



NICOLE C. BEHNEN

COUNSEL

St. Louis, MO

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Nicole Behnen has more than 25 years of experience defending lawsuits involving product liability, premises liability and toxic torts, with a focus on asbestos litigation. She has managed the daily activities in thousands of asbestos cases in Illinois and Missouri, and her in-depth knowledge of the major players in asbestos litigation allows her to offer comprehensive advice to her clients and partner with them to develop strategies to successfully resolve each claim.

She has extensive litigation experience in cases involving benzene, perchloroethylene, mold, chrome and other industry exposures. Nicole has also served as local counsel for several pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Armstrong Teasdale, Nicole was Vice Chair of the Products Liability and Toxic Tort group at another St. Louis area law firm. She also served as law clerk for the Hon. Robert E. Crist and the Hon. Robert G. Dowd, Jr., in the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District.

EDUCATION

- University of Missouri School of Law (J.D., 1993)
 - Missouri Law Review
 - American Trial Lawyers Association Competition Semifinalist
- Southern Illinois University (B.A., 1989)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The Missouri Bar
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- St. Louis Women's Law Association
- Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel

ACCOLADES

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Asbestos Litigation

Litigation

Mass Tort and Catastrophic Loss

Product Liability

ADMISSIONS

Missouri

Illinois

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois

(2024-present)

- World Legal Problems Institute, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia
- Instructor, St. Mary's University School of Law, Innsbruck, Austria

EXPERIENCE

Favorable Resolution of Case After Jury Selection

After defeating plaintiff's motion for Leave to Seek Punitive Damages and arguing numerous other pretrial motions, resolved a case favorably at the end of jury selection.

Favorable Settlement for Manufacturer in Asbestos Case

Resolved a case favorably by settlement at end of jury selection for equipment manufacturer sued in asbestos case.

Numerous Settlements for Fortune 100 Company

Negotiated several long-term settlement deals with major plaintiff's firms that resulted in a significant reduction in the number of mass tort litigation for a Fortune 100 company pending which regularly include significant complex medical and scientific issues.

Precedent-Setting Judgment in Asbestos Premises Liability Case

Obtained precedent-setting decision granting summary judgment based on workers' compensation defense in an asbestos premises liability case that resulted in the dismissal of several other claims arising out of same premises.

Obtained Order Setting Aside \$2.25 Million Judgment

Obtained order setting aside a Default Judgment that awarded plaintiffs \$2,250,000 plus costs for injuries allegedly sustained due to the failure of a medical device.