



EDWARD C. STEWART

Retired Partner

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Ed Stewart represents automakers and other manufacturers in product liability, class action, and complex commercial litigation. He has tried 28 cases and three arbitrations to verdict or decision in 13 states.

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D., 1991, *cum laude*
Wisconsin Law Review, Note and Comment Editor

University of Missouri, B.A., 1988, English; Political Science, *summa cum laude*

OTHER EXPERIENCE

McDermott, Will & Emery, Chicago, Illinois

ADMISSIONS

Arizona
Colorado
Illinois
Wisconsin (Inactive)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Won a unanimous defense jury verdict for Michelin North America in a \$66 million product liability trial in South Carolina.
- Won a trial verdict as co-counsel for a large financial services provider in a \$75 million dispute.
- Served as regional trial counsel to a leading national shipping company for high-stakes trucking litigation.
- Won a complete defense jury verdict for Michelin in a nine-week trial in Florida with \$80 million to \$1.2 billion at stake.
- Won unanimous defense verdict for Michelin in a \$20 million Arizona tread separation lawsuit.
- Won reversal for Ford in a Tenth Circuit appeal involving a rollover crash.
- Defended the appeal of an electronic throttle case for Ford.

INDUSTRIES

- Automotive
- Trucking
- Consumer Products & Services
- Medical Devices & Pharmaceuticals
- Telecommunications
- Financial Services
- Construction & Engineering

PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial Litigation
- Product Liability
- Catastrophic Injury Defense
- Mass Torts

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BIOGRAPHY

Edward Stewart's litigation practice focuses on the defense of product liability, class actions, and complex commercial cases for major manufacturers. He has particular experience defending consumer class actions involving automobile and home appliance product-defect claims. Ed has represented Ford Motor Company for years as national trial counsel on several product lines. He also has experience defending clients in the trucking industry. Ed has tried 28 cases to verdict and three arbitrations to decision in 13 states across the U.S.

CASES

- Won a unanimous defense jury verdict for Michelin North America in a \$66 million product liability trial in South Carolina. The plaintiffs claimed that an allegedly defective Michelin motorcycle tire caused an accident resulting in catastrophic injuries.
- Won a trial verdict as co-counsel for a large financial services provider in a \$75 million dispute over the company's allegedly excessive fees.
- Served as regional trial counsel to a leading national shipping company for high-stakes trucking litigation.
- Won a complete defense jury verdict for Michelin following a nine-week product liability trial in Florida in which the plaintiffs requested damages between \$80 million and \$1.2 billion following a rollover accident involving Michelin tires. WTO also won the appeal.
- Won a unanimous defense verdict for Michelin following a three-week trial in Arizona state court in which the plaintiff demanded \$20 million in actual and punitive damages.
- Won Tenth Circuit reversal of a federal district court jury verdict favoring the plaintiff and secured a judgment in favor of Ford Motor Co. in a product liability case involving a rollover crash in which the plaintiff was rendered a quadriplegic.
- Defended the appeal to the Colorado Court of Appeals of a 2010 jury verdict that WTO won for Ford Motor Company in an electronic throttle product liability case.
- Won a verdict in Boulder District Court of Colorado in favor of a food production company in a breach-of-contract action it brought against the sole shareholder and officer of an organic food production company.

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- Co-managed with one other law firm the response to requests from 418 dealers for arbitration relating to the bankruptcy of Chrysler Group LLC and following Chrysler's termination of those dealerships. WTO litigated 187 of these Section 747 arbitrations, and, as directed by Congress, resolved all of the litigation within seven months--with a 96% success rate.
- Defended Ford Motor Co. in a four-month certified class action trial involving \$2 billion in consumer fraud claims. On the day set for closing arguments, the plaintiffs agreed to a no-cash, coupon-based settlement for the California class and classes in three other states with pending parallel actions.
- Successfully defended Ford in a fraud case when the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York dismissed the plaintiffs' various consumer fraud claims.

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- Empower Retirement Services
Ford Motor Company
Furniture Row
Michelin North America - National Trial Counsel
U-Haul International, Inc.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Arizona
Colorado
Illinois
Wisconsin (Inactive)
U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit
U.S. District Court, D. Colorado
U.S. District Court, N.D. New York

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LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

- The Best Lawyers in America
 - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants Lawyer of the Year, 2022
 - Commercial Litigation, 2013-2023
 - Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2013-2023
 - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2013-2023
- The Legal 500 United States
 - Litigation: Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense, 2011-2013, 2015
- Colorado Super Lawyers
 - Personal Injury Defense, 2013-2024
 - Top 100, 2013-2016, 2018-2019, 2021-2024
 - Civil Litigation Defense, 2010-2012
- Benchmark Litigation
 - Local Litigation Star, 2020-2022
 - Product Liability - Colorado, 2014-2017
- 5280 Magazine
 - Top Lawyer
 - Personal Injury: Defense, 2016-2017, 2023
- Euromoney's Expert Guides - Litigation and Product Liability
- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated
- International Who's Who of Product Liability Defense Lawyers, 2016-2017
- Colorado Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Defense Research Institute
- The Tenth Judicial Circuit Historical Society
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
 - Co-Chair Trial Masters Program

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

- Colorado Children's Chorale
 - Board of Trustees

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Ethics, Social Media, and You," The Association for Corporate Counsel, Colorado Chapter, (December 4, 2013).
- Presenter, "U.S. Bankruptcy Court," The Faculty of Federal Advocates' 2013 Trial Advocacy Workshop, (September 20, 2013).
- Presenter, "Take This and Google That - The Ethics of Social Media," Members of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, (July 24, 2013).

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- Presenter, "Tick Tock: The Case on the Clock," The Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel 2013 Winter Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, (March 2013).
- Presenter, "Frequently Litigated Contract Provisions: Writing Contracts With Litigation In Mind," CLE seminar hosted by WTO, (July 19, 2012).
- "Nightmare Clients: How to Deal with Impossible Clients, Witnesses and Opposing Counsel in Litigation," presented at the National Institute's CLE-accredited seminar, (June 17, 2011).
- "Technology in the Courtroom," presented for the National Business Institute's Trial Masters Program, (June 2011).
- "Materials for Courtroom Presentation: Tools and Techniques," presented to the Colorado Bar Association, (June 2011).
- Presenter, "Litigating Claims Involving Component Part Suppliers: A Manufacturer's Perspective," The American Conference Institute's Annual Forum on Defending and Managing Automotive Product Liability Litigation, (November 2009).
- Presenter, "A Modest Proposal: 'Embrace the Enemy' to Make the Most of Third Parties' Spoliation of Evidence," ABA Seminar: Emerging Issues in Automotive Product Liability Litigation, (March 21, 2002).

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Skiing, travel, and wine collecting