Rising Star: Joseph Saveri Law Firm's Christopher K.L. Young

By **Jonathan Capriel**

Law360 (August 13, 2025, 4:04 PM EDT) -- Christopher K.L. Young of Joseph Saveri Law Firm LLP helped secure a $375 million settlement for mixed martial arts fighters in a class action against the UFC after nearly a decade of litigation, earning him a spot among the class action attorneys under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

Why he is a class action attorney:

Young said his legal journey is guided by his deep ingrained desire to champion the "underdog," he told Law360. This initially pulled him into working in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. After a stint clerking for Justice Lamar Baker of the California Court of Appeals, Young said, he developed a desire to tackle more complex litigation.

He added that he was able to satisfy both of these aims when joining Saveri Law.
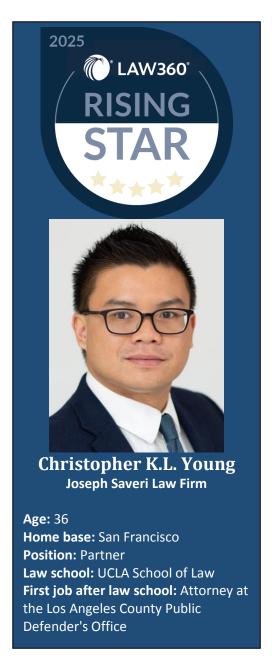
"We represent individuals and small businesses who, for a lack of a better phrase, get screwed over by the biggest companies in the world," Young said. "These companies have revenue bigger than the [gross domestic product] of many countries, and they are represented by some of the biggest firms."

"That appeals to me," he said. "Just being able to fight for these underdogs is something that feels noble, and it aligns with what I've always wanted to do."

Class actions address the "little injustices" that might be ignored, like wage suppression or overcharging by pennies on essential components, Young said.

"If you don't punish small transgressions, people ignore the big ones," he added.

Young's role as co-lead counsel representing fighters suing the UFC is an

2025 LAW360 RISING STAR

Christopher K.L. Young
Joseph Saveri Law Firm

Age: 36
Home base: San Francisco
Position: Partner
Law school: UCLA School of Law
First job after law school: Attorney at the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office

example of the underdogs going up against a significantly more powerful entity, he said.

In the antitrust litigation, the fighters accused the UFC of unlawfully monopolizing the market for fight promotions. They claimed the UFC suppressed wages by acquiring competitors, locking fighters into exclusive contracts and impairing rival promoters' ability to compete.

Young helped lead trial preparation and mediation, which involved reviewing 775,000 documents, 41 depositions, and expert reports. After overcoming the UFC's dismissal attempts, Young helped secure for the fighters class certification, a first for a Section 2 monopolization labor case, he said. In February, weeks before opening arguments were set to begin, the case settled for $375 million.

Other notable labor disputes he's worked on:

Young played a pivotal role in the antitrust class actions against Jackson Hewitt Inc. He served as settlement class counsel for tax preparers who claimed there was an 18-year conspiracy to suppress wages among the franchisees through an agreement not to hire each other's employees without approval.

The workers faced a "very steep hill," with courts in prior no-poach cases against Jimmy John's and McDonald's Corp. ruling against class certification, Young said. The Seventh Circuit would later overturn the dismissal in the McDonald's case,

Young helped write briefs that partly leaned on the oldest known anticompetitive case law: an English court's 1414 ruling in a case known as Dyer's Case. This approach seemed to resonate with U.S. District Judge Michael E. Farbiarz, who called for more briefs instead of dismissing the case, Young said. Ultimately, the team scored final approval to a $10.8 million all-cash settlement in November 2024, with the judge specifically praising counsels' "strong briefs"

His proudest moment:

Settlements can be "a little unsatisfying" for Young, as he craves a more profound "victory" at trial, but the Jackson Hewitt litigation is among his proudest moments, he said.

In the face of steep odds against unfavorable precedent, he helped put together a brief that unearthed and deciphered obscure antitrust principles, recorded in dusty volumes and written in the French spoken by the upper class at the time.

"It was very satisfying," Young said. "You know, just finding rulings from the darkest, dustiest corners of legal archives. I'm sure I shortened my life span by breathing in that medieval fungus."

How the legal industry will change in the next 10 years:

"In the next 10 years, there's going to be more wrestling with AI in particular," Young said. "By that I mean these writing assistants, research assistants, especially with younger attorneys."

Young views artificial intelligence as a transformative but ethically fraught bit of technology. While he's not opposed to AI itself, he criticizes tech giants for using creators' work without "consent, compensation, or credit." Right now, he is actively participating in seven high-profile cases involving generative artificial intelligence and its use of intellectual property. Notable among them is a case

against Meta Platforms Inc., which authors claim has illegally used their copyrighted books to train its Llama AI.

Young's clients aren't against the technology, but they argue there is a fundamental unfairness in stealing work, he said.

"It's no different from when large corporations were saying 20 or 30 years ago, 'You shouldn't be pirating songs or movies,'" Young said. "Now the shoe's on the other foot."

While a judge recently ruled Meta's AI training qualified as "fair use," the case continues over claims Meta distributed books illegally via peer-to-peer networks. Young's motivations remain focused on what he considers the ethics of it all. Promises of revolutionary technology must be paired with what is right.

"Just because you say, 'I'm going to change the world,' that doesn't excuse you stealing," he said.

--As told to Jonathan Capriel. Editing by Kristen Becker.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2025, to be eligible for this year's award.