



Zane C. Riester

2026 Corporate Counsel Training Academy Program Chair
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Zane Riester is currently Assistant General Counsel at Johnson & Johnson where he currently manages a broad portfolio of medical device and pharmaceutical cases worldwide. Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, Zane was a partner at McCarter & English in Newark, New Jersey where he worked on a number of high-profile product liability cases and consumer fraud class actions, with a focus on the needs of medical device and pharmaceutical companies.





J. Dominic Campodonico

IADC President
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Dominic Campodonico is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani (GRSM). He has 28 years of experience serving as national litigation coordinating counsel, regional counsel, and local counsel in mass tort, product liability litigation. He has represented manufacturers and distributors of a variety of pharmaceutical/medical device and laboratory products as well as personal care/consumer products in litigations as well as risk assessments. He has been involved in many California Judicial Council Coordinated Proceedings and has served as Defense Liaison Counsel. Dominic's experience also extends to other industries including personal protective equipment, automobile parts, household appliances, and industrial machinery. He has significant experience handling wrongful death and catastrophic injury litigation and has developed an extensive network of prominent experts in many sciences and technologies. He also assists his clients with high-stakes matters that frequently occur simultaneously with product liability litigation, such as risk management and compliance, FDA/regulatory issues, government investigations, suits under the federal and California False Claims Act, insurance, and crisis communications.

Dominic has comprehensive experience in alternative dispute resolution of state and national cases, and has participated as regional and national settlement counsel in mass tort cases. He has extensive experience working with experts in dozens of fields and has defended and taken multiple expert depositions over the course of his career. In that regard, Dominic has developed specific expertise in areas related to medical causation and

	<p>damages, product design and manufacturing, chemical science and safety, regulatory affairs, and sales and marketing.</p> <p>Prior to his work at GRSM, Dominic was a research attorney for three superior court judges in Los Angeles. In addition to his legal practice, he has served as the hiring partner for Gordon & Rees’s Summer Associate Program for the San Francisco office and was a member of the Summer Associate Hiring Committee for eight years. He has also been active in the firm’s Diversity, Community Service, and Pro Bono Committees and has served on multiple Boards for local and national entities.</p>
	<p>Tiffany Andras <i>Kimberly-Clark</i> <i>Chicago, Illinois USA</i> tiffany.andras@kcc.com</p> <p>Tiffany M. Andras is Assistant General Counsel-Litigation at Kimberly Clark Corporation where she is responsible for North America litigation, with a focus on consumer class actions as well as environmental disputes and regulatory actions. She also provides strategic counsel on risk management for the global consumer products company’s iconic brands, including Huggies, Kleenex, Kotex, and Cottonelle. Prior to joining Kimberly-Clark, Tiffany spent more than a decade in private practice at Greenberg Traurig LLP gaining experience in complex multi-party litigation, including MDLs and class actions, as well as CERCLA litigation.</p>
	<p>Kenneth Dzikowski <i>Teva Pharmaceuticals</i> <i>Parsippany, New Jersey USA</i></p> <p>Kenneth Dzikowski serves as Director of Product Liability & Commercial Litigation at Teva Pharmaceuticals where he leads complex, high exposure litigation matters involving product liability, commercial disputes, and multi-jurisdictional risk. Ken oversees national defense strategies, manages significant portfolios of active litigation, and advises executive leadership on risk mitigation, litigation positioning, and regulatory exposure.</p>
	<p>Betsy Farrington <i>Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP</i> <i>Chicago, Illinois USA</i> bfarrington@goldmanismail.com</p> <p>Betsy Farrington is a dynamic litigator and trial lawyer with a range of complex litigation experience, particularly in nationwide product liability litigation. Betsy has handled all aspects of pretrial litigation in consolidated state court</p>

proceedings and in multi-district litigation from briefing and arguing motions on the pleadings through preparing and deposing fact and expert witnesses. Her work on expert and summary judgment briefing has resulted in the exclusion of numerous experts and pretrial dismissals. And when it has not, Betsy has examined witnesses at trial and helped successfully defend defense verdicts on appeal.

A decorated former Naval officer, Betsy continues her commitment to service by maintaining an active pro bono practice, including her representation of asylum seekers in immigration court and her appellate advocacy on behalf of indigent criminal defendants.

Betsy joined Goldman Ismail after completing federal judicial clerkships in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Western District of Missouri. She earned her B.S. from the United States Naval Academy and her J.D. summa cum laude from University of Illinois College of Law.



