

Foundry Employees' Action is a "Mass Action" Subject to Removal Under the Class Action Fairness Act

"The Eleventh Circuit has clarified the scope of the 'local event exception' to the federal-court jurisdiction over 'mass actions' conferred by the Class Action Fairness Act ("CAFA"), holding that claims by former foundry employees against manufacturers and distributors of products used at the foundry are not within the exception," posted Valerie Sanders in Eversheds Sutherland's *11 Circuit Business Blog*.

"The plaintiffs in the case are 230 former workers at a now-closed Alabama foundry. They worked in different jobs at different times, but all claim that they were harmed by exposure to hazardous chemicals during their employment. The defendants are unrelated companies that manufactured (and in some cases distributed) chemical products used at the foundry, including sands, resins, gases, and other substances of various formulations. The plaintiffs' complaint, originally filed in state court, includes several claims, all arising from the allegation that the 'normal and foreseeable' use of the defendants' products at the foundry caused the 'formation and release of hazardous and carcinogenic chemical substances,' which harmed them."

Read the article.