Practices & Industries

Mass Tort Litigation

Overview

Day Pitney has served as national coordinating counsel and trial counsel in some of the most significant mass tort cases in the United States, helping clients win decisive victories involving pharmaceuticals and medical devices, toxic torts, and chemical contamination and mass disasters alleged to have caused a broad range of injuries, from repetitive stress syndrome to pulmonary disabilities and from rare cancers and diseases to disfiguring acid burns.

Our team executes the appropriate litigation plan for the client's challenge, strategically managing the complex process and leveraging sophisticated case management tools to increase efficiencies at every stage.

In addition to having highly skilled legal counsel, we assemble and coordinate defense strategies with great efficiency, owing to a resource we have built up over the years: our 50-state and international network of both legal counsel and nonlegal professionals, including physicians, epidemiologists, industrial hygienists, toxicologists, psychologists, oncologists, engineers, economists, actuaries and others.

Experience

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Day Pitney lawyers have successfully defended:

- A global bank against claims of alleged injuries from exposure to contaminants in lower Manhattan as a result of the September 11, 2001, attacks.
- A specialty chemicals company in cost recovery and wrongful death lawsuits arising from a ceiling collapse on the Big Dig project in Boston.
- A major energy company against a mass tort claim for personal injury, property damage and other relief involving more than 300 plaintiffs who allegedly resided near one of the company's former manufactured-gas plants.
- A religious organization for nearly two decades in connection with alleged sexual abuse claims occurring 30 to 50 years ago.
- A private university against more than 75 federal claims of alleged sexual abuse occurring at a Haitian school run by an alumnus.
- A major medical center against more than 160 lawsuits involving allegations of child sexual abuse by a former employee including trials to verdict.
- A thermal processing company in a property damage claim arising out of the explosion of industrial equipment, which resulted in a jury verdict of $18.3 million in favor of our client.
- A European manufacturer against claims of brain damage and seat belt failure.
- A Big Three automobile manufacturer in connection with a claim of product defect, crashworthiness claims and claims of catastrophic injury.

- A shellfish harvester in a significant product liability action involving more than 20 medical and scientific experts, and the novel claim that the consumption of shellfish at a restaurant can trigger a condition called Guillain-Barré syndrome and irreversible paralysis.
- An international manufacturer of papermaking equipment in a workplace injury case.
- A manufacturer against claims in a consolidated trial of 13 asbestos cases, including two wrongful death cases.
- A major consumer product manufacturer in a class action involving claims of product defect and punitive damages.
- A global security company in several cases involving catastrophic injury and death resulting from a fire that destroyed a college dormitory.
- A major dietary supplement company in a litigation regarding a weight-loss drug.
- A global specialty chemical company in a suit demanding costs incurred by another company for abating contamination at a site.
- A group of chemical and auto companies among approximately 300 companies defending three actions alleging pulmonary injuries and cancer suffered by the owner-operators of a licensed waste disposal facility and by firemen who responded to an explosion at the site.
- An industrial gas manufacturer against various claims from employees stemming from exposure to vinyl chloride monomer and seeking damages for wrongful death, personal injury and medical monitoring.
- A Connecticut water company in property damage cases arising from contamination of aquifers by toxic chemicals.
- A major tool and construction manufacturer against products liability and negligence claims in state and federal courts.
- A tobacco company in a products liability case wherein a plaintiff asserted that the decedent's death was caused by defective cigarettes.
- Physicians and hospitals in personal injury actions to a jury verdict wherein the plaintiffs made multimillion-dollar demands for alleged brain injury, which the juries rejected.
- The manufacturer of an aircraft propeller system in a fatal air disaster case tried in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.
- A manufacturer of industrial equipment in a case involving the collapse of a suspended scaffold that resulted in two deaths.
- Major chemical companies in the Lore v. Lone Pine toxic tort litigation, in which we served as lead counsel and presented argument to the court on behalf of more than 450 alleged generator defendants that resulted in the dismissal of action. The Lone Pine order has become a standard in toxic tort litigation throughout the United States.