GOLDMAN ISMAIL TOMASELLI BRENNAN & BAUM LLP

Tarek Ismail
Partner / Chicago
P: 312-881-5970

tismail@goldmanismail.com

"*Truly outstanding* Tarek Ismail is widely endorsed for his expertise in handling headline cases in the drug and device space." "He is described as *a very smart, talented trial lawyer who will be busy in the field for a long time to come*." - *Chambers USA* (ranked 2007-2025)

"Tarek is one of the best all-around trial attorneys - he is very levelheaded, ridiculously smart and is good at boiling down complex matters into something simple that jurors can understand." - *Chambers USA* (ranked 2007-2025)

"He is one of the best pure trial lawyers in the Bar." - *Chambers USA* (ranked 2007-2025)

Tarek Ismail is an "*extremely strong choice of counsel*." - *The Legal 500* (recognized 2010-2025)

"*Leading trial lawyer* Tarek Ismail enjoys a fantastic reputation in the market thanks to his extensive experience handling high-profile cases in the pharmaceutical and medical devices arena." - *Who's Who Legal* (recognized 2010-2025)

A fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Tarek is widely regarded as a leader among first-chair trial lawyers who can handle bet-the-company cases. As a "*go-to trial lawyer*," he "draws high praise for his *incredibly impressive* abilities as a courtroom advocate" in his "many high profile mandates," reports *Chambers USA*, where Tarek most recently received the highest possible ranking in Nationwide Product Liability & Mass Torts. An AmLaw 100 product liability practice leader told *Law360*, "I am impressed with Tarek Ismail," he "is driven, creative, hardworking and great on his feet"- he "delivers great results for his client." As reported in *The American Lawyer*, clients praise Tarek for his "stiletto-sharp cross examinations of plaintiffs' experts and other witnesses," "his encyclopedic knowledge of the facts," and his ability to sort through complex facts and data to identify the key arguments and winning strategies for trial. According to *The Legal 500*, Tarek is *"hands down one of the top trial lawyers in the country."* he comes recommended "for his track record in winning highly challenging cases" with clients calling him "*extraordinary*."

Tarek also has developed a reputation for resolving large-scale litigation through negotiation on extremely favorable terms for our clients. A managing partner at a major plaintiff-side mass torts firm told *The National Law Journal* that Tarek is "able to come up with a plan, stick to a plan and get the case resolved with results that both sides can live with." "Clients agree," says *Chambers USA*, "*he is both a talented trial lawyer and a great strategist*."

Representative Litigation

In re TDF Product Liability Litigation
Trial counsel for Gilead Sciences, Inc. in coordinated proceedings claiming personal injuries allegedly caused by certain of Gilead's medications to treat HIV.

In Re Zetia (Ezetimibe) Antitrust Litigation
Co-lead trial counsel for Merck in a multidistrict litigation brought by wholesalers and major pharmacy retail chains that purchased Zetia, a cholesterol-reducing medication sold by Merck alleging that a patent settlement with a generic maker of Zetia was anticompetitive.

In Re Zantac Product Liability Litigation
Lead trial counsel for GSK in personal injury cases claiming GSK's prescription and over-the-counter medication caused cancer.

Moore v. Monsanto, et al.
Co-lead trial counsel for Monsanto in a case claiming exposure to Roundup caused plaintiff to develop Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Case was tried in October 2022 in St. Louis County and resulted in a unanimous defense verdict on all claims.

Elliott Management et al. v. AbbVie Inc.
Represented AbbVie in a suit pending in Illinois state court brought by several hedge funds over a $54 billion collapsed corporate merger, helped AbbVie obtain a complete victory on summary judgment.

Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. v. Lafarge North America, Inc.
Lead trial counsel for Lafarge North America in an opt-out antitrust action brought by retailer Home Depot alleging conspiratorial price overcharges relating to drywall.

Testosterone Replacement Therapy Litigation
Trial counsel for AbbVie in multidistrict litigation in Chicago claiming personal injuries allegedly caused by AbbVie's testosterone replacement product, AndroGel. In June 2018, Tarek served as lead trial counsel for AbbVie in *Rowley v. AbbVie*, a bellwether trial where the plaintiff claimed AndroGel caused his deep vein thrombosis. The jury returned a complete defense verdict for AbbVie.