Lisa M. Floro

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Lisa M. Floro is the Vice President, General Counsel, Global Litigation at Coloplast Corp. She is responsible for all disputes and litigation globally across the Coloplast Group with the exception of intellectual property disputes and litigation. Lisa is responsible for devising, implementing, and enforcing global litigation strategies and partnering with other legal and functional experts in the various businesses and countries. She is a member of the Group Legal, IP and Business Ethics leadership team.

Prior to her work at Coloplast, Lisa worked in-house at a life sciences company managing a variety of litigation, including pharmaceutical mass tort multi-district litigation, commercial litigation, contract/warranty litigation, and general litigation, as well as government subpoenas and investigations. She has counseled on regulatory, marketing, medical communications, and public relations relating to litigation matters. Her career includes a federal clerkship, private practice in both large and small firms, and in-house counsel.

Lisa lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with her husband Gianni and two children, Tommaso and Mia. She is involved in many community activities and is passionate about mentoring and coaching future leaders. Lisa received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Association of Corporate Counsel, and International Association of Defense Counsel.

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Christopher Gardino

*CNH
Chicago, IL USA*

Chris Gardino is Senior Counsel for Litigation and Supply Chain at CNH Industrial America LLC. In his current role, Chris manages a large docket of active cases in the United States and Canada including product liability and commercial matters. Chris also partners with procurement, engineering, and product safety teams on risk and strategic counseling. Prior to joining CNH, Chris was a partner at Tucker Ellis in the mass tort and product liability group. Chris has more than 17 years of experience as a litigator.



Diana Katz Gerstel

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Diana Katz Gerstel defends pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers in state and federal courts across the country, including defending clients in pelvic mesh and hernia mesh litigations, talc litigation, and baby formula litigations. She has extensive experience in every aspect of expert work, from identifying and recruiting defense experts to developing reports and preparing for and defending experts at their depositions, as well as preparing experts for trial. Also experienced in professional liability litigation, Diana has defended law firms and lawyers against claims of professional malpractice. Before entering private practice, Diana served as a law clerk to The Honorable Robert J. Brennan, J.S.C. of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Morris County. Diana also provides pro bono legal services to victims of domestic violence and individuals bringing sec. 1983 claims regarding conditions of their incarceration.





James Hemmings

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James Hemmings has built his career on guiding organizations through complex risk, regulatory scrutiny, and mission-critical litigation with clarity and practical judgment. Currently, James is General Counsel for the start-up botanical supplement company Diversified Botanics where he leads the company's legal strategy on litigation, regulatory compliance, employment concerns, intellectual property, government affairs, and commercial transactions. Previously, he served as the lead litigation and intellectual property counsel for Spectrum Brands, a global consumer goods conglomerate. Prior to moving in-house, James practiced at the law firms of Tucker Ellis and Sidley Austin where he represented manufacturers and

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	<p>institutions in high-stakes product liability, mass tort, and complex commercial disputes as well as counseled entities through various regulatory matters. He earned his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law and holds advanced degrees from the University of Virginia and the University of Chicago.</p>
	<p>Hope Katz <i>Huron Consulting Group Inc.</i> <i>Chicago, IL USA</i></p> <p>Hope Katz was appointed executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary January 1, 2025. Previously, Hope was appointed corporate vice president, legal affairs, and corporate secretary of Huron in March 2024.</p> <p>Hope joined Huron in 2018 and served as deputy general counsel. Before she joined Huron, Hope was senior employment counsel at Accenture from 2014 to 2018 and served as associate general counsel and vice president at Hitachi Consulting from 2007 until 2013. Previously, she was an associate in the litigation and corporate restructuring groups at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.</p> <p>She is a member of the American Bar Association and board member of the Children’s Research Fund, a benefactor of Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. She received her B.A in Political Science from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from Cornell Law School, where she served as an editor of the Cornell Law Review.</p>
	<p>Kelly Lankford <i>AbbVie</i> <i>New York, NY USA</i></p> <p>Kelly Lankford is a strategic advisor at the intersection of complex litigation, regulatory policy, and business strategy. She partners closely with business and compliance leaders to navigate high-stakes legal challenges and align risk management with enterprise objectives in an evolving healthcare and regulatory environment. Before joining AbbVie, she was Counsel at Dentons US LLP, where she handled complex commercial disputes, arbitration, and class actions. Kelly previously practiced at McCarter & English LLP and Lowenstein Sandler LLP, representing pharmaceutical, financial services, and corporate clients in sophisticated litigation matters.</p>



