



Brandee J. Kowalzyk

2024 Product Liability Roundtable Co-Chair

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, Atlanta, GA USA

Brandee Kowalzyk is a partner in the Atlanta office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, where she has defended product manufacturers for nearly 20 years. Brandee previously served as the Chair of the IADC Drug, Device, and Biotechnology Committee and is a frequent speaker on topics related to the defense of product liability claims involving medical products and a variety of DEI issues. Brandee was a member of the 2022 IADC Trial Academy Faculty as well. She is an enrolled member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe (Chippewa), and she has served as a Court of Appeals Judge for the Band since 2017. When not in the office, Brandee enjoys spending time with her husband and cheering on her children from the sidelines. Mom to a childhood cancer survivor, Brandee also spends many hours volunteering with Make-A-Wish and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



Whitney Frazier Watt

2024 Product Liability Roundtable Co-Chair Stites & Harbison PLLC, Louisville, KY USA

Whitney Frazier Watt is a member at Stites & Harbison in Louisville, Kentucky. She specializes in defending complex product liability lawsuits and managing mass tort litigation. Whitney's practice also includes cases involving toxic torts, transportation, contract issues, coverage disputes, and tortious interference. Whitney has been a member of IADC since 2014 and is currently serving as Chair of the IADC's Product Liability Committee.

If you are ever in Kentucky and need distillery or horse racing recommendations, definitely let Whitney know!



Donna Lamontagne

IADC President, 2024-2025 Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP, Cranston, RI USA

Donna M. Lamontagne is a founding partner at Lamontagne, Spaulding & Hayes, LLP, a fully-female owned, boutique litigation firm in Cranston, Rhode Island.



With more than three decades of jury trial and civil litigation/appellate experience in courts throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Donna focuses her practice on general insurance defense, construction, insurance coverage, bad faith, employment, environmental, product liability, and complex personal injury litigation.



Dana Baiocco

Clyde & Co US LLP (former CPSC), Washington, DC USA

Dana Baiocco is an experienced litigator with broad substantive capabilities in consumer and industrial products, aircraft and aircraft component parts, medical devices, and recreational and sports equipment. She counsels clients on federal and state investigations, importing and supply chain logistics and risks, quality control and safety programs, warnings, labels, warranties, and product recalls. Dana returned to private practice and joined Clyde & Co after serving as a Commissioner on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for which she received a Presidential nomination and confirmation by the U.S. Senate in 2018. She has an insider's view on federal agency policy setting and operations, rule-making proceedings, product bans, and other regulatory actions related to the domestic and foreign manufacture, distribution, and sale of products into the U.S.

Prior to joining the CPSC in 2018, Dana was a trial lawyer in the Business and Tort Litigation Practice at Jones Day where she represented several clients in the commercial products sector, including the aerospace sector. She has also defended manufacturers in trials against a broad range of substantive claims and has counseled clients, including toy makers and pet product suppliers on strategic business decisions, risk mitigation, regulatory compliance, reporting obligations, warranties, warnings, and product recalls.

Dana served as a law clerk to The Honorable Gustave Diamond in the federal District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (1996-1998), graduated *cum laude* from Duquesne University Kline School of Law (1997), and has a B.A. from Ohio University in Journalism (1988).

Dana is licensed in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.





Mark Behrens
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P., Washington, DC USA

Mark Behrens co-chairs the Washington, DC-based Public Policy Group of Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. Mark has more than 30 years of experience working on civil justice issues and defense litigation. A substantial part of his practice is working to improve the civil litigation environment through legislation; in the courts through *amicus curiae* briefs on behalf of business, civil justice, and defense lawyer organizations; through legal scholarship and judicial education; and in the court of public opinion. Mark chairs the IADC's Civil Justice Response Committee and is a recipient of the IADC's Joan Fullam Irick Award for his work on the Committee. He also serves on the Board of Lawyers for Civil Justice. Mark received his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School and B.A. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin.



Nicole M. BrunsonA. O. Smith, Charlotte, NC USA

Nicole M. Brunson serves as Associate General Counsel for A. O. Smith where she leads Litigation & Global Compliance. Nicole's background is in toxic torts, insurance defense, product liability, construction defect, corporate matters, and commercial disputes. She focuses on global cost avoidance and risk mitigation through business counseling with finance and operations teams. Nicole's diverse background in physical science, law, and sales and management provides a strong foundation for her role as a trusted strategic advisor/partner to her clients. Before joining A. O. Smith in 2024, Nicole served as global of Head of Litigation & Disputes at ARRIVAL, as Associate General Counsel, Commercial Litigation Americas for Trane Technologies, and Associate General Counsel, Litigation for Ingersoll Rand. She also worked as an associate with Swanson Martin & Bell, LLP, a boutique litigation firm in Chicago, Illinois.

