



Laura Kingsley Hong

Partner

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Laura Kingsley Hong chairs the firm's Mass Tort & Product Liability Group, which includes more than 50 lawyers in six offices.

A trial lawyer with 35 years of uninterrupted experience defending class action, mass and toxic tort, product and commercial litigation, she serves as national, trial, and local counsel for many companies.

Laura tries cases and manages and assists local counsel, insurance companies, and corporations in the defense of mass and toxic tort and product liability claims. She appears in state and federal courts across the country and has tried several cases to jury verdict. Laura often partners with counsel from other law firms, providing clients a cohesive and collaborative defense team. She routinely participates in mediations, often with JAMS, and has also arbitrated before the American Arbitration Association.

Laura was featured in the "Big Suits" column in *The American Lawyer*, detailing a victory on behalf of BP involving a 19-week refinery contamination trial. Her testimony supporting Ohio's Asbestos Medical Criteria Bill (Ohio H.B. 292) helped shape that legislation and is cited in its legislative history.

Laura is ranked in Chambers USA 2021 in the area of Product Liability & Mass Torts (Nationwide), where one client remarks, "She is a true partner in every sense of the word. She works tirelessly to ensure the best possible results, understands our businesses and is a trusted, irreplaceable member of our team." Another client notes that "Laura is excellent to work with and experienced in the field."

In October 2021, Laura was inducted into the Case Western Reserve University School of Law Society of Benchers for her extraordinary achievements and dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession.

As a founder (and the first president) of the Asian American Bar Association of Ohio over three decades ago, and through her continued leadership in national bar associations, Laura is well known for her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. On November 3, 2020, Laura volunteered with Election Protection in Gwinnett County, Georgia, providing nonpartisan voter access and protection. She is serving her second year on the Deans' Cabinet for Diversity & Inclusion at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. The Cabinet, led and chaired by Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion Bryan Adamson, strategically focuses on recruitment, education, and professional development and opportunities for law students of color. Laura is a former professor of trial tactics and speaks and writes frequently on topics relating to ethics, toxic/mass tort, and product liability.

Education

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law (J.D., 1985)
- Oberlin College (B.A., 1980)

State Admissions

- Ohio, 1986

Federal Admissions

- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio

Service Areas

- Mass Tort & Product Liability
- Class Action Litigation
- Business Litigation

Experience

- Won a \$2.85-million jury verdict (and defeated all counterclaims) in California federal court involving claims for misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of employment agreement, breach of contract, and COBRA violations
- Briefed and argued two appeals in the New York Fourth Appellate District in a multiparty medical malpractice, medical device, and traditional product liability case involving millions of dollars in claimed damages
- Brief, amicus curiae, United States Supreme Court, IRS taxable transportation issues for fractional aircraft management company
- Won a defense jury verdict as lead trial counsel in a wrongful death mesothelioma case on behalf of a lone defendant
- Briefed a winning motion for summary judgment on successor liability in a Louisiana case through the state appellate process
- Supported a defense jury verdict as lead trial support coordinator in a class action refinery contamination case in Southeast Kansas
- Won a defense jury verdict as lead trial counsel in a mesothelioma death case on behalf of a lone defendant
- Defended a wire supplier in cases filed by experimental participants in the Functional Electrical Stimulation Program
- Won a defense jury verdict as lead medical counsel in a severe pulmonary fibrosis case
- Won a defense jury verdict in a mesothelioma death case on behalf of a thermal insulation manufacturer
- Won a fraudulent inducement claim as lead trial counsel in a bench trial in federal court, reversed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- Defended housing authorities in individual and class action claims relating to lead-based paint

