

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Major multinational companies trust Winston to defend their products and reputations in high-profile, high-stakes product liability and mass tort claims. Our Product Liability & Mass Torts Practice is one of the industry's most seasoned, with a deep bench of experienced lawyers and a unique combination of extensive trial experience and expansive technical knowledge.

Chaired by Sandra A. Edwards—Winston partner and a former San Francisco Assistant D.A.—our practice has litigated and tried complex cases all over the country involving a wide array of products, including pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, chemical compounds, and consumer products. With our decades of experience comes a deep understanding of scientific and technical issues in areas such as toxicology, epidemiology, genetics, medical causation, and quantitative and comparative risk assessment. Our history of crafting creative, aggressive strategies has resulted in successful outcomes, and cemented our reputation as “go-to” litigators and advisors. We regularly collaborate with our colleagues in other practices—including Appellate & Critical Motions, Consumer Class Actions, and eDiscovery—to best utilize our talent and depth in other areas.

In 2023, our practice was nationally ranked by *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500 US*, and Best Law Firms®. Our practitioners are often in the spotlight for their work, whether by *AmLaw* in its “Litigator of Week” column, in *Benchmark Litigation U.S.*’s “Top 100 Trial Lawyers” list, or as one of Law360’s “Rising Stars” in product liability.

Key Contacts

[Sandra Edwards](#)

[George Lombardi](#)

[Terry Dee](#)

[Christopher Essig](#)

Areas of Focus

Toxic Torts

Winston has decades of experience defending against toxic tort claims in mass tort cases alleging both bodily injury and property damage in the tobacco; oil and gas; aviation, automotive; waste/recycling; health care and life sciences; and food, beverage, and agriculture industries, among others. We work closely with our nationally recognized environmental attorneys to address issues relating to hazardous materials, fuel, toxins, and chemical compounds.

Mass Torts & Multidistrict Litigation

We have a consistent record of success handling mass torts in state and federal courts, including Multi-District Litigations (MDLs). Our attorneys have defended some of the most watched MDL and coordinated proceedings in recent memory. Our team is adept at developing and persuading courts to adopt case management orders facilitating the efficient management of proceedings involving large numbers of plaintiffs.

We also work closely with our Class Actions and Group Litigation Practice on class action matters that overlap with product liability issues, including false advertising and labeling, warranties, data privacy and security, environmental, and toxic tort matters.

Product Liability Trials

We have built a reputation as a trial lawyers’ firm for complex product liability and mass tort litigation. *Benchmark Litigation US* has repeatedly named seven Winston partners, including four product liability partners, in its “Top 100 Trial Lawyers” list, a number that places Winston first—once again—in the number of lawyers recognized from a single firm. We frequently serve as lead trial counsel, MDL or statewide coordinating counsel, local counsel, and class action and appellate counsel for our clients nationwide. At the very outset of a matter, we develop strategies that position our clients to emerge successful at trial, while also showing our adversaries that we can, and will, try the case. We also are often brought into cases at critical points to develop trial strategies and signal serious litigation risk to the other side.

“They are pros and no strangers to the courtroom. They instill confidence in the client, and they are very responsive and respectful.”

Client Quote, *Legal 500 US* 2023

Related Capabilities

Advertising Litigation	Appellate & Critical Motions	Class Actions & Group Litigation
Commercial Litigation & Disputes	eDiscovery & Information Governance	
Environmental Litigation & Enforcement	Oil & Gas	Health Care
		Life Sciences

Recent Experience

Winston Serves as Trial Counsel in Monsanto Roundup Litigation

Nabbed Two Big Wins for Motorola in Billion-Dollar Suits Over Cell Phone Safety

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

Resources

[Product Liability & Mass Torts Digest](#)

Related Insights & News

BLOG

Sixth Circuit Confirms Experts Cannot Infer Causation from Association Based on Single Study to Exclusion of Contrary Studies Without Explanation

MARCH 4, 2024

BLOG

***In re Acetaminophen* MDL Court Highlights the Significance of Regulator and Medical Organization Conclusions on Causation in Assessing Expert Methodologies**

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

BLOG

***In re Acetaminophen* MDL Reiterates That Cherry-Picking Data And Exceeding Study Limitations Are Unreliable Expert Methodologies**

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

BLOG

Are “Shared” Bradford Hill Analyses an Admissible Expert Causation Methodology? *In re Acetaminophen* MDL Court Says No

JANUARY 12, 2024

BLOG

***In re Acetaminophen* MDL Decision Reaffirms Need for Causation Experts to**

Account for Known Confounders Under Rule 702

JANUARY 5, 2024

BLOG

New Jersey Appellate Court Reverses Plaintiff Jury Verdict in Talc Litigation Based on Improperly Admitted Plaintiff Expert Opinions

DECEMBER 5, 2023

BLOG

Beyond the Obvious: Does the Failure to Rule Out Idiopathic Causes Survive a Rule 702 Challenge?

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Merits 100 Tier-1 Rankings, Named Sports Law “Law Firm of the Year” in 2024 Edition of Best Law Firms®

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

BLOG

Reason Prevails for McDonald’s and Wendy’s in Burger Beef

OCTOBER 30, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

George Lombardi Named Among 2023 Law360 Life Sciences MVPs

OCTOBER 1, 2023

BLOG

Second Circuit Applies Preemption to Bar Tort Claims With No Clear Federal Counterpart

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Sandra Edwards Speaks on the Use of Census Registries in MDLs

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023