

Brandee J. Kowalzyk

Partner

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Brandee is an experienced litigator and trial counsel whose practice focuses on product liability defense. Her experience includes representing medical device manufacturers in all aspects of multi-district litigation, including serving as trial counsel in federal courts in a number of jurisdictions around the country. Her experience includes serving as a core member of a team serving as lead counsel in multi-district litigation as well as representing clients in jurisdictions around the country. Brandee also represents consumer product manufacturers in litigation involving allegations of talc-related injuries. She also has experience conducting risk assessments for various pharmaceutical products and direct-to-patient services related to the same. Brandee has extensive experience handling complex litigation, handling depositions of critical expert witnesses, oral arguments and motions practice, and trial, as well as preparing expert and corporate designee witness testimony. She has represented clients in business-related disputes, aviation litigation, and catastrophic fire cases.

A member of the Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, Brandee also serves as a Court of Appeals judge for her tribe, deciding cases arising from disputes involving tribal members. She is a frequent speaker on topics including all aspects of complex litigation and trial, as well as various diversity, equity, and inclusion issues.

Experience

The following is a selected sampling of matters and is provided for informational purposes only. Past success does not indicate the likelihood of success in any future matter.

Experience

- Served as trial counsel for major medical device manufacturer in multiple trials remanded from Multi-District Litigation
- Served as trial counsel in civil actions in Georgia State Court and Magistrate Court, in which she represented product manufacturer defendants against allegations of product defect

Education

Georgia State University College of Law, JD (2005)

- Board Member, Moot Court
- Received honors for excellence in the Litigation Workshop

Minot State University, BA (1999)

Admissions

Georgia

Practice Areas

Litigation

Class Action & Multi-Claim Litigation

Products Liability - Consumer & Mechanical

Products Liability - Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices

Industries

Consumer Products & Retail

Manufacturing

Gaming

Life Sciences, Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices

and/or contract disputes

- Served as trial counsel in a multimillion-dollar commercial action in Georgia Superior Court, in which she was active in the defense of this lawsuit, including drafting motions and briefs, participating in voir dire, arguing motions in limine, and conducting the direct examinations of key witnesses
- Experience in pre-trial aspects of nationwide litigation involving prescription medical devices
- Deposed and defended the depositions of plaintiffs, experts, corporate representatives, and other witnesses
- Drafted and argued pre-trial motions
- Negotiated settlements in cases arising from alleged product defects and commercial disputes, including independently represented manufacturer defendants at mediations and arbitrations

Previous Professional Experience

- Managing editor of *Pulp & Paper* magazine, a monthly business-to-business magazine about the worldwide pulp and paper industry

Educational Activities

- Georgia State University College of Law
 - Served as editor in chief of the campus literary magazine

Recognitions

The bar rules of some states require that the standards for an attorney's inclusion in certain public accolades or recognitions be provided. When such accolades or recognitions are listed, a hyperlink is provided that leads to a description of the respective selection methodology.

- [Profiles in Diversity Journal](#), Native American/Indigenous Leaders Worth Watching Award (2021)

Professional Activities

- Chair of the Drug, Device, and Biotech Committee for the IADC (2022–present)
- State Bar of Georgia
- American Bar Association
- National Native American Bar Association
- Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
 - Tribal Appellate Court Judge (2017–present)
 - Election Court of Appeals Judge (2017–2019)

- DRI Native Nations Law Task Force
- International Association of Defense Counsel (2018–present)
- Advisory Board of the Georgia State University College of Law Center for Law, Health & Society

Community

- Member of the board of directors for the Gold Shield Foundation, a nonprofit organization aimed at providing financial and other support to the families of police officers and firefighters who are injured or killed in the line of duty
- Heads the Firm's Atlanta office's implementation of the Wills for Heroes program, a project that provides complimentary wills for emergency first response personnel throughout the United States
- Committee member of Make-A-Wish Georgia Walk for Wishes, a fundraiser dedicated to creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses

Articles & Speeches

Insights

[Science Basics for the Drug and Medical Device Lawyer](#), *Defense Research Institute*- Co-Author (November 2020)

Events/Speaking Engagements

Trial Attorneys of America Annual Meeting, “Tales from the Trenches of Multidistrict and Remanded Case Trials” - Speaker (June 2023)

International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) 2023 South Carolina Regional Meeting, “Good Things Come in Threes: A View From Three Courts” - Moderator (April 2023)

International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) 2023 Midyear Meeting, “Science Doesn’t Sell Itself; It Needs a Story” - Panelist (Feb. 2023)

[Nelson Mullins’ Brandee Kowalzyk to Present on Proportionality Under Revised Rules](#)- Presenter (May 11, 2017)

Operation: Procedural Mastery, Unlocking the Secrets and Mysteries of Federal Rules in Drug and Device Cases , *DRI- Voice of the Defense Bar*(June 29, 2016)