Nicole is active in the Association of Corporate Counsel since 2012 and served as President of the Charlotte chapter in 2020. She has been active with DRI since 2007, IADC since 2014, and FDCC since 2022. She is a certified mentor with Mentor Collective and has earned the elite ACC In-House Counsel Certified (ICC) designation.

Nicole is a 2006 graduate of Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington (n/k/a/ Maurer School of Law) and a 1998 graduate of Xavier University of



Louisiana (BS Biochemistry). She obtained an MBA in Marketing and Management from Christian Brothers University in 2002. Nicole is a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and enjoys cooking, traveling, Peloton, and family time with her four children, a boxer named Stella, and her extraordinary husband, James.



Sharon L. Caffrey Duane Morris LLP, Philadelphia, PA USA

Sharon L. Caffrey is a products liability trial lawyer who is sought after to try large exposure cases in the most difficult jurisdictions, often referred to as "judicial hellholes." Sharon has a distinguished record of success at trial; of the past ten cases she has tried, she obtained eight defense verdicts and two low-value verdicts. She has tried dozens of mass tort, toxic tort, health effects, and medical negligence cases, the vast majority to defense verdicts. She is also able to leverage her deep experience to serve as national coordinating counsel for clients looking to guide the management of voluminous litigation consistent with their legal and business priorities.

Sharon's background includes defending pharmaceutical, medical device, and biologics products liability claims, as well as toxic tort claims involving diesel exhaust, PHAs, pesticides, asbestos, talc, microsilica, silica, and benzene. She has also represented several clients in MDL proceedings and clients in a variety of industries in product defect claims. As a result, she has a deep understanding of these claims across a wide array of machinery, tools, equipment, and related applications.

Her automotive experience includes investigating failures of electric powered vehicles and other equipment, such as gantries and forklifts. Sharon also represents two Class I railroads in their Pennsylvania-area litigation, ranging from complex preemption issues and the defense of significant third-party personal injury claims. A testament to her tenacity and results, Sharon was twice presented with an "Excellence in Trial Advocacy" award by CSX Transportation, Inc. and has been twice listed in *Chambers USA* in the category of Product Liability and Mass Torts – Nationwide.

In addition to serving as co-chair of Duane Morris' Trial Practice Group and a member of the Executive Committee and Partners Board, Sharon spearheaded the firm's COVID-19 Strategy Group, and counseled clients on issues related to COVID-19 liability prevention.



Sharon is a frequent speaker on issues related to Daubert and Frye, and has handled numerous Daubert and Frye hearings, challenging the admissibility of opposing parties' expert witnesses.

She served as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Liability Reform Group. She has spoken at the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) regarding autonomous vehicles, the Mealey's Asbestos Litigation Seminar, and the American Conference Institute Asbestos Litigation Seminar. Sharon is a member of the IADC and has served as a vice chair of the Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Committee of the American Bar Association.

Sharon founded and chaired Duane Morris' Women's Impact Network for Success for seven years and served on the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee for several years. In 2021, she received the firm's Cheryl Bryson Leadership Award, which recognizes significant contributions, including professional development, leadership, and mentoring, made by a lawyer to women in the legal profession.

Sharon co-chaired the first LexisNexis conference on advancing women in the profession and the Philadelphia Bar Association's Women's Rights Committee for two years. She also was a member of the association's Women in the Profession Committee.



R. Matthew CairnsTextron Inc., Providence, RI USA

Matt Cairns is a Senior Associate General Counsel for Textron Inc. where he oversees products liability litigation for Textron's products that do not intentionally fly (i.e. golf carts, haulers, snowmobiles, farm equipment, and ATVs). Matt joined Textron in January 2018 after 32 years in private practice in New Hampshire where he did all manners of litigation. Matt has been an IADC member since 2002 and was on the 2013 Trial Academy faculty. Also, he was the President of DRI from 2010-2011. Matt graduated from Brown University in 1983 with highly marketable degrees in International Relations and History but chose to go to Case Western Reserve Law School instead, graduating in 1986. Anything Matt says in his presentation should not be attributed to Textron or his family, especially his family.





