



Scott J. Wilkov

Counsel

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Scott Wilkov defends product manufacturers as both national and local counsel in coal mine dust, silica, asbestos, and other toxic exposure litigation.

As a veteran Air Force attorney, Scott has experience representing the government, companies, and individuals in high-stakes litigation around the country and overseas. Scott's strategic insight and experience with complex cases has enabled him to be a principal architect of winning strategies for serial litigation defense. Scott's knowledge of science is a key contribution in these cases as he identifies and develops the most appropriate experts to advance the theories of the defense. He is a skilled advocate and has developed insightful plans for motion practice to streamline the issues at trial. Scott not only tries cases – he knows how to efficiently manage a busy docket and local counsel around the country.

Prior to entering private practice, Scott was the senior Air Force prosecutor for the Western United States. Through that assignment and more than a decade of military service, Scott tried approximately 100 criminal cases. He was both a prosecutor and public defender in the military, serving as lead counsel on cases as diverse as murder, False Claims Act violations, fraudulent conversion of government property, child sexual abuse, and computer crimes.

True to his roots, Scott is accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for his pro bono work to advance claims for disability benefits on behalf of injured service members.

Outside of work, Scott enjoys spending time with his family. A transplant to Northeast Ohio, Scott has become an avid supporter of Cleveland's professional sports teams; as a result of this often frustrating experience, he works tirelessly to instill the values of good sportsmanship in his daughters.

Education

- University of Arizona College of Law (J.D., 1992); Arizona Law Review, Managing Editor
- American University (B.A., 1989); Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society

State Admissions

- Ohio, 2004
- Illinois, 1992

Federal Admissions

- United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
- United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio

Service Areas

- Mass Tort & Product Liability
- Life Sciences Litigation
- White Collar Criminal Defense & Corporate Investigations
- Health & Life Sciences

Industries Represented

- Air
- Automotive
- Electrical Equipment
- Hospitals
- Medical Professionals (Doctors & Nurses)
- Mining
- National Security
- Pharmaceutical & Medicine
- Plastics & Rubber
- Safety Equipment
- Textile
- Valve Manufacturers

Experience

- Represented respirator manufacturer through summary judgment. 2019.
- Post-trial motions and appellate brief in asbestos case. 2016.
- Represented respiratory protection equipment manufacturer in products liability action for silicosis. Summary judgment and appeal, 2014.
- Represented safety clothing manufacturer in products liability action for mesothelioma. Jury trial, 2012 (second chair).
- Represented electrical control product manufacturer in products liability action for mesothelioma. Jury trial, 2011 (second chair).
- Represented manufacturer of industrial respiratory protection equipment in products liability action for silicosis. 2011.
- Represented United States Air Force in first degree murder prosecution at Kadena Air Base, Japan. Bench trial, May 2002 (first chair).
- Represented United States Air Force in prosecuting first military physician for disobedience to orders at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi. Jury trial, May 2001 (first chair).

Publications & Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “If I Could Turn Back Time: Winning on the Statute of Limitations,” IADC Midyear Meeting, Santa Barbara, California (February 2019)
- “How to Get the Most Out of Your Mock Trial,” IADC Webinar (December 2018)
- “How to Work With Counsel to Make Complex Information Understandable,” Expert Witness Training, SEAK 27th Annual National Conference, Clearwater Beach, Florida (May 2018)

PUBLICATIONS

- “Why the Customer Can’t Always Be Right in Product Liability Litigation,” *Westlaw Journal Medical Devices* (March 2018); *IADC Product Liability Committee Newsletter* (December 2017)
- “An Often-Overlooked Defense to Product Liability Claims,” *DRI’s For The Defense* (April 2017)

In the Community

- International Association of Defense Counsel
 - » Product Liability Committee, Vice Chair
- Defense Research Institute
- American Bar Association, Litigation Section
- Ohio State Bar Association, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- The Temple Tifereth Israel Board of Trustees
 - » Temple Membership Committee, Co-Chair
 - » Temple Learning Council, Past Chair