



# James H. Rotondo

## Partner

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## Overview

James "Jim" Rotondo, a seasoned trial lawyer, represents a broad range of corporate clients in product liability, negligence, insurance coverage, class action and commercial litigation matters.

In his product liability practice, Jim defends retailers, suppliers and manufacturers of industrial equipment, aviation, automotive and consumer product lawsuits. He also represents clients in commercial litigation, and defends religious, charitable and educational organizations in lawsuits and claims alleging sexual abuse and breach of fiduciary and/or statutory duties.

In addition, Jim also represents insurers in litigation. With his deep understanding of this complex, fast-paced and highly regulated industry, he is able to assist them in disputes over coverage and business practices.

Clients seek out Jim for his extensive experience trying cases to verdict before judges and juries in state and federal courts in Connecticut and Massachusetts. He also has represented clients in matters pending in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, New Jersey and New York.

Jim has been listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*\* (Chambers & Partners) as a recognized practitioner for Litigation: General Commercial in Connecticut since 2014. In the 2020 edition, *Chambers* wrote that he is "a highly experienced litigator" and quoted a source, who described him as "detail-oriented, responsive and client-centered."

*\* No aspect of these advertisements has been approved by the highest court of any state. See [Awards Methodology](#).*

## Experience

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Tried property damage action arising out of the explosion of industrial equipment; verdict upheld on appeal to jury verdict of \$18.3 million in favor of clients

Tried case involving collapse of suspended scaffold that resulted in two deaths to jury verdict in favor of client

Represented distributor of allegedly defective kerosene heater that resulted in significant burn injuries; tried to jury verdict in favor of client

## Practices & Industries

[Cannabis](#)

[Class Action Litigation](#)

[Complex Commercial Litigation](#)

[Energy Litigation](#)

[Insurance and Reinsurance Disputes Litigation](#)

[Mass Tort Litigation](#)

[Product Liability & Torts Litigation](#)

Tried an action arising out of the denial of a disability claim to jury verdict in favor of client insurer

Represented homeowner's insurer in a declaratory judgment action; trial court granted summary judgment for insurer on the basis of an automobile exclusion in the policy, which was upheld on appeal

Represented an insurer in an insurance coverage case arising out of a series of product liability cases against its insured; after extensive discovery involving the production of millions of pages of documents and scores of depositions, the case was resolved favorably to our client through "baseball" arbitration

Represented disability insurance carrier in putative ERISA class action, successfully arguing that New York state law limitation on pre-existing condition provision did not apply because the choice of law provision need not be included in the Summary Plan Description, the absence of the choice of law provision in the Summary Plan Description did not prejudice the plaintiff, and even if New York law applied to the choice of law issue, New York law did not compel the application of New York substantive law. *Woloshin v. Aetna Life Ins. Co.*, 2010 W.L. 723667 (S.D.N.Y. 2010)

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## Education and Credentials

### Education

Boston University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 1981, editor, *Boston University Law Review*, 1979-1981

Trinity College, B.S., 1978

### Admissions

State of Connecticut

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit  
U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut  
U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

## Affiliations

Product Liability Advisory Council (PLAC)  
Trial Attorneys of America  
American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, Product Liability Committee Newsletter, Past Executive Editor  
American Board of Trial Advocates, Associate Member  
Oliver Ellsworth Inns of Court, Emeritus  
Defense Research Institute  
Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO)

## Recognition and Community

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## Recognitions

Chosen for inclusion in [Chambers USA Legal Directory](#) (Chambers & Partners) of recognized practitioners for Litigation: General Commercial in Connecticut, 2014-2025  
Chosen for inclusion in [The Best Lawyers in America](#) (Woodward/White, Inc.), Commercial Litigation, 2015-2026, Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Defendants, 2015-2026  
Selected to the list of Connecticut [Super Lawyers](#)®, Personal Injury, Defense, Insurance Coverage, 2007-2021, 2023-2025  
AV Preeminent rated by [Martindale-Hubbell](#) (LexisNexis)

## Insights

Mallory Ruling Leaves Personal Jurisdiction Deeply Unsettled  
July 13, 2023  
The Regulation of CBD and Delta-8 THC  
September 2022  
The Litigation Privilege: Immunity for False Pleadings and Discovery Responses  
April 19, 2022  
Snapchat Case May Offer Opening For Design Defect Plaintiffs  
May 28, 2021

Chapter 12: Regulating Cannabis Products, Product Liability Litigation, Current Law, Strategies, and Best Practices, Second Edition

April 1, 2021

Revisiting the Relatedness Standard: The Supreme Court's Decision in *Ford Motor Co. v. Montana Eighth Judicial District Court* Refines the Standard for Specific Jurisdiction and Leaves Unanswered Questions

March 29, 2021

Generations Winter 2021 - How Will Legal Landscape Around Cannabis Evolve Under New Administration?