Candace Camarata

Becton, Dickinson and Company, Franklin Lakes, NJ USA

Candace Camarata is Deputy Chief Litigation Counsel at Becton, Dickinson and Company, a global medical technology company. She oversees litigation and government investigations, including the company's portfolio of product liability and complex commercial litigation from the claims stage through trial, appeals, and final resolution. Her responsibilities include mass tort litigation, securities litigation and investigations, privacy and antitrust litigation, corporate governance, disclosures, and eDiscovery, as well as proactive litigation avoidance and training. Prior to her in-house tenure, she was in private practice in New York and Massachusetts and clerked for the late Judge Ellen Bree Burns on the United States District Court in the District of Connecticut. As part of her role, she regularly participates in trial preparation and practice and is a frequent speaker at conferences on topics including mass torts, trial tactics, and attorney advertising.



Kristine Campbell

U-Haul International, Phoenix, AZ USA

Kristine Campbell is currently serving as General Counsel of U-Haul Holding Company. At U-Haul, Kristine manages a legal team of 19 attorneys and 36 staff. Prior to joining U-Haul in 2011, Kristine worked as a commercial litigator at Greenberg Traurig, LLP.



Nicholas Connor

Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ USA

Nicholas Connor is Senior Counsel at Johnson & Johnson where he primarily focuses on government and internal investigations. At J&J, Nick also handles a wide variety of civil litigation brought by government agencies such as DOJ, the SEC, and state Attorneys General across the country, and counsels J&J's global businesses on the FCPA and other anti-corruption laws. Before joining J&J, Nick served as a trial attorney in the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice and as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan. He previously served as a law clerk to Judge Eric N. Vitaliano in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Nick holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. from Northwestern University.





Sarah-Jane DobsonAshurst LLP, London, United Kingdom

Sarah-Jane Dobson is the Global Head of Product Liability and Product Risk (Safety and Regulatory Compliance) at an international law firm, Ashurst, in London. She is an international products lawyer, specializing in both product safety and liability matters. She works as a trusted advisor to her corporate clients, acting in high-stakes litigation matters, including the highest profile class actions in Europe, and providing regulatory advice in a broad range of sectors across the full product lifecycle.



Edward Dumoulin

Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA

Edward Dumoulin is a partner at Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum. Ed represents clients in high-stakes civil cases across a variety of practice areas including product liability, antitrust, and complex commercial litigation. His work has led to dozens of victories and recognition by Law360 in 2023 as one of four Rising Stars chosen nationwide in product liability practice. Ed has briefed and argued motions that have resulted in dismissals based on issues of federal preemption or jurisdiction, and he has also managed large-scale litigation, developed case strategy, deposed key witnesses, and served on trial teams in cases with billions of dollars in dispute. Ed also maintains an active appellate practice, and he has argued in the First, Seventh, and Ninth Circuits and briefed appeals elsewhere. Ed received his undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard and a master's degree from the University of Cambridge.



Larissa A. Eustice Bayer Corporation, Floor Whippany, NJ USA

Larissa A. Eustice has extensive litigation experience in the pharmaceutical, crop science, and consumer health industries and has focused her in-house and outside counsel practice on life sciences litigation defense and related settlement strategy across a wide variety of litigation matters. Prior to joining Bayer in 2015, Larissa spent nine years at Kaye Scholer (now Arnold & Porter) managing a variety of mass tort litigations as a leading member of multiple virtual law firm structures. Larissa is a graduate of Cornell University Law School. She serves on the board of the Product Liability Advisory Council.





Zandra Foley
Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP, Houston, TX USA

Zandra Foley is a trial attorney who represents clients in complex litigation matters related to products liability, mass torts, malpractice, and errors and omissions. She also defends clients who have been sued for various intentional torts including assault, battery, libel, slander, and defamation. Zandra has served as national and regional trial counsel on medical device, product liability, and mass tort-related matters and has extensive experience advising clients on a variety of complex disputes with an eye toward early and efficient resolution.