Russell v. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Lead trial counsel for Janssen in a case tried in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas claiming personal injuries allegedly caused by Xarelto, an anticoagulant developed by Janssen and Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals. The jury returned a complete defense verdict for Janssen and Bayer in April 2018.

Hurricane Katrina Litigation
Co-lead trial counsel for large cement company defending against claims by a governmental entity for over $400 million in alleged property damage. Plaintiff brought these claims under maritime law, alleging that a barge that broke free during Hurricane Katrina caused the failure of a floodwall alongside a New Orleans neighborhood. The case settled on terms favorable to our client days before trial.

In re K-Dur Antitrust Litigation
Lead trial counsel for 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 sought over $800 million alleging a June 1997 patent settlement with a generic maker of K-Dur® 20 was anticompetitive. The matter settled shortly before trial.

Fosamax Litigation
Trial counsel for Merck & Co., Inc. in federal and state litigation concerning Fosamax®, a prescription drug used for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis and other bone disorders.

- *Galper v. Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.* Lead trial counsel for Merck in initial bellwether trial in California state coordinated proceedings involving 700 hundred lawsuits in which plaintiffs alleged Fosamax® caused atypical femur fractures. After a six-week trial the jury returned a

complete defense verdict for Merck. Following the verdict, hundreds of California plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed their cases.
- *Su v. Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.* Trial counsel for Merck in New Jersey state court in the first ever Fosamax® trial based on an alleged atypical femur fracture. A mistrial was declared midway through the trial due to the plaintiff's unrelated medical problems.

Lyles et al. v. McNeil-PPC, Inc. et al.
Lead trial counsel for McNeil and Johnson & Johnson in the death of a teenager allegedly caused by Tylenol. The matter settled for a nominal sum on the first day of trial.

In re Ethicon Inc., Pelvic Repair System Products Liability Litigation
Trial counsel for Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon, Inc. in cases concerning alleged personal injuries from pelvic mesh products used for the treatment of pelvic organ prolapse and stress incontinence.

- *Herrera v. Ethicon Inc., et al.* Lead trial counsel for Ethicon and Johnson & Johnson in case tried in the Northern District of Illinois claiming personal injuries allegedly caused by pelvic mesh used to treat stress urinary incontinence. In August 2017, the jury rejected the vast majority of plaintiff's claims, awarding only past medical expenses.
- *Hammons v. Ethicon, Inc.* Lead trial counsel in 2½ week jury trial in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in which the plaintiff claimed multiple corrective surgeries and permanent injuries from use of discontinued vaginal mesh implant.

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 572 Health and Welfare Fund et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc.
Trial counsel for Merck in a putative class action brought by health benefit payors under civil RICO and federal antitrust statutes relating to alleged co-pay subsidy programs. The action was voluntarily dismissed after Merck filed a dispositive motion.

In re Hormone Therapy Litigation
Trial counsel for Wyeth in product liability litigation involving Premarin® and Prempro® hormone replacement therapy products alleged to cause breast cancer.

Vioxx Litigation
Trial counsel for Merck & Co., Inc. in individual and government actions claiming Merck's withdrawn anti-inflammatory medication Vioxx® caused heart attacks and other cardiovascular problems.

- *State of Louisiana v. Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.* Lead trial counsel in first Attorney General trial relating to Vioxx®. Obtained a complete defense verdict after a two-week bench trial in federal multi-district litigation court in Louisiana
- *Vioxx Governmental Action Cases* National counsel and lead trial counsel in several actions brought by State Attorneys General against Merck relating to Vioxx®. Negotiated settlements of several actions.
- *Grossberg v. Merck & Co., Inc.* Lead trial counsel in the first Vioxx® trial in California, which after 6 weeks resulted in a complete jury defense verdict for Merck.
- *Mason v. Merck & Co., Inc.* Co-tried a personal injury claim in federal court relating to Vioxx®. Unanimous defense verdict for Merck after less than two hours of jury deliberations.
- *Plunkett v. Merck & Co., Inc.* Co-tried the first federal Vioxx® personal injury trial in federal court in Houston. After a two-week trial, mistrial declared after jurors reportedly deadlocked 8-1 in favor of the defense. A two-week jury retrial in New Orleans federal court resulted in unanimous defense verdict for Merck on all issues, which later was overturned by the district court.

