



**Emma C. Ross, M.D.**

Partner / Chicago

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A surgeon by training, Emma Ross has built a career at the intersection of trial lawyer and science whiz. Emma possesses a unique ability to shape science-forward litigation themes that win bet-the-company cases—and then to deliver those themes in a courtroom. Emma believes that judges and juries can understand thorny scientific issues when they are explained well. Explaining them well is where Emma excels. With this skill, Emma helps her clients win trials and achieve litigation-dispositive results in complex products liability and commercial cases.

Earlier this year, Merck selected Emma as trial counsel in the first jury trial over Gardasil, Merck's HPV vaccine. The trial, which took place in California state court, was not just the first HPV vaccine trial—it was also the first time *any* routine recommended childhood vaccine covered by the Vaccine Act had ever proceeded to a U.S. jury trial. Emma crossed and presented key witnesses, including the critical causation expert and both company scientists. After three weeks of trial, the trial was adjourned at plaintiff's counsel's request, with no money paid. Shortly thereafter, a federal judge overseeing the Gardasil multidistrict litigation (where Emma heads science and expert strategy) granted summary judgment on preemption. Emma also serves as trial counsel for Bayer, representing the company in some of its most challenging cases and difficult jurisdictions. For instance, Emma handled the cross of key witnesses in a 2022 St. Louis Roundup trial, where she and partners Tarek Ismail and Shayna Cook would secure a complete defense verdict after less than two hours of jury deliberations.

Emma is as skilled leading a science team as she is serving as trial counsel. In addition to her trial role in the Gardasil litigation, as science team lead Emma has taken the critical initial depositions of plaintiff's experts, cross examined those experts at key admissibility hearings, and presented on Gardasil's safety and effectiveness at a court-requested "science day." And in the Roundup litigation, Emma led a Goldman Ismail team that played a key role in reshaping litigation-wide science themes in how we explain the origin of cancer, helping drive a wave of trial victories for Bayer. Her recent successes build on early experience as a key member of Goldman Ismail-led defense teams that successfully excluded all of plaintiffs' causation experts in two separate Mirena MDLs. Without reliable causation evidence, the defense argued that no plaintiff could prove her injuries, requiring dismissal of all claims. The district and appellate courts agreed, twice.

Emma maintains a robust *pro bono* practice focusing on reproductive justice and antiracism. She recently led a Goldman Ismail team advocating on behalf of women who received coerced, unindicated, and unconsented gynecologic care while in immigration detention. She is also the emeritus co-chair of the Reproductive Justice Working Group of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance, an organization that aims to harness the resources of the private

bar in the effort to end systemic racism. With partner Shayna Cook, Emma has also presented in multiple forums on lawyer well-being and the evidence-based interventions we can embrace to improve it.

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## Representative Litigation

### Gardasil Litigation

Represents Merck as trial counsel and co-leads the expert and science team in state and federal litigation involving Merck's HPV vaccine. In early 2025, Merck tapped Emma to serve as trial counsel in *Robi v. Merck*, the first Gardasil case to proceed in trial. The case was adjourned and the jury dismissed with zero dollars paid after three weeks of trial in Los Angeles Superior Court. Earlier, Emma deposed key opposing experts and presented at the MDL Science Day on Gardasil's safety, effectiveness, and the lack of reliable scientific support that Gardasil causes the injuries plaintiffs allege.

### In re Roundup Products Liability Litigation

Trial counsel for Bayer, including *Ferro v. Monsanto*, tried to a full defense verdict in November 2022, where Emma cross-examined both of plaintiffs' general causation experts. Emma has since represented Bayer in several multi-plaintiff Roundup trials in St. Louis that settled mid-trial or before trial commenced. Since 2018, Emma has played a leadership role on the national science and expert team in nationwide Roundup products liability litigation, taking key depositions of plaintiffs' causation experts, advising on overall strategy, and developing science themes (and experts to deliver them) that reshaped litigation-wide defensive strategy.

### Insulin Pump Litigation

Represents Medtronic in products liability cases nationwide involving the NGP 600 Series insulin pumps.

### Consumer Electronics Litigation

Represented a Fortune 10 consumer-electronics company in patent-infringement cases relating to telecommunications, user-interface, computer-security, and battery technologies. Following the dismissal of several of these suits, the remaining actions are pending in the summary-judgment and discovery phases.

### In re Mirena IUD Products Liability Litigation

Played key roles in two separate Mirena MDLs, serving on national strategy and science teams that achieved litigation-dispositive *Daubert* and summary-judgment victories. Involved in fact and expert discovery, including the development of science themes, coordination with discovery teams, expert depositions and *Daubert* strategy, and defense of key company scientific witnesses.

### In re Ethicon Inc., Pelvic Repair System Products Liability Litigation

Represented Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon in federal MDL concerning prescription pelvic mesh products used for the treatment of pelvic organ prolapse and stress incontinence.

### Spilker v. Medtronic, Inc.

Represented Medtronic in a product liability action concerning its cardiac cryoablation device. Coordinated defense expert development.