James Fraser
Thompson Hine LLP, Washington, DC USA

James Fraser is Senior Counsel in the Product Liability Group at Thompson Hine LLP in Washington, D.C. and is a former Associate Chief Counsel for Litigation at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He has more than 13 years of private practice experience defending pharmaceutical and medical device companies in product liability and mass tort litigation. This work has included briefing complex issues such as federal preemption, federal jurisdiction, admissibility of expert testimony, punitive damages, and choice of law. James is one of the only product liability defense attorneys in the United States who has worked at FDA. During his five-year stint at FDA, he represented the agency in civil litigation throughout the United States. This work included defending FDA against Administrative Procedure Act challenges to the agency's decisions regarding drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics; bringing civil enforcement actions against FDA-regulated companies for violations of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and drafting amicus curiae and other filings advocating FDA's positions of federal preemption and preclusion. In representing FDA, James worked closely with and provided legal advice to various organizations within the agency, such as the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. James began his legal career in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he served as a trial prosecutor, trial defense counsel, and appellate counsel.





Sylvie Gallage-AlwisSignature Litigation AARPI, Paris, France

Sylvie Gallage-Alwis heads the Product Liability/Compliance, Toxic Tort, and ESG practice of the European dispute firm Signature Litigation. Based in Paris, she is both an Avocat à la Cour and a Solicitor in England and Wales. Sylvie represents major international product manufacturers in their disputes in France against consumers, NGOs, distributors, suppliers, employees, the French State and EU regulators, whether in the scope of individual, mass, or class actions.



Jennifer Snyder Heis UB Greensfelder LLP, Cincinnati, OH USA

Jennifer Snyder Heis is a partner in the Cincinnati office of UB Greensfelder. She defends manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products, medical devices, and dietary supplements in complex litigation, including multidistrict litigation and consolidated state court proceedings, as well as individual cases throughout the country. She also represents clients from a range of industries, including consumer products and construction and industrial machinery in products liability cases. She has previously served as a Vice Chair on IADC's Drug, Device, and Biotechnology Committee and is involved in other organizations that advocate on behalf of drug and medical device companies.



Daniel Higginbotham
Thomas Combs & Spann, PLLC, Charleston, WV USA

Daniel Higginbotham is a partner at Thomas, Combs & Spann in Charleston, West Virginia. He defends businesses in multidistrict litigation and other complex cases, specializing in pharmaceutical and medical device cases. Daniel has served as first-chair trial counsel in complex, high-stakes cases in state and federal courts nationwide. He is currently Vice Chair of Communications for the IADC Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee and is also a member of DRI and LCJ.





Prof. Donald Kochan

George Mason University, Scalia Law School, Arlington, VA USA

Donald Kochan is Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Law & Economics Center (LEC) at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School. Professor Kochan is an elected member of the American Law Institute (ALI) and serves as an Adviser to ALI's Restatement of the Law Fourth, Property project. Professor Kochan is a Nonresident Scholar at the Center for the Constitution at Georgetown University Law Center. Professor Kochan has published several books and more than 50 scholarly articles and essays in wellregarded law journals. His work has been cited in more than a dozen state and federal court opinions, in more than 75 briefs filed in state and federal courts including more than 25 filed in the U.S. Supreme Court, in dozens of books and treatises, and in more than 800 scholarly articles. Recently, Professor Kochan has testified before Congress in June 2024 regarding Third Party Litigation Funding and presented on the topic at the IADC 2024 Annual Meeting in Vancouver this past July. Professor Kochan received his JD from Cornell Law School, where he was a John M. Olin Scholar in Law and Economics and managing editor of the Cornell International Law Journal. He received his BA from Western Michigan University, magna cum laude, with majors in both political science and philosophy. After graduating from law school, Professor Kochan was a law clerk to The Honorable Richard F. Suhrheinrich of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Following his clerkship, Professor Kochan was an associate with the firm of Crowell & Moring LLP in Washington, D.C., where he specialized in natural resources and environmental law as well as tort, products, and consumer civil litigation and legislative affairs.



Stephanie Laws

Maslon LLP, Minneapolis, MN USA

Stephanie Laws is a partner at the Minneapolis-based law firm Maslon LLP and co-chair of the firm's Tort & Product Liability Group. She is a practical problem solver who has successfully defended manufacturers in product liability and other complex litigation in federal and state courts nationwide, including recently obtaining a complete defense verdict for Polaroid following a two-week jury trial in a \$300 million breach of contract dispute. Stephanie's product liability experience spans multiple industries, with particular focus on pharmaceuticals and both implantable and external medical devices. Stephanie is deeply engaged with pro bono work. She served as part of the special prosecution team for the state of Minnesota in the trial of former



Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, and regularly represents asylum seekers and victims of domestic violence seeking orders for protection.