Robin Linley

*Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Toronto, ON Canada*

Robin Linley provides proactive advice to leading manufacturers and distributors and others in the distribution chain on risk management, litigation avoidance strategies, government regulation and compliance, and product warnings and recalls. He primarily represents clients in the defense of serious personal injury cases involving allegations of failure to warn; negligent design; manufacture and testing of medical devices; pharmaceutical products; automotive parts; food products; commercial and industrial machinery; crop protection and agricultural products; electrical products; restaurant equipment; and consumer goods. Many of these cases are class actions.

Robin's practice extends into general commercial litigation where he represents both plaintiffs and defendants in disputes involving breach of restrictive covenants, shareholder disputes, professional negligence, and breach of commercial contracts.

He also represents and advises First Nations and non-First Nations clients in resolving disputes involving Canadian indigenous law arising from the management of First Nations lands and resources, constitutional claims and treaties, and issues relating to the Crown's duty to consult.



James F. Murdica

*Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Chicago, IL USA*


Jim Murdica is chairman of the Barnes & Thornburg Product Liability and Mass Torts practice. He serves as national coordinating counsel and MDL counsel in consolidated litigations across the country, with a primary focus on innovative medicines and medical devices. Jim has also coordinated the resolution of many of the largest and most complex drug, device, pesticide, and consumer product mass torts of the last decade.



Allison Ng

*Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Atlanta, GA USA*

Allison Ng represents companies in complex commercial litigation and defends high-profile product liability, pharmaceutical, and medical device cases throughout the country in state and federal courts. She has experience litigating lawsuits from single-plaintiff claims to consolidated or coordinated proceedings, concurrent federal and state litigation, multi-district litigation,

	<p>class actions, multi-county litigation, and mass-tort litigation. Allison serves as liaison counsel for a global pharmaceutical company in multi-district litigation.</p> <p>Allison understands the evolving regulatory framework and business issues impacting retailers, manufacturers, and branded and emerging companies. She collaborates with her team to determine the best course of action for a matter, while balancing the client's reputation, litigation cost, and potential impact.</p> <p>Allison strives to make a meaningful impact in her profession and personal life. In her free time, she serves on various bar and community organizations to help increase diversity and to establish a pipeline of diverse candidates for involvement in the legal and local community.</p>
	<p>Kari Rhode <i>Medtronic Inc.</i> <i>Keller, TX USA</i> kari.rhode@medtronic.com</p> <p>Kari Rhode is Director, Litigation at Medtronic with more than twenty years of in-house counsel experience. Kari has been with Medtronic for more than 15 years where she spent her first five years at the company as a business unit lawyer before moving to the litigation team. Prior to joining Medtronic, Kari was in-house at MoneyGram Internation for six years, where she was responsible for managing the company's litigation and supporting the marketing and other functions. Prior to her move in-house, she spent six years in private practice as an attorney on the business litigation team at Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP in Minneapolis (now Fox Rothschild).</p>
	<p>Megan Toth <i>Rivian</i> <i>Chicago, IL USA</i> Megantoth@rivian.com</p> <p>Meg Toth currently serves as the Chief Labor & Employment Counsel at Rivian where she leads the Labor & Employment Legal team managing the company's employment litigation and HR legal strategy. In addition to the Labor & Employment Legal team, Meg also leads Rivian's workplace investigations, labor relations, and HR compliance teams ensuring that Rivian's innovative culture is supported by a robust and scalable legal framework.</p> <p>Prior to joining Rivian, Meg was a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP within the firm's Labor & Employment practice group. During her tenure in private practice, she defended, represented, and acted as a strategic advisor for a diverse portfolio</p>

	<p>of clients, ranging from high-growth, early-stage startups to global Fortune 500 corporations.</p>
	<p>Ethan York <i>Stryker</i> <i>Chicago, IL USA</i></p> <p>Ethan York is Senior Litigation Counsel at Stryker. Ethan has more than 25 years of litigation experience. Before joining Stryker, Ethan was a litigation partner at Winston & Strawn in Chicago where he spent more than 12 years practicing complex commercial litigation. Since joining Stryker in 2012, Ethan has assumed responsibility for leading the company's product liability defense practice. Ethan and his team manage PL matters and provide legal counsel across all the company's divisions and product lines.</p>