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## Private Practice

Partner, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan  
& Baum LLP

Associate, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli  
Brennan & Baum LLP

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## Education

### Duke University School of Medicine (M.D.)

- Dean's Full Tuition Scholarship

- Vice President, American Medical Student Association

**Columbia University School of Law (J.D.)**

- James Kent Scholar
- Hamilton Fellow

**University of California at Berkeley (B.A., Political Science, *summa cum laude*)**

- Dean's Honors List
- Golden Key Scholar
- Dean's Full Tuition Scholarship

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**Publications**

Emma Neff, *From Equal Protection to the Right to Health: An Evolutionary View of Impact Litigation*. 43 Columbia Journal of Law & Social Problems 151 (2010)

Anthony N. Galanos, Emma C. Neff, Roschelle A. Heuberger, and Connie W. Bales, *What is "Optimal Nourishment" for Older Adults at the End of Life? A Conversation*, 29(4) Journal of Nutrition for the Elderly 386 (2010)

Brian S. Coan, Emma Neff, Srinivasan Mukundan & Jeffrey Marcus, *Validation of a Cadaveric Model for Comprehensive Physiologic and Anatomic Evaluation of Rhinoplastic Techniques*, 124(6) Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery 2107 (2009)

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**Of Note**

Ranked by *The Legal 500* as a Next Generation Partner in Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action Defense: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (2025)

Ranked by *Chambers USA* as Up and Coming in Nationwide Product Liability & Mass Torts (2024-2025)

Ranked by *Chambers USA* as Up and Coming in Illinois Product Liability Litigation (2025)

Named by *Attorney Intel* as one of the Top 25 Biotechnology and Life Sciences Attorneys (2024)

Named by *LMG Life Sciences* as the U.S. Rising Star for Litigation & Enforcement (2024)

Selected for *Bloomberg Law's* They've Got Next: 40 Under 40 (2023)

Selected for *Crain's Business Chicago's* 40 Under 40 (2023)

Selected for *Benchmark Litigation's* 40 & Under Hot List (2022-2024). Ranked a Future Star (2023-2024)

Selected by *Super Lawyers* as an Illinois Rising Star (2019-2025)

Selected by *Lawdragon* as among the "all-star litigators" "who excel at representing principally corporations and other organizations" in complex litigation, especially product liability, in the 500 Leading Litigators in America guide (2022-2025)

Co-Chair, Law Firm Antiracism Alliance  
Reproductive Justice Working Group

Fellow, American College of Legal Medicine

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## News

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Highest 2025 Rankings in The Legal 500](#)

[Emma Ross Named one of the Top 25 Biotechnology and Life Sciences Attorneys of 2024](#)

[Emma Ross Named U.S. Rising Star by LMG Life Sciences](#)

[Goldman Ismail 2024 Chambers and Partners Rankings](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2024](#)

[Emma Ross Profiled in Bloomberg's They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40](#)

[Goldman Ismail Helps Bayer and Monsanto Company Secure a Defense Victory in Roundup Trial](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's List of Top 250 Women in Litigation and the 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's List of Top 250 Women in Litigation and the 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Goldman Ismail Wins Motion to Dismiss In Uniloc Patent Litigation, Impacting Dozens of Cases Nationwide](#)

[Bayer Wins Dismissal of All Cases in the Mirena IIH MDL](#)

[Second Circuit Affirms Orders Dismissing All 1200+ Cases in Mirena Perforation MDL](#)

[Federal Judge Dismisses All 1225 Cases in Mirena Multidistrict Litigation](#)

[Landmark Daubert Victory for Goldman Ismail—Federal Judge Excludes Plaintiffs' Experts](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Top Rankings in 2025 Chambers and Partners](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2025](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Emma Ross Selected in Crain's 40 Under 40 Class of 2023](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Benchmark's List of Top 250 Women in Litigation and the 40 & Under Hot List](#)

[Goldman Ismail Furthers Partnership with Law Firm Antiracism Alliance \(LFAA\)](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2023](#)

[Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2022](#)

[Goldman Ismail Elects to Partnership Allyson Julien and Emma Ross](#)

[Second Circuit Court of Appeals Affirms Bayer's Summary Judgment Win in the Mirena IIH MDL](#)

[Bayer Wins Daubert Ruling Excluding All Plaintiffs' Expert Witnesses in the Mirena IIH MDL](#)

[Law360 Picks Mirena IUD Products Liability Litigation MDL Ruling as One of Year's Most Significant](#)

[Second Circuit Affirms Mirena MDL Dismissals](#)

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## Bar & Court Admission

State of Illinois

State of Colorado

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of  
Illinois

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### **Selected Presentations**

Emma C. Neff, *Gender and Access to Care in Northern Tanzania*, Yale University Global Health & Innovation Conference, April 17, 2011  
(Invited platform presentation)

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### **Other Experience**

Resident Physician, Duke University Medical Center  
Department of Surgery

Postdoctoral Associate, Duke University Medical  
Center Department of Surgery

Investigator, UCSD Department of Physics:  
Investigated the behavior of molecules in non-  
Newtonian (polymer) solutions.

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