

MONTE MANN PROVIDES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ANALYSIS OF LANDMARK META LITIGATION

Armstrong Teasdale Partner [Monte L. Mann](#) has been called on by national and international media to analyze the closely watched social media addiction litigation against Meta and the approximately \$17 billion settlement announced Aug. 26, 2026.

PEOPLE

Monte L. Mann

The litigation, brought by state attorneys general in the Northern District of California, alleged that Meta designed Facebook and Instagram to encourage compulsive use by young people and misled the public about the associated risks. Before the settlement, the trial was expected to last approximately six weeks and include testimony from Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, with potential damages that could have made it one of the largest consumer protection judgments in U.S. history.

Following the settlement announcement, [Mann spoke with Law360](#) about an unusual provision under which approximately \$5.3 billion of Meta's payment depends on whether competitors TikTok and YouTube agree to specified protections for young users and make comparable payments to the states.

"It sounds backwards at first. But Meta has an interest in making sure its competitors play by the same rules," Mann said.

Mann also spoke with [CGTN America](#) about the scale of the settlement amount and whether the platform "actually changes so that parents feel more protected and our adolescents are more protected. The proof will be in the pudding." In addition, Mann said a unique aspect of the settlement is the assignment of an independent auditor paid for by Meta with "expansive access" to information and resources.

In [Corporate Compliance Insights](#), Mann examined the broader lessons the Meta litigation holds for corporate leaders, including how internal communications about known risks can become powerful evidence in later litigation. "If those same documents also suggest that revenue or engagement



concerns influenced the decision, they can be very difficult to explain to a jury years later.”

Prior to the settlement, Mann appeared on [Fox Business](#) to discuss the legal and business significance of the trial. He described it as a “bellwether case” for claims that social media platforms were designed to be addictive and harmful to young users and, drawing on his experience trying complex business cases, identified Meta's internal documents as potentially critical evidence, observing that they “may be the star witness in the case.”

Mann also discussed the litigation on [The Annie Frey Show](#) on 97.1 FM Talk in St. Louis, with the interview distributed through [Audacy](#). Internationally, he appeared on [NDTV's India Business Report](#) to discuss the case and its broader implications.

Mann is a Chicago business trial lawyer with three decades of experience handling complex commercial disputes. He is frequently called upon by national and international media to analyze significant business litigation and its implications for companies and their leaders, and has provided commentary to outlets including the Associated Press, BBC, Fox Business, The Guardian, Bloomberg Law, Law360, The American Lawyer, The National Law Journal, Corporate Counsel and Law.com.