Publications & Events

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Applying the Law: Successful Dismissals on Motion Practice,” DRI 2021 Defense Lawyers Asbestos Symposium, New Orleans, Louisiana (November 2021)
- “Ethics,” Defense Asbestos Litigation Seminar (DALs) 2019, New Orleans, Louisiana (June 2019)
- “Ethics and Damages: A Diagnostic Review,” DRI Asbestos Medicine Seminar, Austin, Texas (November 2018)
- “Ethics: The Toxicity of Ethics in Asbestos Cases,” Defense Asbestos Litigation Seminar (DALs) 2018, Nashville, Tennessee (June 2018)
- “Anticipating the Unknown,” DRI Asbestos Medicine Seminar, Las Vegas, Nevada (November 2017)
- “The Importance and Preparation of the 30(b)6 Corporate Representative Deposition,” DRI Defense Lawyers Asbestos Symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada (November 2017)
- “‘Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!’ The Importance of Following the Yellow Brick Road in Corporate Representative Depositions,” 2017 In-House Counsel Summit, Tucker Ellis LLP, Cleveland, Ohio (October 2017)
- “Ethics: Outrageous Misconduct,” Defense Asbestos Seminar (DALs) 2017, Orlando, Florida (June 2017)
- “Crossing Plaintiff’s Expert Part 2,” DRI Asbestos Medicine Seminar, New Orleans, Louisiana (November 2016)
- “Top Leadership Competencies,” Ohio Diversity Council, Cleveland, Ohio (October 2016)
- “Branding: Becoming Visible and Importance of Self,” Cleveland Women in Leadership Symposium, Ohio Diversity Council, Cleveland, Ohio (March 2016)
- “Diversity & Discrimination: The Legal Ethics,” Tucker Ellis Ohio Professional Conduct Program, Cleveland, Ohio (December 2015)
- “The Cleveland Police Consent Decree,” Ports, Police and Politics in Ohio, Tucker Ellis LLP, Cleveland, Ohio (November 2015)
- “A Seat at the Table: Witness Prep & Other Essential Trial Skills for Young Lawyers,” 2015 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana (November 2015)
- “Ethics: Staying Out of the Penalty Box” (main stage) and “Becoming First Chair” (breakout), DRI Asbestos Medicine Seminar, Las Vegas, Nevada (November 2015)
- “The Path to Success in a Law Firm,” 4th Annual Women’s Law & Leadership Conference, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, Ohio (October 2015)
- “Special Case Circumstances to be Considered in Evaluation,” Defense Asbestos Litigation Seminar (DALs) 2015, Las Vegas, Nevada (June 2015)
- “Trial Strategies for Apportionment,” 1st Annual Asbestos Litigation ExecuSummit, Uncasville, Connecticut (December 2014)
- “Keeping Your Boiler Defendant from Losing Steam – Boiler Operation and Defense Strategy,”

DRI's Asbestos Medicine Seminar, San Francisco, California (November 2014)

- "Joint Defense Approaches," Defense Asbestos Litigation Seminar (DALs) 2014, Las Vegas, Nevada (June 2014)

PUBLICATIONS

- "Over-naming in Ohio Asbestos Litigation: A Legislative Solution Is Needed," IADC Civil Justice Response and Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation Joint Newsletter (December 2020)
- "Controversies Regarding the Role of Asbestos Exposure in the Causation of Lung Cancer: The Need for an Evidence Based Approach," *Mealey's Litigation Report: Asbestos*, Vol. 30, #17 (October 2015)
- "Apportioning Liability in Asbestos Litigation: A Review of the Law in Key Jurisdictions," *Thomas M. Cooley Law Review*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (2009)

Honors

- Chambers USA
 - » Product Liability & Mass Torts (Nationwide) (2020, 2021)
 - » "Spotlight Table" in Product Liability: Toxic Torts (Nationwide) (2021)
- Crain's Cleveland Business
 - » Women of Note (2021)
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law
 - » Society of Benchers (2021)
- The Best Lawyers in America® (2010-2022)
 - » Cleveland Lawyer of the Year (Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants) (2019)
- America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators® (2018)
- Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent® Peer Rating
- Top Rated Lawyer, "Women Lawyers in the Law," *The American Lawyer* (2013)
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
 - » Women's Leadership Award (2012)
- Greater Cleveland YWCA
 - » Women of Professional Excellence Award (2010)
 - » Women of Achievement Award (1999)
- Ohio Super Lawyers®
 - » Personal Injury – Products: Defense (2004-2009, 2011-2020)

In the Community

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law
 - » Society of Benchers
 - » Deans' Cabinet for Diversity & Inclusion
- Asian American Bar Association of Ohio, Founder and Past President
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
 - » Leadership Advisory Council
 - » Past National President
- Federal Bar Association, Past Ohio Chapter President
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Election Protection Volunteer
- Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, Diversity Scholarship Committee
- American Bar Foundation, Sustaining Life Fellow
- American Bar Association
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- The Judge John M. Manos American Inn of Court
- Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow
- Ohio State Bar Association