

DRUG, DEVICE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

DECEMBER 2021

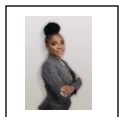
IN THIS ISSUE

As we approach the end of another eventful year, let's celebrate our fellow IADC members and the community we share by getting to know the members of the Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee. There are quite a few of us, so before getting back to our regularly scheduled program content, we will profile several members in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Allow Me to Reintroduce the Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee Members

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Drug, Device and Biotechnology Committee serves as an educational and networking resource for in-house counsel employed by pharmaceutical, medical device and biotech manufacturers and the outside counsel who serve those companies. The Committee is active in sponsoring major CLE programs at the Annual and Midyear Meetings as well as internal committee programs. The Committee also publishes a monthly newsletter that addresses recent developments and normally contributes two or more articles to the *Defense Counsel Journal* annually. Learn more about the Committee at www.iadclaw.org. To contribute a newsletter article, contact:



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**ROBIN SHAH,
VICE CHAIR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Who is Robin?

Robin Shah is a litigator in Skadden's Mass Torts, Insurance and Consumer Litigation Group. Robin represents an array of clients including medical device manufacturers, consumer product manufacturers, and pharmaceutical companies in complex civil litigation in state and federal courts across the country. She advises clients on all aspects of litigation including pre-trial discovery, factual investigation, fact and expert witness preparation and trial strategy. Robin has significant experience with respect to overseeing all stages of discovery. She has worked with clients to implement efficient and cost-effective approaches to meeting discovery obligations including with respect to document collection, review and production. She also has considerable experience working with opposing counsel to address discovery issues including negotiating protective orders, ESI protocols and privilege protocols. Robin has successfully defended allegations of spoliation throughout the country and has worked with clients to develop processes to improve document retention. She regularly advises clients regarding best practices for preservation and records management both on a global basis and with respect to litigation.

Robin is also active in her firm as a member of the firm's Summer Associate Committee

and is heavily involved in the firm's recruiting efforts.

What are some of Robin's insights about her journey as a litigator?

Q. What do you know now that you wish you had known at the beginning of your legal career?

A. So many things, but if I have to pick one I would say to never underestimate the power of the people you meet. I spent the beginning of my career entirely focused on keeping my head down and doing my job well. It took me years to realize how important it was to also cultivate relationships, not only with the people at my firm, but with clients, with colleagues at other firms and with members of organizations like IADC. Those relationships have led to truly phenomenal mentors and friends all over the country who have contributed to my career in ways I never could have imagined.

Q. What opportunity has had the most significant positive impact on your legal career?

A. I still remember the day I was assigned to the pelvic mesh litigation as a junior associate. I was told that there was not much for me to do, but that I would be helping out here and there. Little did we know at the time that it would become one of the largest litigations on the federal docket

and completely shape my entire career. The mesh litigation helped launch my expertise in e-discovery and it continuously provided a forum for so many of my "firsts" including taking a deposition, leading a meet and confer and arguing a motion. I was assigned to it by happen stance, and it ended up turning me into the attorney I am today.

Q. What is one piece of advice you received during your career that changed the way you practice?

A. It is ok if people disagree with you. It seems so simple, but I have realized over the years that people are terrified to state their opinions or make decisions or take a minority position on an issue. My mentor, who I would describe as a natural leader, always encouraged me to share what I think and always explained his thought process if he disagreed with me. It gave me the freedom to own my perspective while still listening to others, and the fear of sharing was replaced with an inherent confidence and power.

**CHAD HUTCHINSON,
VICE CHAIR OF PROGRAMS FOR THE
MIDYEAR MEETING**

Who is Chad?

Chad Hutchinson is an experienced trial attorney at Butler Snow LLP. Chad has

defended clients in the pharmaceutical and medical device industry for the majority of his career. He has successfully tried cases to verdict and assisted trial teams for cases in multi-district litigation and various state courts all over the country. Chad recently received the 2018 Burton Award for his published work. He is listed in Best Lawyers in America® and Super Lawyers® and is AVrated by Martindale-Hubbell.

What are some of Chad's insights about his journey as a litigator?

Q. What do you know now that you wish you had known at the beginning of your legal career?

A. Opportunities come in different shapes and sizes and sometimes from sources that you never could anticipate. Never take for granted an opportunity and make the best of them.

Q. What opportunity has had the most significant positive impact on your legal career?

A. My working with a polymer scientist expert

Q. What is one piece of advice you received during your career that changed the way you practice?

A. Don't think that just because someone "bleeds with ink" on your paper that they don't like you. They are simply trying to make you a better writer (and you probably need to improve anyway)!

**CHRISTOPHER MORRIS,
VICE CHAIR OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Who is Chris?

Chris Morris is an experienced trial attorney at Butler Snow LLP. Chris defends pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers in mass tort and individual cases in various state and federal courts throughout the country. He has significant experience addressing large volumes of complex discovery pending concurrently in multiple jurisdictions. Beyond pharmaceutical and medical device product liability litigation, he also has experience defending insurance companies against extra-contractual claims for punitive damages. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and has been recognized as a "Mid-South Rising Star" by Super Lawyers. Chris is also a member of Butler Snow's Pro Bono Committee and was recently appointed to the Mississippi Bar's Professionalism Committee.

What are some of Chris's insights about his journey as a litigator?

- Q. What do you know now that you wish you had known at the beginning of your legal career?
- A. A healthy work-life balance is important for career success.
- Q. What opportunity has had the most significant positive impact on your legal career?
- A. The opportunity to lead my own team in a mass tort litigation.

- Q. What is one piece of advice you received during your career that changed the way you practice?
- A. Treat your partners the same way you would treat your clients.

What do Robin, Chad and Chris have in common?

A combined forty-four years of experience successfully defending clients in the pharmaceutical and medical device industry and a shared passion to serve their clients and the legal community.

Past Committee Newsletters

Visit the Committee's newsletter archive online at www.iadclaw.org to read other articles published by the Committee. Prior articles include:

SEPTEMBER 2021

[The Virus Mutated...Have the PREP Act's Protections Against Liability for Countermeasures Followed Suit?](#)

Alissa Portner and Jason Rose

JUNE 2020

[Litigation in the Time of COVID-19: Understanding the Novel Impact on Drug and Device Cases](#)

Robin Shah and Andrew Karp

MAY 2020

[The "Preventing Essential Medical Device Shortages Act of 2020": COVID-19 Side Effect That Could Permanently Harm Medical Device Manufacturers](#)

Heather Heiskell Jones and James E. Simon

OCTOBER 2019

[Cracking the Code: Genetic Evidence and Specific Causation](#)

Ali Spindler and Stephen G.A. Myers

AUGUST 2019

[U.S. Supreme Court in Prescription Pharmaceutical Case Holds Implied Preemption is Legal Issue for Judge, Not Question of Fact for Jury](#)

Joseph J. Stroble and Stanley E. Blackmon

JULY 2019

[Un Update on Efforts to Create a Set of Rules for Multidistrict Litigation](#)

Albert G. Bixler and Immon Shafiei

JUNE 2019

[Alert: Deceptive Plaintiff Lawyer Advertising is Harmful to Public Health... and States are Taking Action](#)

Mark Behrens and Ashley Garry

MAY 2019

[The Scoop on the FDA's Updated Approach to the Dietary Supplement Market](#)

Elizabeth L. Taylor and Lindsey M. Saad

APRIL 2019

[Proposed Changes to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30\(b\)\(6\)](#)

Albert G. Bixler and Immon Shafiei

FEBRUARY 2019

[The Third Circuit is Snap Happy](#)

Jason Rose and Sarah L. Scott