Melissa Lin Righi Fitch Law Group, Phoenix, AZ USA

Melissa Lin is a partner at Right Fitch Law Group and has earned the AV Preeminent Rating. Her practice includes the representation of individuals, contractors, businesses, municipalities, and carriers in tort and contact litigation, primarily in the areas of insurance coverage and bad faith, cyber, general liability, personal injury, product liability, construction defect, and employment litigation. She was peer selected as a Best Lawyer in America in Construction Law for 2021-2024, in Insurance Law for 2023-2024, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants for 2023-2024, and Litigation - Construction for 2024. In 2018, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) recognized her as one of the nineteen Best Under Forty attorneys in the country for her prominence and distinction in the practice of law and her demonstrated commitment to Asian Pacific American civic or community affairs. In 2013, she was named to Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Hot List for the Western Region, and as one of the top valley attorneys in Phoenix by North Valley Magazine. She has spoken and been published both locally and nationally on diversity, litigation and writing tactics, mental wellness, and construction law.



Christopher D. Morris Butler Snow LLP, Ridgeland, MS USA

Chris defends pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers in "bet the company" mass tort litigations. With extensive experience in managing large-scale litigation, Chris brings to the table an eye for streamlining workflows, improving efficiencies, and implementing cost-reduction measures. His work with discovery teams and vendors, in particular, has been recognized by clients and colleagues alike, making him a trusted advisor and leader in the legal community. The Legal 500 US recognized him as a key lawyer for Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices in 2024 and stated that he "is excellent at managing large-scale cases, where he has developed a particularly strong reputation for realizing efficiencies, including at the discovery phase."





Rachelle Mortimer

US Chamber of Commerce, Arlington, VA USA

Rachelle Mortimer serves as a director at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform (ILR). She is responsible for legal reform advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and in state capitals throughout the eastern and mid-western portions of the country.

Before joining ILR, Rachelle worked in copyright law and policy, advising clients on proper intellectual property protections and clearance as well as advocating for creators' intellectual property rights in Congress.

Rachelle is a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She holds a J.D. from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University and is admitted to practice law in Washington, D.C.



Zane C. Riester

Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ USA

Zane Riester is currently Senior Counsel at Johnson & Johnson, where he manages Ethicon's wound closure and pelvic mesh product liability portfolios worldwide. Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, Zane was a partner at McCarter & English in Newark, New Jersey, where he worked on a broad range of high-profile product liability cases and consumer fraud class actions, focusing on the needs of medical device and pharmaceutical companies.



Paul S. Rosenblatt

Butler Snow LLP, Ridgeland, MS USA

Paul S. Rosenblatt is a partner with Butler Snow LLP's Pharmaceutical, Medical Device, and Healthcare Group. His practice centers on representing and defending manufacturers in products liability litigation, particularly complex pharmaceutical and medical device cases in both state and federal courts. Paul has helped lead national expert teams in some of the largest multidistrict litigations in history. He has extensive experience in selecting, developing, preparing, defending, and cross-examining experts. Paul has been a part of the trial team in more than a dozen high-profile trials involving implantable medical devices and is also actively involved in preparing cases for trial after they have been remanded from an MDL.





Marc E. Williams
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, Huntington, WV USA

Marc E. Williams is the managing partner of the West Virginia office of Nelson Mullins. He has a national trial and appellate practice involving complex civil litigation, class actions, product liability, data breach and privacy, and commercial litigation. He has had first chair responsibility for more than 150 trials and appeals in his career. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has served as President of three national legal organizations: DRI – The Voice of Defense Bar, Lawyers for Civil Justice, and the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence. He has been lead defense counsel in matters asserting public nuisance against chemical manufacturers, transportation companies, and pharmaceutical manufacturers.



<mark>Grant Worden</mark> Torys LLP, Toronto, ON Canada

Grant Worden co-chairs Torys LLP's product liability litigation team and acts as lead counsel in multijurisdictional proceedings across Canada. Grant regularly defends pharmaceutical, medical device, consumer product and agricultural product manufacturers in product liability class actions, "mass torts," and individual claims. He is highly regarded within the industry and by his peers, and is recognized by Chambers Canada, Best Lawyers in Canada, Benchmark Canada, and The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory for his expertise in product liability. Clients describe Grant as a "very bright and careful strategist" who provides "very thoughtful and strategic direction." Grant was also named as one of the Top 10 Influential Product Liability Lawyers Reshaping Canada's Litigation Scene in 2023 by Business Today.