Paul D. Williams

Of Counsel

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Overview

Paul Williams, an experienced trial lawyer, defends businesses and individuals against complex torts claims, including product liability, professional negligence and commercial litigation matters. He has represented institutional and corporate "target" defendants before juries in cases involving:

- Technical and product liability claims
- Catastrophic personal injury, including death and brain injury
- Sexual abuse
- Corporate conduct, such as breach of contract and unfair trade practices

Paul has tried cases to verdict and judgment in state and federal courts in Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts. He has been statewide trial counsel for a major automobile manufacturer on all high-exposure automobile lessor litigation, and has represented corporate defendants throughout the United States, including serving as national litigation counsel for a major chemical manufacturer in toxic tort and class action litigation. Paul also represents religious, charitable and educational organizations in lawsuits and claims of breach of fiduciary and/or statutory duties. Paul has been published and regularly speaks on trial law issues. He is very active in professional organizations for trial lawyers. He was selected to be a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, which is extended by invitation only to less than one percent of the total lawyer population of any state or province who have "mastered the art of advocacy," amongst other qualifications. He serves on its Complex Litigation Committee, is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and is certified as a trial and pretrial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Paul's trial skills and experience also form a solid foundation for him to serve as a private mediator and arbitrator in complex matters.

Practices & Industries

Healthcare & Life Sciences

Litigation

Manufacturing & Transportation

Mass Tort Litigation

Product Liability & Torts Litigation

Experience

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a boat engine manufacturer in a jury trial in the Complex Litigation Docket involving a products liability claim which resulted in the death of two individuals and seriously injuring two others

Obtained numerous defense verdicts in jury trials on behalf of product manufacturers involving claims of defective design and manufacture involving seatbelts, airbags, passive resistance systems, ABS systems, seat design, axles, and crashworthiness claims

Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a truck manufacturer in the U.S. District Court involving three deaths and claims of product defect

Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a hospital in a three-month jury trial involving a misdiagnosis of a brain tumor

Obtained a complete defense verdict for a cruise line in a three-week jury trial in federal court involving claims of breach of contract, fraud, unfair and deceptive trade practices, and intentional interference with contract relationships

Obtained a complete defense verdict for an automobile manufacturer in a six-week jury trial in state court involving claims of breach of franchise agreement, unfair and deceptive business practices, and fraud

Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a pediatrician in a wrongful death jury trial involving claims of failure to diagnose medical conditions in a 24-month-old child

Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a surgeon in a five-week jury trial involving claims of negligent surgery on an ankle resulting in permanent disability and reflex sympathetic dystrophy

Obtained a defense judgment in a class action brought in New York Supreme Court, Commercial Division, against a product manufacturer involving claims of deceptive trade practices

Served as trial counsel for a major medical center defending over 160 lawsuits involving allegations of child sexual abuse by a former employee

Served as trial counsel for a major rating company in defense of a $75 Million claim brought by a hedge fund

Education and Credentials

Education

Brooklyn Law School, J.D., *cum laude*

City College of New York, B.A.

Admissions

State of Connecticut

State of New York

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

U.S. Supreme Court

Mohegan Tribal Court

Affiliations

American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow, Former Connecticut State Chair

American Board of Trial Advocates, Connecticut Chapter, President

Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association, Board of Directors, Past President and Chairman

Connecticut Bar Association, Litigation Section, Member

Connecticut Judicial Branch, Jury Selection Task Force, Co-Chair

Defense Research Institute, Past Connecticut State Representative and Member

Connecticut Bar Foundation, James W. Cooper Fellow

National Board of Civil Pretrial Practice Advocacy, Certified Pretrial Practice Advocate

National Board of Civil Trial Practice Advocacy, Certified Civil Trial Practice Advocate

Connecticut Judicial Branch Jury Selection Task Force, Committee Member

National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Quinnipiac University, Faculty, March 2001 - March 2005

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. See Awards Methodology.

Recognitions

Selected as the Product Liability Litigation - Defendants Lawyer of the Year for the Hartford Metro Area by *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), 2023, 2025

Selected to the list of Connecticut *Super Lawyers*®, Civil Litigation: Defense, 2006-2025

Selected to the list of the top 10 Connecticut *Super Lawyers*® Top Attorneys, 2019-2021

Selected to the list of the Top 100 *New England Super Lawyers*®, 2019

Recognized as a "Litigation Star" in *Benchmark Litigation: The Definitive Guide to America's Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys, 2021-2022*

Chosen for inclusion in *Chambers USA Legal Directory* (Chambers & Partners) of recognized practitioners for Litigation: General Commercial in Connecticut, 2018

Selected as the Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants Lawyer of the Year for Connecticut by *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), 2018

Chosen for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), Commercial Litigation, 2015-2027; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, 2016-2027; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2017-2027

Fellow of The American College of Trial Lawyers

Advocate of the American Board of Trial Attorneys

Member of Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel

Recognized as a leading litigation practitioner in *Benchmark: Litigation, the Definitive Guide to America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys* (Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC), 2015

Selected by Peer Recognition, Top Attorneys in New England, 2012

Recipient of the American College of Trial Lawyers Outstanding Leadership Award, October 2012

Recipient of the Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association President's Award of Excellence, presented to a civil defense attorney who has provided outstanding and distinguished service and contribution to the defense bar, excellence in practice, and the development and furtherance of the fair administration of justice and application of law to society, 2008

Recipient of the 1999 Defense Research Institute Exceptional Performance Citation

AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell (LexisNexis)

Community Involvement

Saint Francis Hospital Foundation, Corporator

Hartford Habitat for Humanity, Past Board Member

Foodshare Regional Food Bank, Past Board Member and Officer

Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools, Former Trustee

Product Liability Advisory Council, Former Member

Insights

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

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

The Connecticut Supreme Court Extends Physician's Duty of Care to an Identifiable Non-Patient Third Party
July 29, 2019

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

EPA Releases PFAS Action Plan; State Efforts in the Northeast Well Underway
February 27, 2019

Initial Civil Appeals: Connecticut
May 20, 2016

Paul Williams and Kaitlin Canty Co-author Article on Product Liability Concerns For Trademark Licensors
December 5, 2013

News

Paul Williams Selected as President of the Connecticut Chapter of American Board of Trial Advocates
November 9, 2022

Day Pitney Secures Summary Judgment for St. Vincent's Medical Center
April 16, 2021

Chase Rogers Selected by Connecticut Chief Justice to Co-Chair Jury Selection Task Force to Eradicate Racial Bias from the Jury System
July 21, 2020

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

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

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

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

Paul Williams Recognized as a Benchmark Litigation Star by Benchmark Litigation
Benchmark Litigation 2023 Guide, October 5, 2022

Paul Williams Recognized as a Benchmark Litigation Star by Benchmark Litigation
Benchmark Litigation, October 5, 2021

Titans of the Defense
March 11, 2019

American Board of Trial Advocates "Civility Matters" Seminar
September 15, 2017

Program Chair, Connecticut State Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers Trial Skills Seminar, March 14, 2014
March 14, 2014

Connecticut Product Liability Law
January 1, 1998