Could Lead to Costly Litigation," American Conference Institute's FDA & USDA Boot Camp, September 28, 2015
- "Labeling Litigation and Navigating Class Actions," Omics Group Conferences 2nd International Conference and Exhibition on Food Processing & Technology, October 28, 2013
- "The Explosion of Litigation and Enforcement in the Food & Beverage Industry - How Non-Compliance Can Lead to Costly Litigation and How to Minimize Risks," American Conference Institute's 2nd Annual FDA & USDA Compliance Boot Camp, October 1, 2013
- "The California Update: Class Actions," Nutrition Industry Association 2013 Spring Forum, May 30, 2013
- "The California Update: Class Actions," Nutrition Industry Association Fall Conference 2012, November 2, 2012

NEWS

Angela Agrusa named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2022 LA500 list

23 June 2022

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Angela Agrusa, managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles offices, was named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2022 LA500 list honoring the most influential leaders and impactful executives in Los Angeles.

Angela Agrusa named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2022 Top 100 Lawyers list

17 May 2022

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Angela Agrusa, managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles offices, was named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2022 Top 100 Lawyers list.

Angela Agrusa named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2021 LA500 list

1 June 2021

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Angela Agrusa was named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2021 LA500 list honoring the most influential leaders and impactful executives in Los Angeles.

Angela Agrusa named to the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2021 Women of Influence list

28 April 2021

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Angela Agrusa was named to the *Los Angeles Business Journals* 2021 Women of Influence: Attorneys list honoring Los Angeles's most influential women attorneys.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Featured, "NY Judge Consolidates Nurture Baby Food Heavy Metal Suits," *Law360*, September 2, 2021
- Featured, "DLA Piper Picks Up LA Dentons Litigator And Team," *Law360*, March 19, 2021
- Featured, "DLA Piper Continues West Coast Expansion With Dentons Products Liability Team," *Law.com*, March 17, 2021