

Product Liability **ROUNDTABLE**

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SEPTEMBER 16
Bayer Corporation
Whippany, NJ USA



PRODUCT LIABILITY ROUNDTABLE

This full-day specialty roundtable, sponsored jointly by the Product Liability Committee and Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee, creates a forum for in-house counsel and outside counsel to learn together and discuss new developments in the product liability arena. Roundtable participants are able to network with lawyers from multiple jurisdictions both during the program and at a concluding reception.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

REGISTRATION

Registration is available online. To register for the Product Liability Roundtable:

www.iadclaw.org/events/2025-product-liability-roundtable

Last year's event sold out very quickly, so if you would like to attend, please register early to secure your spot.

FEES

Outside Counsel: \$595 (Member/Non-Member)

Insurance Executives/Corporate Counsel: Complimentary

QUESTIONS?

For questions on registration, email Leeza Abramovich, Meetings Coordinator, at labramovich@iadclaw.org. For all other meeting questions, email Melisa Maisel Vanis, Director of Meetings and Professional Development, at mmaisel@iadclaw.org.

SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

J. Dominic Campodonico, 2025-2026 IADC President, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, San Francisco, CA USA

Sharon L. Caffrey, Program Co-Chair, Duane Morris LLP, Philadelphia, PA USA

Grant Worden, Program Co-Chair, Torys LLP, Toronto, ON Canada

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Party Crashers: The Implications of AI and Data Privacy on the Mitigation, Defense, and Policy Making in Products Liability

Companies across the globe are in a race to be the most efficient, highest performing, and greatly desired manufacturers of products. This race is sponsored by business innovation and fueled by

technology. AI and data privacy have created a conflict where manufacturers use data received from consumers to propel advancement of products and increase market share in a space where use of that information can lead to litigation and violation of laws and regulations. This panel will take us on ride of trends in software case law likely to impact future AI case law, data privacy concerns where liability falls along the supply chain, and how traditional concepts of duty, causation, design defect, and foreseeability could be applied in cases involving AI.

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

Speakers:

Sarah-Jane Dobson, *Ashurst LLP, London, United Kingdom*

Jeffrey Huang, *Textron Specialized Vehicles, Augusta, GA USA*

Laura Sexton, *Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA*

10:15 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Networking Break

10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

When Coming Together Can Tear Us Apart: Trends in Aggregated and Consolidated Litigation

Recent doctrinal changes, as well as shifts in the legal profession, have altered the nature of aggregated litigation—a development nowhere more important than when confronting product liability claims. This panel will discuss a broad range of topics relevant to formation and management of aggregated and consolidated litigation. Key subjects include current trends in decisions by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation in federal product liability cases, as well as the status of state mechanisms to consolidate lawsuits. Panelists will also discuss the changing face of procedural and substantive limitations on MDLs and other mass litigation, such as rules excluding unreliable scientific evidence and jurisdictional limitations on which cases can be included in consolidated litigation within a single state or district.

Moderator: **Larissa Eustice**, *Bayer Corporation, Whippany, NJ USA*

Speakers:

Amy K. Fisher, *McCarter & English, LLP, Carmel, IN USA*

Evan Holden, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Atlanta, GA USA*

Maha M. Kabbash, *Tucker Ellis LLP, Morristown, NJ USA*

11:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Fall Back/Spring Ahead: A Review of the Most Pivotal Product Liability Decisions in the Last Year and a Preview of Issues and Cases to Watch

A lot can happen in one year. Since the last Product Liability Roundtable, there have been thousands of precedential court decisions issued across the country. It is almost impossible for one practitioner to keep up on everything. This panel will update you on the decisions from the past year that have reverberations on product liability practice across the country. It will also highlight product liability issues and cases to watch until we meet again next year.

Speakers:

Katie Maechler, *Maslon LLP, Minneapolis, MN USA*

Tonya G. Newman, *Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP, Chicago, IL USA*

Mark K. Silver, *Schenck, Price, Smith & King LLP, Florham Park, NJ USA*

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

International Update: Key Product Liability Developments from Canada, Europe, and Australia

Product liability laws and procedures are in a constant state of flux around the globe, and it is critical for coordinating defense counsel and in-house counsel to be aware of these developments. This panel, organized in lightning round format, will focus on key updates from Canada, Europe, and Australia and will offer valuable insights into emerging trends, regulatory changes, and landmark cases. Topics discussed will include the EU Product Liability Directive, a report on the status of class action litigation in Australia and government claims for healthcare costs, and the class certification test in Canada. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how product liability laws are evolving across different jurisdictions, equipping them with the tools to better navigate cross-border legal challenges and stay ahead in an increasingly interconnected marketplace.

