

Product Liability **ROUNDTABLE**

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SEPTEMBER 22
Pfizer Headquarters
New York, New York 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/2026-product-liability-roundtable

This annual event is extremely popular and fills quickly, so if you would like to attend, please register early to secure your spot.

FEES

Outside Counsel: \$645 (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 Jennifer Aron, Professional Development Manager, at jaron@iadclaw.org.

SCHEDULE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception (New York Regional Meeting)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Mark D. Hansen, IADC President, GROWMARK, Inc., Bloomington, IL USA

Edward Dumoulin, Program Co-Chair, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA

Daniel Higginbotham, Program Co-Chair, Thomas Combs & Spann PLLC, Charleston, WV USA

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Reading the Jury Room: Defense Tactics That Win Cases

Today's jurors bring new expectations, new skepticisms, and new ways of evaluating risk and responsibility. Those shifts—alongside the continued rise in outsized verdicts—require defense teams to be even more deliberate and data-driven than ever. This panel unpacks current trends in juror mindsets and shows how research-based insights can shape themes, witnesses, and strategy. Attendees will learn practical ways to read the jury room, counter the nuclear-verdict playbook, and position their cases to win at trial.

Moderator:

Mollie Benedict, *Tucker Ellis LLP, Los Angeles, CA USA*

Speakers:

Stephanie Laws, *MASLON LLP, Minneapolis, MN USA*

Jill M. Leibold, PhD, *IMS Legal Strategies, Los Angeles, CA USA*

Eric L. Probst, *Schindler Elevator Corporation (U.S.), Morristown, NJ USA*

10:15 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Networking Break

10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

The “Black Box” of AI: No Longer A Legal Shield for Product Manufacturers

With the EU's AI Act and new Product Liability Directive demanding accountability for AI, together with the proposed US AI LEAD Act, 2026 marks a pivotal year for AI as the legal framework governing its risks continues shifting from voluntary guidelines to hard liability. This panel will analyze the updated EU Product Liability Directive which formally classifies AI as a “product,” alongside the proposed US AI LEAD Act which seeks to do the same. This panel will then examine the collision of technological innovation with legal responsibility, focusing on how AI is used throughout the product life cycle—from design, to manufacture, to warnings—and how product manufacturers can prepare for a more litigious, heavily regulated AI landscape.

Speakers:

Lisa DeBord, *Bayer U.S., St. Louis, MO USA*

Phil Goldberg, *Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, Washington, DC USA*

Michael Malterer, *Dentons, Munich, Germany*

Danielle Mindlin, *Pfizer Inc., New York, NY USA*

11:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

They Did What?!?!? The Latest in Plaintiffs' Bar Tactics

Recent books, articles, and judicial opinions have spotlighted the tactics currently being used by plaintiffs' attorneys and third-party service providers in mass tort litigation. Allegations range from false representations about the timeliness of major categories of claims to improperly using consultants that used to work for the defendants. These are not just “war stories.” These are tactics that are currently being utilized in litigation and how courts are responding. This panel will discuss recent judicial decisions, how defendants can respond to similar actions in the future, and how the present will impact the future.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Nancy M. Erfle, *Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, Portland, OR USA*

Mark A. Prost, *Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C., St. Louis, MO USA*

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Beyond the Point of Sale: Emerging Risks and Evolving Duties in the Modern Product Lifecycle

This session will examine the rapidly evolving landscape of post-sale products liability law, with emphasis on the expanding regulatory, standards-driven, and common-law obligations manufacturers face long after a product enters the marketplace. As agencies, courts, and international standards bodies increase focus on the full product lifecycle, companies must navigate complex expectations involving post-sale recalls, refurbished and remanufactured products returning to commerce, and ongoing duties to warn or update consumers.

