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Louis R. "Skip" Miller

Miller Barondess
Los Angeles

As he often does, prominent L.A. litigator Skip Miller is handling some very large cases all across the country.

In a relatively new case in Washington, D.C., he is defending African American media mogul Byron Allen against allegations of racial discrimination in a dispute over the purchase of a group of 60 TV stations from Gannett. The lawsuit alleges that Allen conspired with the FCC to prevent the Korean American plaintiff's company from buying the stations because the FCC allegedly favors black-owned companies,

such as Allen's. *SGCI Holdings III LLC v. Federal Communications Commission*, 1:24-cv-01204 (D. D.C., filed April 24, 2024).

"It's a big case," Miller said. The plaintiff is being represented by attorneys from Consovoy McCarthy PLLC, the law firm that won the U.S. Supreme Court decisions blocking affirmative action admission policies at Harvard and UNC. "They're trying to extend that to this FCC case," he said.

Miller also continues to represent Allen in a lawsuit accusing McDonald's of racial discrimination by refusing to advertise on TV networks owned by one of Allen's companies. *Entertainment Studios Networks Inc., v. McDonald's Corp.*, 2:21-cv-04972 (C.D. Cal., filed June 18, 2021).

Miller said he expects the case to go to trial, but no date has been set.

In a "huge case" he believes will go to trial, Miller is representing a small medical testing laboratory suing several large health insurers for allegedly making false allegations about the lab to prosecutors and regulators. "They got the U.S. attorney in Jacksonville to indict [the lab owner], and he went to trial ... was acquitted," Miller said. He is seeking more than \$1 billion in damages from the insurers for malicious prosecution and RICO. *LifeBrite Laboratories LLC v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida Inc.*, 1:23-cv-03748 (N.D. Ga., filed Aug. 22, 2023).

In an unusual case for him, he led the defense in a criminal trial last month of a man charged with a stock pump-and-dump scheme. *U.S. v. Stephens*, 3:22-cr-02701 (S.D. Cal., filed Nov. 22, 2022).

Miller also has settled several big cases very recently. Representing Byron Allen's The Weather Channel, he settled a pair of lawsuits in Chicago against the Nielsen ratings service. *CF Entertainment Inc. v. The Nielsen Company (US) LLC*, 1:22-cv-02129 (N.D. Ill., filed April 25, 2022).

In early August, he settled a lawsuit in which the plaintiffs sought \$240 million from his client for the alleged breach of a noncompete clause following the sale of the client's business for \$1.3 billion. *Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope Inc. v. Friese*, 22STCV24654 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed July 29, 2022).

And a few weeks before that, he settled an action for the bankruptcy trustee against five professional firms entangled in the billion-dollar Woodbridge real estate Ponzi scheme. *Goldberg v. Halloran & Sage LLP*, 19STCV42900 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Dec. 2, 2019).

To achieve those lucrative settlements, Miller used an unusual approach: He presented a sort of combined opening statement and closing argument during a mediation session.