Speakers:

Sarah J. Armstrong, *Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, Toronto, ON Canada*

Henning Moelle, *Taylor Wessing, Frankfurt, Germany*

Gregory Williams, *Clayton Utz, Sydney, Australia*

2:30 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Networking Break

2:55 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

New Frontiers in Product Liability: Recent Attention on UPFs, Alcohol, and Supplements May Grow with the Trump Administration's Backing of "Make America Healthy Again"

Food, alcohol, and supplements are under increasing scrutiny due to health concerns and evolving research regarding risk. Recent reports of a link between ultra-processed foods (UPFs) and common health issues, and the U.S. Surgeon General's advisory regarding alcohol's role in cancer risk, pose challenges and potential minefields for food and beverage companies. In the dietary supplement industry, navigating consumer protection statutes and deciphering FDA actions present further challenges. This session will explore how regulation, law, and consumerism intersect to impact product liability litigation in the food, beverage, and supplement industries at a time when the overall health of the country is receiving heightened scrutiny from the new administration.

Moderator: **Jason C. Rose**, *Venable LLP, Baltimore, MD USA*

Speakers:

Kelly Jones Howell, *Harris Beach PLLC, New York, NY USA*

Effie Silva, *Del Monte, Miami, FL USA*

3:55 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

What Now? How In-House Counsel are Reacting to Developments in Product Liability Litigation

This experienced panel of in-house counsel will offer insights into how they are responding to some of the latest trends and developments addressed during the 2025 IADC Product Liability Roundtable. They will discuss AI and data privacy issues, talk about management of mass tort litigation and what they expect plaintiffs' counsel to focus on next, and address how their companies are responding to changing international laws and the emerging "duty to innovate" in the U.S. These in-house leaders will also offer advice for how external counsel can help them adapt to an ever-changing legal and regulatory landscape.

Moderator: **Whitney Frazier Watt**, *Stites & Harbison, PLLC, Louisville, KY USA*

Speakers:

Robyn Buck, *Bayer U.S., Saint Louis, MO USA*

Jennifer Grewe, *Konecranes, Lebanon, OH USA*

4:55 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Sharon L. Caffrey, *Program Co-Chair, Duane Morris LLP, Philadelphia, PA USA*

Grant Worden, *Program Co-Chair, Torys LLP, Toronto, ON Canada*

5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Cocktail Reception

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Bayer Corporation
100 Bayer Boulevard
Whippany, New Jersey 07981

ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

The IADC will not be hosting a room block during this meeting. If you require lodging while attending the conference, please plan to make reservations at your preferred hotel as soon as possible. Nearby hotel suggestions include:

[The Hyatt Regency Morristown](#)

[The Hanover Marriott](#)

[The Westin Governor Morris, Morristown](#)

Newark Liberty International Airport is approximately 22 miles from the facility. Other nearby New York airports include John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia Airport.

Visitor parking is available onsite at Bayer.

CLIMATE AND DRESS

When packing for your trip, please note that average temperatures in Whippany this time of year range from a high of 77 degrees Fahrenheit to a low of 54 degrees Fahrenheit. Business and business casual attire are appropriate for the conference.

CLE CREDITS

Approximately 5.5 hours of general CLE credit in 60-minute states and 6.6 hours of general CLE credit in 50-minute states will be requested for accreditation from all mandatory continuing legal education jurisdictions where registered attendees are licensed.

CPD CREDIT (CANADA)

The IADC is a Pre-Approved Provider of CPD Credit with the Law Society of British Columbia. The Quebec CPD Committee recognizes courses approved by other Canadian bars as approved in Quebec. For those in attendance at the Product Liability Roundtable, 5.5 CPD credits are available.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have any special needs during the meeting (i.e. diet or accessibility), please email Melisa Maisel Vanis, Director of Meetings and Professional Development, at mmaisel@iadclaw.org in advance of the meeting.

DATA PRIVACY AND COLLECTION

Data is collected on attendees through registration for the purposes of executing the meeting and communicating with attendees about the meeting. Meeting sponsors have access to the registration list provided to all attendees.

If any attendee has questions on data use and privacy, please contact Mary Beth Kurzak, Executive Director and CEO, at mkurzak@iadclaw.org.

CANCELLATION POLICY

A CASH REFUND, less a \$150 processing fee, will be made if a written notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office more than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the meeting. No reason for the cancellation need be provided for a timely notice of cancellation.

NO CASH REFUND will be made if notice of cancellation is received by the IADC office thirty (30) days or less prior to the first day of the meeting. However, if special circumstances arise before the meeting which prevent attendance, a member may request a future meeting credit. The request needs to be in writing and submitted to the IADC office. It should be directed to the Finance Committee's attention and note the special circumstances which caused cancellation. The credit request can only apply to meeting registration fees (not air, hotel, activity, tour, or special event fees) and, if approved, will be valid for use toward any IADC meeting for one (1) year from the date of the meeting for which credit is requested. A \$150 processing fee will be deducted from the total future meeting credit.

All future meeting credit requests will be considered by the Finance Committee and the decision of that Committee will be final.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to the members of the Product Liability Roundtable Planning Committee for their work to make this meeting possible.

PRODUCT LIABILITY ROUNDTABLE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Robyn Buck, Bayer U.S., Saint Louis, MO USA

R. Matthew Cairns, Textron Inc., Providence, RI USA

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