March 10, 2021

Ohio: 'Control' determines whether Amazon is subject to strict liability

November 6, 2020

May Amazon be held liable in strict products liability?

September 28, 2020

COVID-19 Update on Opening of Connecticut Courts

June 10, 2020

Updated: Lamont Executive Order Grants Partial Immunity to Healthcare Providers Responding to COVID-19

April 7, 2020

Can He Do That? The Governor's Authority to Suspend or Modify Statutes in an Emergency Like the Covid-19 Pandemic

April 4, 2020

Federal Preemption Under the Federal Aviation Act

July 16, 2019

Soto v. Bushmaster: The Sandy Hook victims notch a stunning victory, but at what cost?

March 20, 2019

Amazon Tests Boundaries of What It Means to Be a Product Seller

October 17, 2018

Conn. High Court Modifies Design Defect Standards

May 19, 2016

Connecticut Supreme Court Updates Design Defect Standards in "Good Tobacco" Litigation

May 6, 2016

General Jurisdiction After Daimler AG v. Bauman

February 1, 2016

## News

Chambers Recognizes Day Pitney with Elevated Rankings Across Practices and Attorneys

June 6, 2024

Chambers USA 2023 Ranks 35 Day Pitney Attorneys and 13 Practices

June 1, 2023

Chambers USA 2022 Ranks 34 Day Pitney Attorneys and 13 Practices

June 1, 2022

Chambers USA 2021 Ranks 31 Day Pitney Attorneys and 13 Practices

May 21, 2021

Chambers USA 2020 Ranks 34 Day Pitney Attorneys and 12 Practices

April 30, 2020

Day Pitney Sponsors Connecticut Italian-American Bar Association Annual Dinner

November 14, 2019

Chambers USA 2019 Ranks 38 Day Pitney Attorneys and 12 Practices

May 8, 2019

Chambers USA 2018 Ranks 39 Day Pitney Attorneys and 11 Practices

May 25, 2018

Chambers USA 2017 Ranks 41 Day Pitney Attorneys

May 26, 2017

87 Day Pitney Lawyers Named to 2016 Super Lawyers List

November 10, 2016

71 Day Pitney Lawyers Named to 2017 Best Lawyers List

August 15, 2016

Chambers USA 2016 Ranks 47 Day Pitney Attorneys

May 27, 2016

91 Day Pitney Lawyers Named to 2015 Super Lawyers List

October 30, 2015

68 Day Pitney Lawyers Named to 2016 Best Lawyers List

August 24, 2015

Chambers USA 2015 Ranks 51 Day Pitney Attorneys

May 21, 2015

Eighty-Four Day Pitney Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers for 2014

November 3, 2014

Seventy Day Pitney Lawyers Named to 2015 Best Lawyers List

August 22, 2014

Chambers USA 2014 Ranks 46 Day Pitney Attorneys

May 23, 2014

Eighty-eight Day Pitney Attorneys Recognized by *Super Lawyers* for 2013

October 22, 2013

Ninety-eight Day Pitney Attorneys Recognized by *Super Lawyers*

October 22, 2012

## In The Media

Don't Trip Over These Tricky Conn. Legal Stumbling Blocks

Law360, June 14, 2023

"Alphabet Soup: The Regulation of CBD, CBN, Delta 8, Delta 10, and Other Cannabinoids," DRI Cannabis Law Seminar

September 9, 2022

Get to Know Federal Judge Michael Shea

Connecticut Law Tribune, October 13, 2021

The Future of CBD Law: 2021 and Beyond

January 20, 2021

All About Cannabis

May 2, 2019

Continuing Education Mandatory for All Connecticut Attorneys

Day Pitney Alert, October 18, 2016

Claims Handling Under the Unfair Claims Practices Regulations

Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) Claims Handling Resource Guide, January 17, 2014

Practice Tip: Cell Phone Usage and Brain Tumors

LJN's Product Liability Law & Strategy Newsletter, December 1, 2013

Author, "Practice Tip: The Scope of Daubert in Product Liability Class Actions," *LJN's Product Liability Law & Strategy Newsletter*, March 2013

Law Journal Newsletter, March 1, 2013

An Alternative Approach to Satisfying Daubert's 'Fit' Requirement

Law Journal Newsletter, August 1, 2012

Dead in the Water: Death Determinations By Medical Examiners and Coroners

Law Journal Newsletter, May 1, 2012