

Joseph M. Sellers

Co-Lead Counsel, *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*

Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC

Joseph M. Sellers, Partner and head of the Civil Rights & Employment practice group at Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, PLLC, in Washington, D.C. has represented victims of discrimination and other illegal employment practices individually and through class actions. He has tried several civil rights class actions to judgment before juries, argued more than 25 appeals in the federal and state appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, and served as class counsel—often lead counsel—in more than 30 civil rights and employment class actions.

In addition to *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, a class action involving more than 1.5 million female employees of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., his cases include: *Beck. v. Boeing Company*, a class of more than 28,000 women employees at Boeing facilities in Washington state alleging sex discrimination in pay and overtime decisions; *Johnson, et al. v. Freeh* for a class of African-American FBI special agents alleging racial discrimination in promotion and job assignments; *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* for a class of Native American farmers and ranchers denied equal credit opportunities by USDA; and *Neal v. Director, D.C. Dept. of Corrections*, the first sexual harassment class action tried to a jury, for a class of women correctional employees and women and men subject to retaliation at the D.C. Department of Corrections.

Throughout his career, Sellers also has been active in legislative matters. He has testified more than 20 times before Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives on various civil rights and employment matters. He worked on the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act of 2009.

He served on the Clinton/Gore Transition Team in 1992 and 1993, and headed the teams reviewing the operations of the EEOC, the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and various sections of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. He also served as a Co-Chair of the Task Force of the D.C. Circuit on Gender, Race and Ethnic Bias and was appointed by panels of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Sellers has been recognized as one of the top lawyers in Washington and as one of the top 10 plaintiffs' employment lawyers in the country. In 2010, he was recognized as one of "The Decade's Most Influential Lawyers" by *The National Law Journal*. He is a professionally-trained mediator and has served as the President of the Washington Council of Lawyers.

Prior to joining Cohen Milstein, Sellers served as head of the Employment Discrimination Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs for over 15 years. He received a J.D. from Case Western Reserve School of Law, where he served as Research Editor of the *Case Western Reserve Law Review*, and a B.A. in American History and Literature from Brown University.