

High Stakes Litigation

Overview

When the stakes are high, businesses turn to Steptoe & Johnson's High Stakes Litigation Team to protect their business and reputational assets. Our seasoned litigators respond swiftly and strategically to unique and complex legal disputes that can pose far-reaching and consequential risks to companies. Whether it's bet-the-company litigation or multifront commercial conflict, we bring deep legal acumen, industry insights, and courtroom experience to respond effectively and deliver solutions.

We handle intricate legal issues, catastrophic claims, and high-dollar demands — often in the multimillions — with a focus on preserving our clients' reputations, financial stability, and business operations. From the onset, we work closely with clients to understand what's at stake and to build robust, tailored defense strategies that account for every angle of risk and liability. When a settlement isn't possible, we are trial-ready, backed by a team that has taken hundreds of cases to verdict in both state and federal courts.

Our approach blends multidisciplinary teamwork to unify efforts across legal, regulatory, and strategic fronts. We are known for our ability to convey complex information clearly to juries, orchestrate large-scale litigation defenses, and inspire confidence through every phase of the legal process.

Steptoe & Johnson's litigators have served as lead counsel in critical cases involving premises liability, catastrophic injury, commercial disputes, and regulatory investigations. We represent a wide array of clients, including energy companies, health care systems, transportation providers, insurers, manufacturers, and professional services firms.

In every case, we remain focused on managing risk, minimizing disruption, protecting enterprise value, and securing the future of our clients' businesses.

Representative Experience

- Served as co-lead counsel defending a large pharmaceutical distributor in more than 3,000 opioid lawsuits in state and federal courts nationwide; responsibilities include developing arguments for and implementing the removal of state court suits to federal court

- Defended a major retail grocery store/pharmacy in federal multidistrict litigation filed by over 1,000 government subdivision plaintiffs and numerous state court cases filed by state attorneys general and government subdivisions
- Won a jury verdict on behalf of one of the largest banks in the world in a claim alleging fraudulent misrepresentation, aiding and abetting, and violations of blue sky laws
- Obtained a unanimous defense verdict at a jury trial on behalf of an oil and gas exploration and production company in an environmental exposure matter alleging toxic encephalopathy and other personal injury claims
- Managed high stakes pharmaceutical multidistrict litigation for over 100 matters in Ohio
- Won a jury verdict on behalf of a chemical manufacturer against a corporate executive in a breach of confidentiality/duty of loyalty and misappropriation of trade secrets case
- Represented a railroad in over 100 claims of solvent-induced brain damage, trying 10 cases that all resulted in defense verdicts; the balance of the case docket was later dismissed on summary judgment following a successful Daubert challenge
- Obtained a defense verdict in a products liability case involving an amputation injury in a dangerous plaintiff-friendly venue

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