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PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

I concentrate my trial practice on commercial and tort litigation, with a particular emphasis on defending product liability lawsuits. I have successfully defended manufacturers involved in class actions and multi-district mass tort claims alleging defective products. I also represent manufacturers and other businesses in commercial disputes, particularly in breach of contract, breach of warranty and consumer fraud claims. In addition, I have experience handling litigation in many other practice areas, including, but not limited to antitrust, medical and legal malpractice, construction, employment, and trade secret misappropriation. I am an experienced trial lawyer, having been lead counsel on five jury verdict trials and two bench trials, and I have taken and defended well over several hundred depositions.

In addition to my trial practice, I routinely advise corporations confronting major crises, such as product recalls and food borne illness outbreaks. I have coordinated and advised clients on numerous national and global product recalls involving children's products, computer/electronic products, cell phones/speaker phones, fire extinguishers and smoke alarms, food products and automobile equipment. As part of my work on these high profile matters, I work with clients on developing appropriate litigation strategies, interacting with governmental and regulatory agencies and responding to media inquiries.

I also assist clients in reducing potential product liability and product recall exposure by developing appropriate product recall plans and protocols, reviewing the adequacy of product warnings, labels and instructions, ensuring compliance with applicable regulations, statutes and standards and conducting comprehensive product liability assessment audits.

PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

- "How to Survive a Product Recall," quoted extensively in an article appearing on Inc.com on June 24, 2010.
- "The Doctrine of Forum Non Conveniens: Are Foreign Plaintiffs Suing American Manufacturers in the United States Entitled to a Presumption in Favor of Their Choice of Forum?," International Association of Defense Counsel, Product Liability Committee Newsletter, June 2009.
- "Planning for and Implementing a Product Recall," International Association of Defense Counsel Journal, July 2007.
- Editor and contributor, "Global Product Recall Handbook," Baker & McKenzie publication, October 2006.
- "The Importance of Effectively Communicating Product Warnings," International Association of Defense Counsel, Product Liability Committee Newsletter, February 2006.
- "The Admissibility of a CPSC Preliminary Determination of Substantial Product Hazard In Litigation Involving the Product," Defense Research Institute, Product Liability Committee Newsletter, February 2006.
- "Managing the Crisis of a Terrorist Attack", Baker & McKenzie Homeland Security Practice Group monthly newsletter, January 2005.

- “The Recovery of Damages Caused by Defective Parts Supplied by Component Manufacturers: Recent Developments in Illinois”, International Association of Defense Counsel, Product Liability Committee Newsletter, December 2004.
- Co-editor, Product Liability in North America (Book published by Baker & McKenzie – latest edition 2004).
- Co-author of a chapter for IILCE’s treatise, Illinois Civil Practice, entitled “Motions During and at Close of Defendant’s Case in Chief”.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Consumer Products: The Latest on the CPSIA, Recalls and Product Testing” – September 28, 2010 – webinar presentation with Chip Magid of Dorsey & Whitney, LLP sponsored by the Product Liability Committee of the International Association of Defense Counsel.
- “Emails and Documents – Do’s and Don’ts” – July 21, 2010 – presentation to CODA Automotive’s Quality Control and Design Groups – Santa Monica, CA.
- “E-Data & Discovery – Simple Steps to Protect Infantino From Avoidable Risk – June 2, 2009 – presentation to Infantino management – San Diego, CA.
- “Navigating the New Consumer Product Safety Legislation in the United States” – October 22, 2008 – presentation with Michael J. Wagner and Erin M. Maus as part of seminar entitled “Emerging Global Risks: Trends and Realities in Product Liability and Recalls” – New York, NY
- “Dealing with Suppliers in China: Product Quality and Product Recall Issues” – September 5, 2008 – presentation with Michael J. Wagner at seminar sponsored by the John Marshall Law School Center for Intellectual Property and The Sister Cities China Committee – Chicago, IL
- “Minimizing the Costs Associated with Defective Products: The Importance of Product Recall and Product Safety Programs” – August 26, 2008 – presentation to Huawei Technologies (USA) – Dallas, TX.
- “E-Data and Discovery – Protecting Zebra Technologies Corporation From Avoidable Risk – The Simple Steps Every Executive Should Know” – May 5, 2008 – presentation to Zebra Technologies Corporation with Ethan Berghoff and Erin Maus – Vernon Hills, IL.
- “International Product Recalls: Managing the Process and Minimizing the Risk” – October 11, 2007 – presentation at the Defense Research Institute Annual Meeting (International Law Committee) – Washington, D.C.
- “Product Recalls Around the World: Managing the Process” – August 30, 2007 – presentation to Mattel, Inc. – El Segundo, CA.
- “Preparing for and Implementing a Global Product Recall” – July 16, 2006 – presentation at the International Association of Defense Counsel Annual Meeting – Rome, Italy.
- “Product Liability and Product Recalls in the United States” – July 12, 2006 – presentation to ANCMA (association of manufacturers of motorcycles, motorcycle equipment and accessories) – Milan, Italy.
- “Protecting Your Company in the Event of a Product Recall”:
 May 19, 2004, Chicago, IL
 November 2, 2004, San Diego, CA
 November 4, 2004, Palo Alto, CA
 February 24, 2005, Toronto, Canada

- “The Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technology (SAFETY) Act: An Overview of the Purpose, Benefits and Application Process” – March 17, 2005 – Chicago, IL.
- “What To Do If Your Product is the Victim of a Terrorist Attack” – May 20, 2004 – Chicago, IL.
- “The U.S. TREAD Act and its Effect in Germany” – June 13, 2003 – Frankfurt, Germany.
- “Strategies and Tactics for Defending Cases Involving Elevator Door Malfunction” – presentation at Schindler Elevator Corporation’s National Defense Counsel Meeting – February 11, 2003 – Las Vegas, NV.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

I am a member of the American Bar Association, the International Association of Defense Counsel, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, and the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. I serve on the Alumni Board of Directors for Chicago-Kent College of Law. In addition, I served as the community representative on Northwestern University’s Institutional Review Board from September 1996 to September 2002.

EDUCATION & BAR ADMITTANCE

I am admitted to practice law in Illinois, including the Federal Trial Bars for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois, and in the Southern District of Indiana. I received my law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1994 and my undergraduate degree from Princeton University in 1989.