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MARC R. LEWIS

LEWIS & LLEWELLYN LLP

SAN FRANCISCO

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Marc Lewis traces his path to litigation back to a communications law course at UCLA taught by Jeffery Valle, then an associate at Skadden Arps. The class introduced him to the demands of First Amendment law and set him on a course toward a career in the courtroom.

"I was immediately drawn to the challenge and intellectual rigor of First Amendment law and it inspired me to pursue a career in litigation," Lewis said.

After UCLA, Lewis spent his early years at Latham & Watkins LLP, where mentors, including Greg Lindstrom, Chris Yates and Al Pfeiffer, shaped his approach to practice. He credits those lawyers with instilling the fundamentals he still relies on more than two decades later.

"They drilled into me the 'blocking and tackling' skills of litigation which I still use to this day," he said. "But more broadly, they taught me to have perspective, to maintain grace under pressure and to always put the client first."

Lewis went on to co-found Lewis & Llewellyn LLP, where he serves as managing partner. Among his recent matters is a role in the DOJ antitrust case targeting Google's dominance in online search and search advertising. *United States v. Google*, 1:2020-cv-3010 (D.C., filed Oct. 20, 2020).

Judge Amit Mehta ruled in August 2024 that Google had illegally maintained monopolies in those markets, finding that the company's exclusive contracts with device manufacturers and browser companies — including Apple, Samsung and AT&T — locked out competitors by securing Google's position as the default search engine.

In relation to this case, Lewis represented Perplexity AI and its chief business officer, Dmitry Shevelenko, during the remedies phase of the trial. Shevelenko testified about the barriers Perplexity

faced in gaining distribution on mobile devices.

"He described how Google's contracts with phone makers and carriers effectively prevented Perplexity from being preloaded or set as a default on mobile devices, even when manufacturers were interested in doing so," Lewis said. The testimony connected those distribution barriers to the broader AI sector, arguing that restrictive default agreements limit the ability of emerging AI tools to reach users.

Lewis also represents the family of Kristin Smart in a civil suit against California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Smart was murdered by a fellow student during her freshman year in 1996. *Denise Smart, Stan Smart, Matthew Smart & Lindsey Stewart v. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*, 24CV0046 (San Luis Obispo Super. Ct., filed Jan. 18, 2024).

The lawsuit, filed in San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, follows a public apology from the university's president, who stated: "We recognize that things should have been done differently — and I personally wish that they had."

"As a result of Cal Poly's failures, the Smart family has suffered immeasurable damage," Lewis said.