CEATS, Inc. v. Continental Airlines, Inc. et al.
Won summary judgment of non-infringement on behalf of defendant Tickets.com in a patent infringement suit in the Eastern District of Texas. Plaintiff sued over 30 defendants relating to online ticketing patents. Tickets.com was the only defendant to win summary judgment of non-infringement.

Forrest Laboratories v. Abbott Laboratories
Co-tried for Abbott a patent case relating to neonatal surfactant. After an eight-week trial in Buffalo, New York the jury returned a unanimous verdict for Abbott on all issues, which later was overturned by the district court.

Engel v. Refco, Inc.
Co-tried National Futures Association arbitration claims brought by commodity futures investors against futures commission merchant.

Rosen v. Refco, Inc.
Co-tried AAA arbitration claims brought by commodity futures investors against futures commission merchant.

Gould v. FX Concepts, Inc.
Co-tried bench trial in Maryland state court involving claim brought by speculative foreign exchange investors against investment advisory firm.

Additional Representative Litigation

In re Magnevist Products Liability Litigation
National trial counsel for Bayer in federal multi-district litigation and individual federal and state cases regarding Bayer's Magnevist® contrast dye used in MRI scans.

- *Gerber v. Bayer Corp.* Lead trial counsel in California state court trial in which plaintiff claimed Magnevist® caused rare nephrogenic systemic fibrosis disease. Case settled two weeks before trial.

In re Medtronic, Inc. Sprint Fidelis Leads Products Liability Litigation
National trial counsel for Medtronic in mass tort litigation regarding Medtronic's Sprint Fidelis® heart defibrillator leads subject to product recall.

In re Baycol Products Liability Litigation
National trial counsel for Bayer in mass tort litigation regarding Bayer's Baycol® cholesterol-lowering medication.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International v. DeKalb Genetics
Represented Pioneer, a subsidiary of DuPont, as plaintiff in a trade secret case involving hybrid corn genetics.

Norcross, Inc. v. Siebe, Inc.
Represented Invensys in a common law fraud case involving alleged accounting errors.

Sompo Japan Ins. Inc. v. Deloitte & Touche, LLP
Represented Deloitte & Touche against claims of accounting errors in a reinsurance pool.

In re Cendant Corporation Securities Litigation
Represented Ernst & Young in crossclaim suits against Cendant Corporation relating to alleged fraud on behalf of Cendant Corporation.

Menasha Corp. v. News America Marketing In-Store, Inc.
Represented subsidiaries of News Corp. against antitrust claims relating to in-store coupon distribution.

SynchroMed Litigation
National counsel for Medtronic, Inc. in products liability cases nationwide involving the SynchroMed® II Programmable Drug Infusion System.

Private Practice

Partner, Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP

Partner, Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP

Associate, Mayer, Brown & Platt

Education

University of Illinois College of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*)

Carleton College (B.A., Economics)

Judicial Clerkship

The Honorable James B. Moran, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Of Note

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only legal association made up of attorneys considered by judges and peers to be among the best trial lawyers

Fellow, International Society of Barristers, an invitation-only society made up of the era's best advocates committed to preserving the ideals of jury trials, the adversarial system, and an independent judiciary

Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America's Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, an invitation-only membership known for "its excellence in trial and appellate work, its integrity in practice, and its commitment to diversity throughout every aspect of the profession of law and the administration of justice"

Ranked by *Chambers USA* as a Nationwide Leading Individual in Product Liability & Mass Torts (2009-2025), Pharmaceutical (2015-2025), Illinois General Commercial Litigation (2009-2025), Illinois Antitrust (2022-2025) and Illinois Product Liability Litigation (2025)

