



Laura A. Sexton

Partner / Chicago

P: 312-881-5950

lsexton@goldmanismail.com

Laura is an "emerging leader," who according to *The Legal 500*, "plays a key role in high-profile cases." Laura has defended Fortune 500 corporations in cases involving products liability, mass torts, class actions, antitrust, and other complex commercial disputes. Across these "significant matters," Laura has had "a high rate of success," according to *The Legal 500*.

"Laura brings a level of attention to detail and client service that is rare to find," with *Chambers USA* reporting that "Laura never misses anything."

Laura's expertise is leveraging scientific and technical evidence to win cases. In one federal MDL, Laura drafted Rule 702 motions that resulted in the exclusion of two key plaintiff experts and the eventual dismissal of almost 1,000 cases. In another federal MDL, Laura represented a Fortune 50 company in a products liability case remanded for trial. There, she helped to develop the medical theory that debunked plaintiff's theory of causation—ultimately resulting in a favorable verdict.

Laura has experience in all aspects of litigation, from brief-writing to fact and expert depositions to trial work. She consistently delivers "excellent work product" (*The Legal 500*) that is "thorough and well done" (*Chambers USA*).

Laura is a proud mother of three and is committed to helping other working parents advance in their career.

Representative Litigation

PFAS Environmental Litigation

National counsel for chemical manufacturer in thousands of environmental and products liability claims in state and federal courts nationwide brought by individuals, municipalities, and states alleging groundwater contamination and personal injury as individual claims, consolidated proceedings, and class actions.

Insulin Pump Litigation

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

Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. v. Lafarge North America Inc.

Represented a defendant in an opt-out antitrust case alleging that a nationwide conspiracy to fix prices in the drywall industry violated the Sherman Act.

Pro Slab Inc. v. Argos North America Corp.

Represented a defendant in a putative class action alleging a conspiracy to fix prices, rig bids, and/or allocate territories and customers in certain markets for ready-mix concrete.

Premier Concrete LLC v. Argos North America Corp.

Represented a defendant in a case alleging a conspiracy to fix prices, rig bids, and/or allocate territories and customers in certain markets for ready-mix concrete and cement. Obtained full dismissal with prejudice at the pleading stage.

In re Mirena IUD Products Liability Litigation

Represented Bayer in a federal multidistrict litigation in New York. After a multi-day *Daubert* hearing, [the Court excluded all of the Plaintiffs' general causation experts](#) in October 2018. In June 2019, the Court granted summary judgment for Bayer and dismissed all cases in the MDL.

Ethicon, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson Pelvic Repair System Litigation

Represented Ethicon, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson in federal litigation involving pelvic mesh products. Served on the trial team for a case tried in the Northern District of Illinois claiming personal injuries allegedly caused by pelvic mesh used to treat stress urinary incontinence. The jury rejected the vast majority of plaintiff's claims, awarding only past medical expenses. Also served on a trial team for another case remanded for trial in the Northern District of Illinois, which settled on favorable terms shortly before trial.

In re Xarelto (Rivaroxaban) Products Liability Litigation

Represented Janssen in litigation regarding personal injuries allegedly caused by Xarelto, an anticoagulant developed by Janssen and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc. Served on MDL case work-up team tasked with taking depositions of plaintiffs and treating physicians in cases across the country.

In re K-Dur Antitrust Litigation

Represented Merck in the class action and consolidated opt-out antitrust lawsuits brought by wholesalers and major pharmacy retail chains that directly purchased K-Dur® 20, an extended-release potassium chloride supplement. Plaintiffs claimed that a June 1997 patent settlement with a generic maker of K-Dur® 20 was anticompetitive. The matter settled shortly before trial.

Private Practice

Associate, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli
Brennan & Baum LLP

Associate, Sidley Austin, LLP

Education

The University of Chicago Law School (J.D., *with honors*)

- Kirkland & Ellis Scholar (for grades in top 5% of class)
- Sidley Austin Prize for Excellence in Brief Writing
- *The University of Chicago Law Review*, Member

The University of Chicago (B.A.)

- Honors
- Dean's List

Professional & Community Affiliations

Co-Chair, ABA Young Lawyers Subcommittee

Auxiliary Board, Chicago Center for Conflict
Resolution

Publications

[Deposition Skills for Young Lawyers](#), American Bar Association (Winter 2025)

[The New Frontier: Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Medical Devices](#), American Bar Association (Winter 2024)

[Dear Bar Examiners: We Still Need Breast-Pumping Accommodations](#), Above The Law (July 27, 2023)

[Product Tying and Bundling: When is it illegal under US antitrust law?](#), Corporate Disputes (Jan.-Mar. 2023)

[Eliminating the Mommy Track](#), Above the Law (Dec. 2022)

The 'Natural' Cases: An Update After FDA's Request for Comments, Natural Products INSIDER (February 3, 2016)

Cosmeceuticals: The Next Wave of Class-Action Litigation, Natural Products INSIDER (February 3, 2016)

Beware of "Subject To and Not Waiving" in Discovery Responses, American Bar Association, Products Liability, News & Developments (May 21, 2015)

Federal Preemption of Food Labeling Claims, BNA's Product Safety & Liability Reporter (January 12, 2015)

Supreme Court Allows Lanham Act Challenges to Food Labels, American Bar Association, Products Liability, News & Developments (July 7, 2014)

Of Note

Ranked by *Chambers USA* as Up and Coming in Illinois General Commercial Litigation (2025)

Ranked by *The Legal 500*, Chicago Elite, Recommended Lawyer (2025)

Speaker, The Evolving Landscape of AI Product Liability Claims, Practising Law Institute (January 24, 2025)

Selected by *Super Lawyers* as an Illinois Super Lawyer (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 (2022-2026)

Selected for *Benchmark Litigation's 40 & Under Hot List* (2022-2025)

Moderator, Fireside Chat with Adrienne Hollander, DRI (Spring 2024)

The Legal 500, General Commercial Disputes, Key Lawyer (2023)

Selected by *Super Lawyers* as an Illinois Rising Star (2018-2023)

Federal Bar Association, Chicago Chapter, Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service (2017)

Graduated from the International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy (Stanford Law)

News

[19 Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Lawdragon's List of 500 Leading Litigators in](#)

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

[America](#)

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

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

[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](#)

[Goldman Ismail Partners Named to the Legal 500 Chicago Elite](#)

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

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

[Goldman Ismail Elects Laura Sexton to Partnership](#)

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

[Goldman Ismail Secures Favorable Jury Verdict in Pelvic Mesh Trial](#)

Bar & Court Admission

State of Illinois

U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
