

Product Liability 2023



PROFILED:

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Product Liability



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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Jennifer Greenblatt is a partner in the Chicago and Dallas offices of litigation boutique Goldman Ismail. Ms Greenblatt has a long track record of successfully defending high-stakes product liability litigations. She serves as lead nationwide and trial counsel for pharmaceutical and medical device companies facing multidistrict litigation where she is known for executing creative legal strategies and connecting with judges and juries alike across the country. She is consistently recognised for her work by The Legal 500, Chambers USA, Benchmark Litigation, LMG Life Sciences and Law360.





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Q&A WITH JENNIFER L. GREENBLATT

Could you provide an insight into how you approach your work? What drives and motivates you?

▶ I am always looking for the most efficient and effective way to achieve my clients' objectives, whether defeating a bid to consolidate actions in a particular venue, winning dispositive motions, securing a favourable jury verdict or otherwise positioning major litigations for the best possible outcomes. The trust placed in me to defend 'bet the company' cases, along with the complex issues that inevitably come with handling those types of matters, motivates me to deliver exceptional results no matter the hurdles. Getting to partner with the most sophisticated clients, and often joining forces with incredible co-counsel, many of whom are handpicked under a virtual law firm model, is a privilege I do not take for granted. Each case involves new strategic choices to make as a team, which keeps things interesting.

What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?

♦ My firm manages cases differently from traditional law firms by using only alternative-fee arrangements, often with risk-sharing components to ensure our interests and our clients' interests are aligned. We focus our teams' efforts on outcome-determinative tasks and case-dispositive issues, rather than billing time. Our ability to credibly and simply present complex scientific topics using a deep bench of talent allows us to creatively explore strategies and give sound guidance. Our science team is second to none and includes five attorneys with medical degrees who bring a unique skillset to litigation faced by our clients. Our science-focused mentality has enabled us to obtain dismissal of thousands of product liability cases after





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winning expert challenges and then summary judgment motions in multidistrict litigations (MDLs) and bellwether proceedings. We help our clients find the clearest path to complete resolution, whether by developing a winning legal theory, leading expert witness teams or achieving courtroom victories.



Reflecting on your area of expertise, how do you see this sphere of the market shaping up over the coming months? Are any exciting trends or developments on the horizon?

◆ Pre-emption decisions in the wake of the US Supreme Court's decision in *Merck v. Albrecht* remains an important area of development for those like me that routinely litigate the issue. Confirming that whether the FDA would have approved a change to a pharmaceutical drug label is normally a question for a judge – not a jury – to decide, is a gamechanger. I also expect that the viability of both general and specific personal jurisdiction challenges will remain in flux. Venue often drives both the day-to-day and long-term risk for litigation. The ability of out-of-state defendants to avoid litigating in a jurisdiction unrelated to the dispute hangs in the balance as appellate courts define the limits of the doctrines. ■

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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Lead counsel for radiology contrast agent manufacturer in nationwide litigation involving varied claimed injuries from retention. Defeated petition for multidistrict consolidation and secured dozens of voluntary and court-ordered dismissals.
- Served on numerous trial teams for manufacturer of osteoporosis medication in cases involving alleged atypical femur fractures and osteonecrosis of the jaw, respectively, resulting in defence jury verdict, mistrial and several voluntary dismissals.
- Trial counsel for IVC filter manufacturer in a case that settled days before jury selection.
- ◆ Lead counsel for manufacturer in wrongful death action involving alleged birth defects from in-utero exposure to a calcium channel blocker that was voluntarily dismissed.
- Won summary judgment for nerve-monitoring endotracheal tube manufacturer in wrongful death case after successfully moving to exclude causation expert.
- Secured voluntary and court-ordered dismissals for manufacturer of radiology contrast agent in remanded MDL cases involving rare systemic fibrosis disease.
- Deposed over a dozen plaintiffs for pelvic mesh manufacturer in federal MDL.

