

Reese Gordon Marketos Earns #1 Commercial Litigation Verdict in the United States for 2013

A \$142 million courtroom victory by Dallas-based Reese Gordon Marketos LLP in a fraud trial against Mercedes-Benz USA is the biggest commercial litigation verdict in the country this year and the largest trial verdict in Texas, according to a special report from *The National Law Journal* honoring winners of the year's top verdicts.

The verdict is also the nation's fourth-largest of the year in any case. The ranking comes from data provided by *VerdictSearch*, the nation's leading trial verdict reporting service. The full report appears in *The National Law Journal's* ["Big Money Wins" section](#) published Oct. 21.

"If you are among the elite list of plaintiff's practitioners who rouse the passions of jurors; thwart the defenses of counsel; and ultimately prevail in pursuit of your client's cause, you will find your name on a very short and exclusive list of *The National Law Journal's* Big Money Wins of 2013," the NLJ says.

Firm partner [Pete Marketos](#) served as lead trial counsel for plaintiff Cardenas Metroplex, a Mercedes-Benz dealership owned by Renato E. Cardenas, Sr., in the claims against Mercedes-Benz. Firm associate [Leslie Chaggaris](#) tried the case with Mr. Marketos.

"This is a firm-wide honor," says Mr. Marketos, who regularly represents commercial plaintiffs. "We are known for taking on challenging cases when clients have a great deal at stake."

Mr. Cardenas purchased a Mercedes-Benz dealership in Harlingen, Texas for \$7 million with the sole purpose of moving the dealership to McAllen, Texas. After acquiring the dealership, he discovered that Mercedes-Benz, the German luxury automotive giant, had misled Cardenas all along while secretly negotiating to open a McAllen-area dealership with one of his competitors. Mercedes-Benz waited until Cardenas had closed on his purchase and committed \$7 million, and then it refused to allow Cardenas Metroplex to move the dealership to McAllen. Mr. Cardenas sued, accusing Mercedes-Benz USA of fraud. During the litigation, Mercedes-Benz either destroyed or lost crucial emails related to Cardenas Metroplex's fraud claim. Jurors in the 445th District Court in Cameron County returned their verdict in favor of Mr. Cardenas on February 15 after a two-week trial, finding that Mercedes-Benz and its managers defrauded Cardenas Metroplex. The unanimous jury further found, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Mercedes-Benz committed a felony in the process.

Dallas-based Reese Gordon Marketos LLP is a commercial trial law firm that relies on nimble thinking, thorough preparation, and preeminent trial advocacy to represent plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes commercial litigation cases. The firm's attorneys take pride in their long-term relationships with clients, while employing state-of-the-art technology, courtroom poise, and outstanding tactics to earn favorable outcomes in bet-the-company business disputes.