

PRODUCT LIABILITY, TORTS, AND MEDICINE

Williams & Connolly lawyers are renowned for their experience defending personal injury litigation stemming from pharmaceutical products, surgical devices, and alleged medical malpractice, as well as oil and gas well explosions, plane and train accidents, farm equipment, industrial products, and consumer appliances. As *Chambers* observed, "A strong trial capacity and a fearsome track record means this firm of hard-headed litigators is now in high demand in the products area."

Williams & Connolly is frequently asked to serve as lead trial counsel and national coordinating counsel in the defense of national pharmaceutical products liability litigation. The firm's record of success in this area reflects its lawyers' commitment to the fundamentals of litigation at every stage—immersing themselves in the facts, developing strategy at national and state levels, and trying precedent-setting cases.

As lead trial counsel, the firm's lawyers are often asked to try cases at the earliest, and most uncertain, stages of the litigation. Williams & Connolly lawyers have served as lead counsel in numerous cases, defeating class certification, succeeding on summary judgment, and winning jury verdicts at trial. For example, the firm served as lead counsel for Wyeth in the first bellwether case that was tried in the hormone therapy federal multi-district litigation, which resulted in a defense verdict.

As national coordinating counsel, Williams & Connolly guides the defense through all phases of litigation, from document production and witness preparation to trial and end-game scenarios. The firm has built relationships with other defense firms over the years that enable our lawyers to work cooperatively as part of a national team when the needs of the case are best-served by a virtual firm. For example, Merck selected Williams & Connolly as co-national coordinating counsel in the Vioxx litigation, one of the largest products liability litigations in the country. After 15 trials involving Williams & Connolly and other defense firms, most resulting in favorable verdicts for Merck, Williams & Connolly took the lead in negotiating a settlement for the overall litigation.

Other leading roles in products/torts litigation include: national counsel in the Raptiva litigation for Genentech, co-national counsel in the Chantix litigation for Pfizer, national counsel for Amtrak and CSX railroads in the *Sunset Limited* train crash litigation, and

"WILLIAMS AND CONNOLLY
LIKES TO SAVE ITSELF FOR
CLIENTS IN MORTAL DANGER."

The American Lawyer

"THE POWERHOUSE WASHINGTON
LAW FIRM WITH A DEEP BENCH."

Wall Street Journal

"WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY, THE
WASHINGTON POWER LAW FIRM."

Washington Post

"A REPUTATION FOR FIERCE
REPRESENTATION OF ITS HIGH-
PROFILE CLIENTS."

National Law Journal

"ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST
PRESTIGIOUS AND FEARED LAW
FIRMS."

The New Republic

"TIGHTLY KNIT, HIGHLY TRAINED,
AND NOTORIOUSLY RELENTLESS."

Legal Times

"WASHINGTON D.C.'S WILLIAMS &
CONNOLLY IS ONE OF THE MOST
PRESTIGIOUS FIRMS IN THE
COUNTRY - AND ONE OF THE MOST
TIGHT-LIPPED."

Vault.com

national counsel for Wyeth in the Norplant, Thimerosal and Hormone Therapy litigations.

REPRESENTATIVE PRODUCT LIABILITY, TORTS AND MEDICINE MATTERS

- **Prempro - Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)** - Currently defending Wyeth in federal multi-district and state court litigation seeking damages allegedly caused by Prempro, a widely prescribed drug for menopausal symptoms. Williams & Connolly works as part of a national team coordinating every aspect of the litigation, and the firm's lawyers have played leading roles in many of the trials.
- **Chantix** - Currently serving as Co-National Counsel for Pfizer in federal multi-district and state court litigation seeking damages allegedly caused by Chantix, a smoking-cessation drug.
- **Raptiva** - Trial counsel representing Genentech in litigation relating to Raptiva, a treatment for psoriasis that was voluntarily withdrawn from the market in April 2009 after there were reports of a fatal brain infection known as PML.
- **Seroquel** - Represented AstraZeneca in MDL litigation involving Seroquel. The first two trial set cases were successfully resolved by summary judgment.
- **Vioxx** - Served as Co-National and Coordinating Trial Counsel for Merck in defending against and settling claims filed in federal and state courts throughout the country in connection with the drug Vioxx.
- **Baycol** - Served as National Coordinating Counsel for Bayer in defending the Company against thousands of individual actions and scores of class actions filed throughout the country in connection with the drug, Baycol, a cholesterol reducing statin.
- **In re Norplant Contraceptive** - Represented American Home Products, Inc. in litigation involving Norplant, an implanted contraceptive, when it became the target of more than 50,000 lawsuits alleging defective product design and failure to warn of a constellation of common side effects. Williams & Connolly defeated class certification motions in federal and state courts in California, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas; won the first set of bellwether cases on summary judgment in the federal multidistrict litigation; achieved defense victories in four trials in state courts in Texas and New York; and settled the remaining cases on extremely favorable terms.
- **Breast Implant** - Represented General Electric, a bulk supplier of silicone raw materials to breast implant manufacturers, in class actions involving more than 12,000 individual plaintiffs. Williams & Connolly won summary judgment for GE in the federal multidistrict litigation, and GE, unlike every other defendant, paid nothing in judgments or settlements.
- **In re New Orleans Tank Car Leakage** - Represented CSX Transportation, Inc. in the settlement and class action fairness hearing in a Louisiana class action involving a tank car leak of hazardous materials and resulting fire near New Orleans; the alleged class members numbered approximately 10,000.
- **In re Paoli R.R. Yard PCB** - Defended General Electric in litigation alleging exposure to PCBs at Paoli railroad yard. Plaintiffs sought claims for personal injury, medical monitoring and property damage. The firm developed a strategy to exclude the plaintiffs' experts and then won the trial on the medical monitoring claims. Eleven years after it began, GE won a total victory.
- **Medical Devices** - Served as lead counsel for United States Surgical Corporation, a leading manufacturer of wound closure products and advanced surgical devices, in a number of product liability lawsuits, including cases for wrongful death, throughout the country concerning a variety of medical devices.