

John F. Kuppens

Partner

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John serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Consumer & Mechanical Product Liability Industry Group and has over 30 years' experience representing clients in product liability and commercial litigation in state and federal courts across the country, including as national and regional counsel. He also counsels clients on CPSC, FTC, and FDA regulatory matters and on risk prevention issues.

He is a current officer of Lawyers for Civil Justice and was 2017–2018 president of DRI, the leading organization of defense attorneys and in-house counsel.

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

- Has defended product liability cases involving a wide range of products, including automobiles, heavy trucks, boilers, lawn and garden products, building products, food products, medical devices, electrical and gas-fired appliances, aerial lifts, and textile machinery
- Has evaluated products to assess compliance with consumer product safety regulations, including products governed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Federal Trade Commission, and Food & Drug Administration
- Has evaluated corporate product safety risk management systems and has counseled regarding regulatory compliance and liability prevention
- Has counseled clients regarding product liability risk prevention issues and has evaluated product literature, warnings, labeling, and warranties

Recognitions

The bar rules of some states require that the standards for an

Education

University of South Carolina School of Law, JD (1989)

Seton Hall University School of Law, Graduate Certificate, Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Law and Compliance (2021)

Clemson University, BS, Accounting (1986)

Admissions

South Carolina

District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina

Practice Areas

[FDA Regulatory Compliance & Litigation](#)

[Consumer Product Safety, Risk Prevention & Regulatory Compliance](#)

[Products Liability - Consumer & Mechanical](#)

[Commercial Litigation & Business Torts](#)

[False Advertising & Unfair Trade Practices](#)

Industries

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.

- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), Commercial Litigation (2009–2026), Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2009–2026)
- S.C. Supreme Court Pro Bono Honor Roll ([2020](#))
- Richard H. Krochock Award, DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar (2020)
- [Who's Who Legal: Product Liability Defence \(2014–2023\)](#)
- [The Legal 500 United States](#) for his practice in product liability and mass tort defense: pharmaceuticals and medical devices (2013), Dispute resolution: Product liability, mass tort, and class action — defense: Consumer Products (Including Tobacco) (2022)
- [South Carolina Super Lawyers](#) (2009–2020)
- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), Lawyer of the Year, Columbia, SC, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2013)
- [AV® Preeminent™ and Distinguished™ peer review ratings from the Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings](#)
- Thomson Reuters, Stand-Out Lawyer (2025)

Professional Activities

- Life Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- International Association of Defense Counsel
 - Faculty Member, Trial Academy (2007)
- South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association
- South Carolina Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Past Member, Legal Task Force, Sports & Fitness Industry Association
- International Consumer Product Health & Safety Organization

Community

- Board of Directors, Columbia City Ballet (2022–present)

Leadership

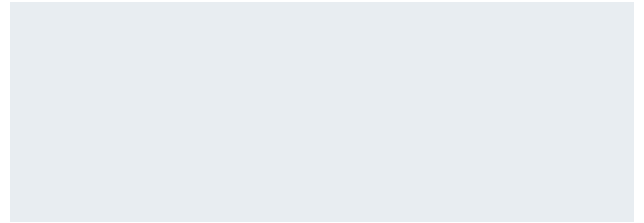
- Vice President, Lawyers for Civil Justice (2021–2022)
- DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar
 - Immediate Past President (2018–2019)
 - President (2017–2018)

[Aviation](#)

[Consumer Products & Retail](#)

[Manufacturing](#)

- Past National Director
- Past Chair, Product Liability Committee
- Past Chair, Young Lawyers Committee
- Board of Directors, South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys' Association (2009–2014)



Articles & Speeches

Insights

- [CPSC Product Recalls and Effect of Social Media](#), *Practical Guidance*®- Co-Author (July 2023)
- [Formulating CPSC-Compliant Responses to Consumer Complaints Raised on Social Media Checklist](#), *Practical Guidance*®- Co-Author (July 2023)
- [Product Liability Law Education for Product Safety Professionals](#), *2023 Product Safety and Recall Directory*- Author (January 9, 2023)
- [CPSC Finding Ways to Take Enforcement Action & Protect Consumers Amid COVID-19](#), *Recall Index* (pages 16-17)- Co-Author (Aug. 28, 2020)
- [Managing Component Safety Through the Supply Chain](#), *2020 ADK Product Safety Recall Directory*- Author (January 2020)

Events/Speaking Engagements

- [Nelson Mullins Attorneys Lead Course Offering Insight into Fundamentals of Consumer Product Safety Management](#)(March 29, 2022)
- Congress' oversight function and response to the COVID crisis, *Lawyers for Civil Justice Virtual Membership Meeting* - Speaker (May 7, 2020)
- Lawyers for Civil Justice Membership Meeting*- Chair and Moderator (December 4-6, 2019)
- [How Clients Select \(and Why They Keep Using\) Outside Counsel: Guidance for Law Firms](#)- Moderator (September 5, 2019)
- [Strategic Considerations Regarding CPSC Reporting Requirements – The View from the Regulated Side](#)- Speaker (July 11, 2019)
- DRI 2017 Annual Meeting, Opening Session Remarks*- Speaker (October 5, 2017)
- 2016 Forum for State Appellate Court Judges , *"Who Will Write Your Rules—Your State Court or the Federal Judiciary?"*, *Pound Civil Justice Institute*- Panelist (July 23, 2016)
- [Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 Commission Agenda and Priorities](#), *Consumer Product Safety Commission*- Presenter (June 15, 2016)
- Best Practices: Key Elements of a Robust Product Safety Program , *2014 Annual Meeting and Training Symposium*(February 25, 2014)
- Navigating the CPSC: Advice from the Trenches , *DRI Product Liability Conference*- Moderator (2013)
- Are Mortgages Really the Same as Toasters? Is a Credit Card Really Akin to an Anti-Depressant? A Deep Dive Into Defending Industries Subject to Regulation , *DRI's Annual Meeting*- Panelist (2012)
- Hot Topics from the Trial Bench: Trial Judges Panel , *SCDTAA Annual Meeting*- Moderator (2012)
- Federal Judges Panel on Changes to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure , *SCDTAA Annual Meeting*- Moderator (2010)
- The Difference Between May and Shall and Other Important Issues in the Proposed Changes to Rules 26 and 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure , *DRI Annual Meeting*- Moderator (2009)
- Formaldehyde: Distinguishing Facts From Hype , *DRI Product Liability Conference*(2009)

Expansion of Federal Jurisdiction--the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 , *DRI Product Liability Seminar - Building Products SLG*(2007)

Avoiding the Avalanche: Practical Strategies for Dealing With Electronic Discovery Obligations , *DRI Pre-Trial Tactics Seminar*(February 2007)

Removal Update , *SCDTAA 39th Annual Joint Meeting*(July 2006)

It Ain't Over Till It's Over - Defending Discontinued Product Lines , *DRI Product Liability Seminar* ((2006)

Ethical Obligations Regarding Medical Records and the Laws That Protect Them , *DRI Complex Medicine for Trial Lawyers Seminar*(2003)

Damages in the Commercial Case , *DRI Young Lawyers Seminar*(1996)

Alerts

[FTC Advertising Compliance for Foreign Manufacturers Entering the U.S. Market](#), Additional Nelson Mullins Alerts (August 25, 2025)

[Supreme Court Allows President Trump to Remove Democratic CPSC Commissioners](#), Additional Nelson Mullins Alerts (August 21, 2025)

[Concerns for Manufacturers During COVID-19 Pandemic](#), Additional Nelson Mullins Alerts (April 2, 2020)