



STEFANI L. WITTENAUER

Partner

St. Louis

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BIOGRAPHY

Stefani Wittenauer is co-leader of the firm's Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) and National Coordinating Counsel (NCC) Team. Her national practice focuses on high-stakes personal injury and consumer product litigation defense at the trial and appellate levels, with an emphasis on mass torts.

Stefani is particularly skilled at developing, managing, and coordinating legal, briefing, and appellate preservation strategy in high-value cases across multiple jurisdictions, including in federal courts, state courts, and multidistrict litigation. She also has extensive appellate experience and frequently advises clients on appellate strategy. Stefani has played a critical role on numerous trial and defense teams in high-stakes litigation involving a wide range of products, including prescription medicines, medical devices, herbicides, chemicals, automobiles, and dietary supplements. Stefani regularly works with lawyers at other leading firms to craft a seamless trial and legal strategy, and she manages cross-office, cross-jurisdictional teams as part of "virtual

firms.” She presently co-leads the global briefing and legal strategy team for multi-jurisdiction litigation involving thousands of plaintiffs, and she regularly serves as appellate preservation counsel at trials.

A creative legal thinker, Stefani approaches each case by “taking a step back” and evaluating it from all angles. This analytical, “fresh look” approach is especially valuable in mass tort litigation.

Stefani also has broad experience in all other aspects of complex commercial, class action, and product liability litigation, including expert witness selection and preparation, company witness preparation, dispositive motion strategy, hearings, trials, post-trial work, and appeals. She has prepared company witnesses for trial and deposition for some of the nation’s largest companies.

While her practice is national in scope and spans numerous jurisdictions, Stefani has particular experience in some of the most challenging venues in the country for defendants, including St. Louis Circuit Courts, Cook County, and California state courts.

In addition to her complex litigation work, Stefani is a subject-matter expert on domain name disputes. Clients routinely turn to Stefani when they come across domain names that infringe on their trademark rights. By utilizing the World Intellectual Property Organization’s dispute resolution process, as well as similar processes by other international organizations, Stefani has successfully won transfer of dozens of domain names that are confusingly similar to clients’ trademarks.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Multi-District Litigation & National Coordinating Counsel
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices (Class Actions)
- Toxic Tort
- Catastrophic Accidents
- Consumer Products

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT & HONORS

- Named by Lawdragon as one of the “500 Leading Litigators in America,” 2024
- Law360, Product Liability Editorial Advisory Board, 2022-present
- Board of Directors, College Bound

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Missouri Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- International Trademark Association

COMMITTEE CONTENT

- Recruiting Committee

ADMISSIONS

Illinois

Missouri

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas

United States District Courts for the Southern, Central and Northern District of Illinois

United States Court of Appeals for the Second and Sixth Circuit.

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D.

Truman State University, B.A., *summa cum laude*

RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

- Class Actions & Mass Torts
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices (Class Actions)
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices (Mass Torts)
- Multi-District Litigation & National Coordinating Counsel
- PFAS Team
- Financial Services
- Catastrophic Accidents
- Consumer Fraud
- Consumer Products

- Food, Ag & Nutrition
- Insurance (Class Actions)
- Appellate
- Class Actions
- Business & Commercial Disputes
- Mass Torts & Product Liability
- Healthcare & Life Sciences
- Aviation, Aerospace & Defense
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Regulation, Compliance & Advisory

EXPERIENCE

- Co-leads global legal, appellate, and briefing strategy and coordination for mass tort and multidistrict litigation involving thousands of cases alleging personal injuries as a result of exposure to herbicide.
- Primary drafting responsibility for post-trial briefing in *Pilliod v. Monsanto Co.*, which resulted in the elimination of approximately \$2 billion in damages, representing a 95% reduction of jury award.
- Primary drafting responsibility for writ petition to Missouri Supreme Court in pharmaceutical case involving Missouri venue statute, resulting in issuance of writ in favor of client.
- Member of four trial teams in pharmaceutical litigation alleging birth defect injuries, including in the City of St. Louis and Southern Illinois.
- Leader or co-leader of legal strategy and appellate preservation team for multiple trial teams in herbicide litigation alleging cancer, including in Missouri and California state courts.
- Briefed and argued breach of contract case to the Missouri Court of Appeals, resulting in the court affirming \$600,000 judgment in favor of client.
- Led trial and appellate briefing in West Virginia Supreme Court in case against car rental company involving fatal car accident and catastrophic injuries, resulting in summary judgment in client's favor which was affirmed by the West Virginia Supreme Court.

RELATED INSIGHTS

Awards

Jun 08, 2023

Legal 500 US 2023

Insights

May 24, 2021

The New Mass Tort: Herbicides

Insights

Mar 27, 2020

COVID-19 in 19: Mitigating Premises Liability and Product Liability Risks Associated with COVID-19