Ranked by *Chambers USA* as a Nationwide Leading Individual in Litigation Trial Lawyers (2017-2025)

Ranked by *The Legal 500* as a Leading Lawyer in U.S. General Commercial Disputes (2025) and named to the Hall of Fame in Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (2014-2025)

Ranked by *The Legal 500* in the U.S. Dispute Resolution-Leading Trial Lawyers category (2021-2025)

Selected by *Lawdragon* as among the "all-star litigators" "who excel at representing principally corporations and other organizations" in complex litigation, especially trial law, in the 500 Leading Litigators in America guide (2017, 2020, 2022-2026)

Ranked by *Benchmark Litigation* as a National Practice Area Star, Local Litigation Star, and Top 100 Trial Lawyers (2018-2024)

Shortlisted by *LMG Life Sciences* for Trial Lawyer of the Year – Non-IP Litigation (2019, 2020) and Product Liability Attorney of the Year (2022, 2023)

Named Practice Area Star by *LMG Life Sciences* for Product Liability and Antitrust (2020-2022)

Profiled in *The National Law Journal's Special Report, Winning Litigators: High Stakes, Significant Victories* (2016)

Recognized in *Who's Who Legal: Thought Leaders Global Elite – Product Liability Defence* (2022)

Recognized in *Who's Who Legal: Life Sciences Defence Lawyers* (2016-2022)

Recognized in *Who's Who Legal: Product Liability Defence Lawyers* (2010-2022)

Selected by *Super Lawyers* as an Illinois Super Lawyer (2009-2011, 2018-2025)

Speaker, DRI Drug and Medical Device Seminar, *When in Rome (or Mississippi or New York or Cook County): Local Approaches to Closing Arguments* (Chicago, May 2016)

Quoted in *The American Lawyer, Tips from Star Litigators* (2016)

Named Product Liability "Life Science Star" by *LMG Life Sciences* (2015-2016)

Panelist, Mass Tort Judicial Forum, *Foreign Affairs: The Globalization of Mass Torts* (Philadelphia, June 2011)

Speaker, DRI Drug and Medical Device Seminar, *Excluding the Plaintiff's Everything, Catch-All, Kitchen Sink Regulatory Expert* (Chicago, May 2011)

Named by *The American Lawyer* as one of the National "Fab 50" Top Young Litigators (2007)

News

Goldman Ismail and Partners Top Legal500 Chicago Elite Rankings

Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Top-Tier Rankings in Legal 500 United States 2026

Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Top Rankings in the Chambers and Partners 2026 USA Guide

Goldman Ismail Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2026

19 Goldman Ismail Partners Named to Lawdragon's List of 500 Leading Litigators in America

Goldman Ismail Named 2025 Product Liability Firm of the Year by LMG Life Sciences

Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Highest 2025 Rankings in The Legal 500

Goldman Ismail and Partners Earn Top Rankings in 2025 Chambers and Partners

Goldman Ismail Partners Named to the Legal 500 Chicago Elite

Goldman Ismail Partners Receive Top Rankings in Chambers Global 2025

Goldman Ismail's Tarek Ismail Named to Benchmark's List of Top 100 Trial Lawyers

Goldman Ismail Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2025

Goldman Ismail 2024 Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail 2024 Chambers and Partners Rankings

Tarek Ismail Selected for American Lawyer's Litigators of the Week

Goldman Ismail Secures First Zantac Victory for GlaxoSmithKline

Goldman Ismail Secures First Roundup Victory for Monsanto and Nouryon Surface Chemicals in Philadelphia

Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2024

Tarek Ismail Named Product Liability Attorney of the Year by LMG Life Sciences

Goldman Ismail Shortlisted for 2023 LMG Life Sciences Awards

Goldman Ismail Tops 2023 Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail Tops 2023 Chambers and Partners Rankings

Goldman Ismail Shortlisted for Benchmark Litigation's 2023 Illinois, Boutique, and Product Liability Firm of the Year Awards

Goldman Ismail Helps AbbVie Secure Appellate Victory

Goldman Ismail Helps Bayer and Monsanto Company Secure a Defense Victory in Roundup Trial

Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in LMG Life Sciences 2022

Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2023

Goldman Ismail Shortlisted for 2022 LMG Life Sciences Awards

Goldman Ismail Tops 2022 Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail Tops 2022 Chambers and Partners Rankings

Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2022

Goldman Ismail Helps AbbVie Secure Summary Judgment in Circuit Court of Cook County

Goldman Ismail Tops 2021 Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail Tops 2021 Chambers and Partners Rankings

Second Circuit Court of Appeals Affirms Bayer's Summary Judgment Win in the Mirena IIH MDL

Goldman Ismail Named Product Liability Firm of the Year for 2020 by LMG Life Sciences and Receives Top Rankings

Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2021

Goldman Ismail Shortlisted for 2020 LMG Life Sciences Awards

Goldman Ismail Tops 2020 Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail Tops 2020 Chambers and Partners Rankings

Goldman Ismail Shortlisted for Benchmark Litigation's 2020 Illinois, Boutique, and Trial Firm of the Year Awards

Goldman Ismail Secures Important Asylum Victory

Goldman Ismail Shortlisted for 2019 LMG Life Sciences Awards

Bayer Wins Dismissal of All Cases in the Mirena IIH MDL

Goldman Ismail Tops 2019 Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail Tops 2019 Chambers and Partners Rankings

Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2019

Bayer Wins Daubert Ruling Excluding All Plaintiffs' Expert Witnesses in the Mirena IIH MDL

Illinois Appellate Court Affirms Dismissal of SynchroMed Lawsuit

Goldman Ismail Secures Complete Defense Jury Verdict in AndroGel Bellwether Trial

Goldman Ismail Tops 2018 Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail Tops 2018 Chambers and Partners Rankings

Goldman Ismail Secures Complete Defense Verdict in Philadelphia Xarelto Trial

Goldman Ismail and Partners Receive Top Rankings in Benchmark Litigation 2018

Second Circuit Affirms Orders Dismissing All 1200+ Cases in Mirena Perforation MDL

Goldman Ismail Secures Favorable Jury Verdict in Pelvic Mesh Trial

Goldman Ismail Tops 2017 Chambers and Legal 500 Rankings

Tarek Ismail Elected to International Society of Barristers

Goldman Ismail Secures String of Dismissals on Preemption Grounds in SynchroMed Litigation

Goldman Ismail Ranked by Benchmark Litigation

Goldman Ismail Ranked in 2016 LMG Life Sciences Guide

Law360 Picks Mirena IUD Products Liability Litigation MDL Ruling as One of Year's Most Significant

Tarek Ismail and Ken Baum Named Winning Litigators in The National Law Journal Special Report

Goldman Ismail Recognized Once Again in Chambers Rankings

Tarek Ismail Inducted as American College of Trial Lawyers Fellow

Goldman Ismail Once Again Tops Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail Tops 2015 Chambers and Legal 500 Rankings

Goldman Ismail wins Fosamax Bellwether trial in California for Merck

Goldman Ismail Lawyers Recognized for Excellence by Chambers and The Legal 500 in 2014

Goldman Ismail named to The National Law Journal's Litigation Boutiques Hot List

Goldman Ismail Recognized for Excellence by Chambers USA 2013 and The Legal 500 2013

Goldman Ismail Named to The National Law Journal's Litigation Boutiques Hot List for the 2nd Consecutive Year

The Legal 500 2012 Ranks Goldman Ismail as Top Firm for Products Liability Litigation

Goldman Ismail Wins Summary Judgment of Non-Infringement for Tickets.com

Goldman Ismail Receives High Rankings Nationwide and in Illinois from Chambers USA 2011

The Legal 500 2011 Ranks Goldman Ismail as a Top Firm for Products Liability Litigation

Goldman Ismail Obtains Complete Defense Verdict for Merck in Vioxx Case Brought by LA Attorney General

Chambers USA 2010 Ranks Goldman Ismail, Tarek Ismail and Joe Tomaselli

---

Bar & Court Admission

State of Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (including Trial Bar)

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