



Sharon Desh

Partner

Chicago

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Sharon is a courtroom-proven trial lawyer with extensive experience in multidistrict, class action, and complex commercial litigation, including cases involving parallel proceedings in state and federal courts. She is a frequent writer and speaker on trial strategy and case management, with a focus on emerging trends in mass tort and high-profile litigation. Named a “Key Lawyer” by *The Legal 500 US* in life science and product liability defense, Sharon has extensive experience working with and examining witnesses, as well as in setting case strategy for joint defense groups in complex matters.

Sharon concentrates her practice on product liability and mass torts and has represented Fortune 500 companies in high-profile class actions and multidistrict litigation (MDL) in the pharmaceutical and consumer product industries. She has been a key member of several trial teams, including representing a major pharmacy chain in litigation related to the distribution and sale of prescription opioid medications, described by the Washington Post as “the most complex civil lawsuit in U.S. history.” Sharon previously served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edith Brown Clement of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Key Matters

Some of the experience represented below may have been handled at a previous firm.

- Representing a **multinational medical device and health care company** in state and federal proceedings involving numerous product liability lawsuits, alleging that cow milk-based preterm infant formula products cause a naturally occurring gastrointestinal disorder in premature infants. A federal MDL proceeding is consolidated in the Northern District of Illinois.
- ***In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation MDL*** (U.S. District Court, N.D. Ohio): National and trial counsel for a major pharmacy chain in nationwide state and federal litigation relating to the distribution and sale of prescription opioid medications, including over 2,500 cases brought by states, cities, counties, tribes, and private parties.
- ***In re Domestic Drywall Antitrust Litigation MDL*** (U.S. District Court, E.D. Pa.): Counsel for the leading U.S. drywall manufacturer against Sherman Act and state law price-fixing claims brought by 12 of the nation's largest homebuilders. Secured summary judgment on liability in favor of clients United States Gypsum Company and USG Corp. This decision came after the court denied summary judgment to multiple co-defendants.
- ***Johnson v. Monsanto Co.*** (City and County of San Francisco Super. Ct.): Consulting attorney for first lawsuit to proceed to trial across all state and federal cases alleging that Roundup weedkiller caused plaintiff's non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- ***E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. v. Unifrax*** (U.S. District Court, D. Del and U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit): Trial counsel to DuPont in successful jury trial relating to DuPont's patent covering thermal acoustic blankets for use in aircraft, which was affirmed on appeal.
- ***Prologis v. IGT*** (U.S. District Court, Nev.): Second-chair trial counsel to IGT in bench trial on multimillion-dollar breach of contract action.

Recognitions

- *The Legal 500 U.S.*, "Key Lawyer" in the areas of Healthcare: Life Sciences(2023) and Dispute Resolution: Product Liability, Mass Tort And Class Action - Defense: Pharmaceuticals And Medical Devices (2023–2024)
- *Super Lawyers*, "Illinois Rising Star" (2017–2021)

Activities

Sharon is a member of the Chicago Litigation subcommittee of Winston & Strawn's Associate Evaluation Committee and is a member of the firm's Recruitment Committee.

Outside of Winston, Sharon serves on the board of the Chicago chapter of the Federal Bar Association, as well as on the board of the Chicago Fire Department Foundation.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Sharon received her J.D., with honors, from the University of Chicago Law School in 2011. She received her M.A. in philosophy from the University of Maryland in 2008 and her B.A., *cum laude*, and with honors in philosophy from Vanderbilt University in 2006.

ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

CLERKSHIPS

- USCA - Fifth Circuit for the Honorable Edith Brown Clement

Related Insights & News

Publications

- "[Paltrow Win Offers Lesson In Celebs Staying On Brand At Trial](#)," Law360, Co-author, June 28, 2023
- "[Alex Jones Cases Show It's Time To Rethink Zealous Advocacy](#)," Law360, Co-author, Dec. 14, 2022
- "[4 Witness Presentation Lessons from the Depp-Heard Trial](#)," Law360, Co-author, August 2, 2022. Named in "[Trial Tips: The Top Law360 Guest Articles Of 2022](#)," Law360, December 23, 2022
- "Sexual Orientation, Discrimination, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," 11 Chi. J. Int'l L. 789 2011

Speaking Engagements

- "Mass Tort Management Tactics: Practical Advice For Product Liability In-House Counsel," Panelist, Winston & Strawn Product & Mass Torts Summit, May 9, 2024
- "The Controversy Surrounding Rule 16.1," Panelist, Mass Torts Puerto Rico, May 2, 2024
- "AI-Powered Legal Practice: Leveraging Technology in Fact Finding and Discovery," Panelist, Legalweek, Jan. 31, 2024
- "Key Developments That Move the Needle," Panelist, 23rd Annual Complex Litigation Symposium, Nov. 10, 2023
- "Ethical Issues in Mass Tort Advertising," Speaker, Federal Bar Association, Chicago Chapter Annual Ethics Program, June 6, 2023
- "Critical Tools for Navigating Mass Torts (Part 1)," Panelist, Mass Torts Puerto Rico, May 4, 2023
- "Lessons Learned from this Year's Top MDLs: Key Defense Strategies from 3M Ear Plugs, Opioids and Zantac MDLs," Panelist, ACI Drug & Medical Device Litigation Conference, December 7, 2022
- "Strategies for Addressing Plaintiff Evolving Tactics in MDLs: Public Nuisance and Beyond," Panelist, Winston & Strawn Product & Mass Torts Summit, June 7, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2024

JUNE 12, 2024

SEMINAR/CLE

Winston's Product & Mass Torts Summit Series 2024

MAY 9, 2024

ARTICLE

Paltrow Win Offers Lesson In Celebs Staying On Brand At Trial

JUNE 28, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2023

JUNE 7, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Sharon Desh and Jacob Seiden's Article Named Among The Top Law360 Guest Articles of 2022

DECEMBER 23, 2022

ARTICLE

Alex Jones Cases Show It's Time To Rethink Zealous Advocacy

DECEMBER 15, 2022

SPONSORSHIP

Winston Sponsors, Speaks at ACI's 27th Annual Drug & Medical Device Litigation Conference

DECEMBER 6-7, 2022

BLOG

Chicago Litigators Spend an Afternoon Giving Back to the Community

OCTOBER 14, 2022

ARTICLE

4 Witness Presentation Lessons From The Depp-Heard Trial

AUGUST 2, 2022

WEBINAR

Product & Mass Torts Summit 2022

JUNE 7, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Continues Expansion of Litigation Practice With Addition of Sharon Desh

FEBRUARY 23, 2022

Capabilities

- Product Liability & Mass Torts
- Commercial Litigation & Disputes
- Class Actions & Group Litigation
- Litigation/Trials
- Medical Devices
- Cryptocurrencies, Digital Assets & Blockchain Technology