

Peter A. Strotz



Practice Focus

- Products Liability
- Pharmaceutical Liability
- Toxic Torts
- Complex Civil Litigation
 - Silica
 - Asbestos
 - Benzene
- Antitrust Litigation
- Commercial Sales
- Unfair Competition

Representative Clients

- AkzoNobel
- AstraZeneca LP
- Benjamin Moore & Co.
- Chevron U.S.A. Inc.
- The Dow Chemical Company
- American Cyanamid
- Hewlett-Packard Company
- Cytec Engineered Materials
- Fiberite Inc.
- The Glidden Company dba ICI Paints
- Indopco, Inc.
- Kennametal, Inc.
- D Aircraft Products, Inc.
- Union Oil Company of California
- UOP, LLC

Bar and Court Admissions

- California – 1987
- United States District Courts for the Northern, Central and Eastern Districts of California

In Brief

Mr. Strotz is the Managing Partner of the firm and is a trial lawyer with over twenty years experience litigating complex matters which principally involve novel medical, scientific and legal issues. In his representation of Fortune and Global 1000 companies, Mr. Strotz has acted as national, regional and local counsel in a variety of pharmaceutical, products, commercial, antitrust and toxic tort cases.

Partner

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Representative Matters

PHARMACEUTICAL

Mr. Strotz has acted as both national and local counsel for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP. As national counsel, he has successfully defended dental anesthetic and needle product liability cases filed throughout the United States, including California, New York and Florida.

Mr. Strotz currently is California counsel representing a major innovator pharmaceutical company in the defense of multiple personal injury cases which involve claims that pain pumps which post-operatively administer an anesthetic to the shoulder joint cause chondrolysis, viz., degeneration of the shoulder joint cartilage.

Mr. Strotz also is California counsel representing a major innovator pharmaceutical company in the defense of claims that an antipsychotic medication causes weight gain, diabetes and pancreatitis.

Mr. Strotz successfully represented The Dow Chemical Company as the alleged successor to a manufacturer of the Salk polio vaccine. In numerous product liability actions by individual plaintiffs in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Orange counties, Mr. Strotz led a team and successfully formulated an end-game strategy that resulted in the state-wide dismissals of all plaintiffs' claims at the pleading stage.

Mr. Strotz also successfully represented SmartHealth Inc., as local counsel, in the defense of the coordinated latex glove product liability cases in California.

TOXIC TORT – BENZENE

Mr. Strotz currently represents a number of Fortune and Global 1000 companies, including AkzoNobel, D Aircraft Products, Cytec Industries, Inc., Indopco, Inc., Chevron U.S.A. Inc., The Glidden Company, and Benjamin Moore & Co. in personal injury cases, involving claims of exposure to benzene, venued in Northern and Southern California.

TOXIC TORT – SILICA

Mr. Strotz currently leads a team that represents Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Union Oil Company of California and Hewlett-Packard Company in the defense of silica-related product and premises personal injury claims filed in California state court.

Education

- J.D., University of San Francisco School of Law, 1987
- A.B., University of California, Berkeley, 1983

Professional Honors and Associations

- American Bar Association
 - Environmental, Product Liability and Mass Tort sections
- Alameda County Bar Association
- Bar Association of San Francisco
- Defense Research Institute
 - Drug and Medical Device, Product Liability and Toxic Tort committees
- Association of Defense Counsel
- LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell – A.V. Rating
- “*Super Lawyer*,” San Francisco Magazine, 2004, 2005, 2006
- Winner, 1987 John Brennan Mock Trial Competition
- University of San Francisco School of Law, 1985 Advocate of the Year

TOXIC TORT – ASBESTOS

For nearly twenty years, Mr. Strotz has managed through trial asbestos product and premises liability dockets throughout the State of California. He currently represents Chevron U.S.A. Inc., The Dow Chemical Company, Texaco Inc., Unocal Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, The Glidden Company, Benjamin Moore & Company, American Cyanamid Company, Fiberite Inc., UOP LLC, Rhodia Inc. and Indopco, Inc.

TOXIC TORT – AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Mr. Strotz acted as national counsel for the manufacturer of synthetic pyrethrin pesticides in product liability actions filed throughout the United States, including California, Michigan and Tennessee. He obtained involuntary dismissals in these cases based upon, among other issues, federal preemption and lack of medical causation.

Along with founding partner, Gennaro Filice, Mr. Strotz obtained a defense verdict in an alleged Paraquat® exposure trial in a California state action.

Mr. Strotz was a member of a team that successfully defended the personal injury claims of over 400 individuals arising out of a chemical fire at the Rhone- Poulenc sulfuric acid regeneration facility in Martinez, California.

ANTITRUST

Mr. Strotz currently is representing AstraZeneca LP in a California state action by pharmacies alleging a nationwide, price-fixing conspiracy among the manufacturers of brand name prescription drugs in violation of the Cartwright Act and California’s Unfair Competition Laws. Mr. Strotz was an integral part of the AstraZeneca team that developed the necessary evidentiary record and obtained summary judgment in favor of all defendants. This case is currently on appeal before the California Supreme Court.

LEAD PAINT

Mr. Strotz currently represents American Cyanamid Company in a nuisance action being prosecuted by cities and counties throughout the State of California against the manufacturers of paint pigments seeking the abatement of lead paint from all buildings and homes within their boundaries.

MTBE

Mr. Strotz currently represents Chevron U.S.A. Inc. and Union Oil Company of California as California counsel in Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (“MtBE”) cases involving claims of personal injury and groundwater contamination.

COMMERCIAL

Mr. Strotz handles a wide variety of commercial matters for Fortune and Global 1000 companies. Among other representations, Mr. Strotz defends The Glidden Company in commercial litigation relating to the sales of paints and coatings in state and federal courts in California.

Mr. Strotz obtained a defense verdict in favor of a specialty ink manufacturer in a commercial sales action brought by a major dried fruit packaging manufacturer in federal district court.

Mr. Strotz defended ICI Acrylics Inc. in a jury trial to verdict in a commercial sales/breach of contract action brought by an acrylic skylight manufacturer.

Mr. Strotz successfully defended the manufacturer of food flavoring products in a commercial action filed in federal district court.

COMMERCIAL DESIGN CLAIMS

Mr. Strotz defends the interests of a designer of refineries and refinery units involving claims of negligent design.

Mr. Strotz defended a design professional against claims of professional negligence in a bench trial in San Francisco County Superior Court.