

Christopher Essig

Partner

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Chris focuses his practice in the areas of products liability, class actions, and intellectual property. He has deep experience with significant nationwide product liability matters, as well as consumer fraud class actions, involving multidistrict and consolidated litigation in both state and federal courts. He also has substantial experience representing major pharmaceutical companies in disputes involving intellectual property.

Chris has represented sophisticated defendants in nationwide products liability and class action matters in both state and federal courts for two decades. Currently, Chris is national counsel for a pharmaceutical manufacturer in almost 900 products liability lawsuits pending across the country involving the manufacture of opioid medications. Among other matters, he also represents a major chemical manufacturer in environmental and products liability claims alleging groundwater contamination and personal injury. Chris has played significant roles on trial defense teams for a range of clients including global aerospace manufacturers, as well as major firm pharmaceutical and medical device clients such as Medtronic, Pfizer Inc., and Wyeth.

Further, Chris has defended various clients in some of the largest consumer fraud class actions in the United States. For example, he has litigated claims in several cases nearing US\$2B based on the allegation that his client's products violated several state consumer protection statutes.

Chris also has represented pharmaceutical companies in other contexts. He has spent years defending multinational corporate clients in pharmaceutical patent infringement litigation surrounding the filing of Abbreviated New Drug Applications and the Hatch-Waxman Act. Most recently, Chris was trial counsel for a client who prevailed in litigation involving Sensipar® (cinacalcet), a prescription drug with more than US\$1B in sales per year.

Chris has notably invested significant time in pro bono matters, some of which have garnered media attention. For example, Chris successfully led Winston's pro bono team and obtained asylum for an Iranian photojournalist who published several controversial and award-winning projects focusing on youth and female identity.

Recent Experience

Winston Represents Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA in Opiate MDL and State Court Cases

Recognitions

Chris is recognized in the 2023 edition of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for commercial litigation. He is also recognized in The Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America for product liability, IP, and antitrust in 2022–2023.

Chris is recognized as a “Key Lawyer” in *The Legal 500 US* in the following areas:

- Dispute Resolution: Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action – Defense: Consumer Products (2023)
- Dispute Resolution: Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action – Defense: Toxic Tort (2022)
- Dispute Resolution: Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action – Defense: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (2022 and 2023)
- Healthcare: Life sciences (2021 and 2022)
- Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action – Defense: Consumer Products (2021 and 2022)

Activities

Chris is currently on Winston & Strawn's Associate Evaluation Committee and is a sustaining member of the Product Liability Advisory Council.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Chris received a J.D., with honors, from The Ohio State University College of Law in 2000, where he was associate editor of *The Ohio State Law Journal*. He received a B.A. in Political Science from Miami University in 1996.

ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

Related Insights & News

- “Strategies for Addressing Plaintiff Evolving Tactics in MDLs: Public Nuisance and Beyond,” Winston & Strawn Product & Mass Torts Summit, Speaker, June 7, 2022
- “Updates in Biosimilars Law and Litigation,” GCEIP - 3rd Annual International Conference, Speaker, Nov. 15, 2018
- “Pharmaceutical Warnings: A Changing Landscape,” Law360, Co-author, Nov. 9, 2018
- “Product Liability Preemption for Generic Drug Manufacturers—The Current Landscape,” *Product Safety & Liability Reporter*, Bloomberg BNA, Co-author, Oct. 30, 2017
- “Examining Subjective Damages in the Class Action Context,” Law360, Co-author, June 29, 2017

PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Helps Ugandan Escape Tortured Past and Start a New Life in the United States

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Partners Recognized in 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2023

JUNE 7, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Wins 2022 Alice Paul Award for Dedication to Women’s Rights Through Pro Bono Support

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Partners Recognized in 2023 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America

OCTOBER 5, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* 2023

AUGUST 18, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2022

JUNE 8, 2022

WEBINAR

Product & Mass Torts Summit 2022

JUNE 7, 2022

BLOG

Fourth Circuit Finds Abuse of Discretion in Admitting Expert Testimony, Reversing Multi-Million-Dollar Verdict
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2021
JUNE 10, 2021

WEBINAR

Product & Mass Tort Summit 2021
MAY 25–26, 2021

BLOG

Zantac MDL Narrowed by Two Preemption-Based Dismissal Orders
FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Capabilities

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Intellectual Property

Litigation/Trials

Patent Litigation

Antitrust/Competition

Financial Services

Health Care

Medical Devices

Insurance