Moderator:

Carolyn E. Riggs, *FBT Gibbons, Indianapolis, IN USA*

Speakers:

Dana Baiocco, *Clyde & Co US LLP, Washington, DC USA*

Jay Spears, *Continental Tire the Americas, LLC, Fort Mill, SC USA*

Sarah K. Wolfe, *AUMOVIO, Charlotte, NC USA*

2:30 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Networking Break

2:55 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Rulemaking on the Edge: Trends in a New Era of Federal Regulation

With government agencies changing regulations with less rigor, executive orders being issued which impact agency actions, and the plaintiffs' bar or those in alignment with their interests becoming more involved in shaping public policy, companies face uncertain regulatory control. This can be seen in the EPA, FDA, HHS, and USDA, among other agencies. This is most apparent in changes to environmental regulations, food safety initiatives, and pharmaceutical governance. We will discuss what is driving these changes and how companies have been impacted by them, along with how they can best make decisions in a time of regulatory uncertainty, including litigation strategy.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Mike Gentine, *Arnold & Porter, Washington, DC USA*

John S. Guttman, *Beveridge & Diamond PC, Washington, DC USA*

Christiana Jaxsens, *B. Braun Medical Inc., Atlanta, GA USA*

3:55 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

What's Next? How In-House Counsel Are Reacting to Developments in Product Liability Litigation

This experienced and varied panel of in-house counsel will offer insights on how they are adapting to some of the latest trends and developments addressed during the 2026 Product Liability Roundtable. They will discuss changes in juror attitudes, the defense bar's response to plaintiff bar-led regulatory changes, and AI liability exposure and regulation. These in-house strategy drivers will offer advice for how external counsel can help them successfully navigate a shifting legal and regulatory landscape.

Moderator:

Allyson Miller Julien, *Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA*

Speakers:

David Orensten, *Starbucks, Columbus, OH USA*

Shaniqua L. Singleton, *Mercedes-Benz USA, Atlanta, GA USA*

4:55 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Edward Dumoulin, *Program Co-Chair, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA*

Daniel Higginbotham, *Program Co-Chair, Thomas Combs & Spann PLLC, Charleston, WV USA*

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Cocktail Reception

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EVENT



GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Pfizer Headquarters
66 Hudson Boulevard East
New York, NY 10001

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. Please be aware that the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly will be taking place in NYC this week, so we encourage you to make your hotel reservation early. Some nearby hotels within walking distance are listed below. Rates will vary.

[SpringHill Suites by Marriott New York Manhattan/ Times Square South](#)
[Hilton Garden Inn New York Times Square South](#)
[Four Points by Sheraton Manhattan Midtown West](#)

LaGuardia Airport is approximately 11 miles from the facility. Other nearby airports include John F. Kennedy International Airport (18 miles) and Newark Liberty International Airport (15 miles).

CLIMATE AND DRESS

When packing for your trip, please note that average temperatures in New York City this time of year range from a high of 75 degrees Fahrenheit to a low of 56 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.

2026 Product Liability **ROUNDTABLE** SEPTEMBER 22

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 TEAM MEMBERS

Edward Dumoulin, Program Co-Chair

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

Daniel Higginbotham, Program Co-Chair

Thomas Combs & Spann PLLC, Charleston, WV USA

Mollie Benedict, Tucker Ellis LLP, Los Angeles, CA USA

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

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

Christine Egner, Continental Tire the Americas, Fort Mill, SC USA

Sylvie Gallage-Alwis, Signature Litigation AARPI, Paris, France

Martin J. Healy, Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C., Morristown, NJ USA

Jeffrey Huang, Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc., Augusta, GA USA

Allyson Miller Julien, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP, Chicago, IL USA

Iryna Katsiuk, Stryker, Montville, NJ USA

Kevin L'Heveder, Vertiv, Paris, France

Stephanie Laws, MASLON LLP, Minneapolis, MN USA

Katie Maechler, MASLON LLP, Minneapolis, MN USA

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

Carolyn E. Riggs, FBT Gibbons, Indianapolis, IN USA

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

Elizabeth L. Taylor, Thomas Combs & Spann, PLLC, Charleston, WV USA

Whitney Frazier Watt, Stites & Harbison PLLC, Louisville, KY USA

Gregory Williams, Clayton Utz, Sydney, Australia

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