Womble Carlyle’s Product Liability Litigation team understands mass tort and class action litigation because we have been there, in the courtroom and the boardroom, helping companies defend against high-stakes product liability litigation.

This experience includes serving as national counsel and coordinating counsel in large-scale mass tort litigation in which many millions of dollars are at stake and complex legal, medical and scientific issues are at issue. We work with clients’ in-house counsel to develop complex action plans, budgets and case management protocols. Clients rely on our bench strength of nearly 200 litigation attorneys in even the largest, most complex “Bet-the-Company” cases.

We also have served as regional and local counsel within our geographic footprint of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Mass tort defense must serve the client’s overall business goals, including containing costs and increasing efficiencies. We keep cost containment at the forefront of any mass tort litigation engagement, and have been an industry leader in offering alternative pricing structures. Womble Carlyle has worked closely with the Association of Corporate Counsel on the ACC Value Challenge, which seeks to better align outside legal services with the needs of corporate clients.

Our attorneys work with Womble Carlyle’s Litigation Support Services to control costs and improve outcomes in product liability litigation. These services include case management in mass tort litigation, medical records collection and analysis, document review and e-discovery, alternative dispute resolution, trial consulting and trial graphics.

**Representative Experience**

- Served as National Coordinating Counsel, Chief Litigator and Case Manager guiding a global automotive company through national asbestos friction litigation. In this role, we coordinated the efforts of a national network of 35 defense firms, as well as the company’s in-house legal team.

- Serve as National Counsel of Record for an international pharmaceutical company involved in multi-district product liability litigation. This litigation involves thousands of individual cases nationwide involving billions of dollars in cumulative claims.

- More than 20 years experience representing one of the world’s largest tobacco companies in mass tort litigation, including providing medical records analysis and case management.

- Successfully represented synthetic stucco siding manufacturers nationwide in multi-district product liability and class action litigation.

- Served as Regional and Local Counsel in mass tort cases involving asbestos, pharmaceutical and medical device product liability issues that included the management of thousands of cases and millions of dollars in liability.

- Served as national environmental counsel for national top 50 multi-housing client.

- Served as national counsel for professional standard setting association in blood-borne illness litigation.

- Served as national counsel for international industrial equipment manufacturer in class actions, mass torts and environmental litigation.

- Served as national class action counsel for international construction product manufacturer.
Contacts

**Michael J. Sullivan** brings nearly three decades of experience in “bet-the-company” cases. He serves in the role of “outside General Counsel” or Coordinating Counsel, providing big-picture advice to craft successful litigation strategies, increase efficiencies and contain costs. Michael collaborates with clients on a wide range of high-end business problems, including mass tort litigation.

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**Keith Clinard** defends companies in complex mass tort product liability litigation cases. He has significant trial and mediation experience including more than 50 jury trials and appeals. His extensive experience includes the national coordination, management, and defense of complex multi-state, multi-district litigation. He has worked with and developed fact and expert witnesses in a variety of scientific, medical and technical disciplines.

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**Chris Douglas** has spent almost 20 years in the defense of mass torts litigation on a nationwide and regional basis. Her clients rely on her for strategic, creative solutions to product liability litigation challenges. They trust her common sense approach to problem-solving and appreciate her dedication to client interests. Chris was included in the 2013 edition of the *Best Lawyers in America* and recognized as a “North Carolina Future Star” in Legal Media Group's *Benchmark Litigation: The Definitive Guide to America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys* (2012 and 2013).

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