

Dennis J. Dobbels

SENIOR PARTNER

he / him / his

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Dennis Dobbels helps clients navigate litigation risk by using his trial and appellate experience to assist clients in developing a comprehensive ADR, trial and litigation plan. He has an extensive background in all aspects of products liability, toxic tort and legacy liability, tax litigation, and insurance and complex commercial litigation. Dennis has handled single plaintiff cases and consolidated cases involving more than 100 plaintiffs in state and federal courtrooms across the nation. He serves as national trial counsel, assisting clients with complex litigation issues and managing the administrative and trial activities for clients' complex product liability litigation needs.

Dennis also co-chairs the firm's Food and Agriculture group. He provides advice to clients on labeling issues, litigation matters and strategic planning. He has used common sense, as well as the law, to assist clients in resolving class action cases related to alleged deceptive labeling issues.

Education

- University of California-Hastings (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1982)
 - Order of the Coif; Thurston Society; Hastings Law Journal, Assistant Managing Editor
- Yale University (B.A., 1979)

Bar Admissions

- Missouri, 1982
- Illinois, 2003
- New York, 2006

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois

Capabilities

- Consumer Products & Luxury Goods
- Litigation
- Products Liability & Toxic & Mass Tort

- U.S. Tax Court

Memberships

- Kansas City Public Library
 - Appointed Trustee of the KCPL by the Mayor of Kansas City, MO
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
 - Former Young Centurion
- Kansas City Foreign Language Charter School
 - Founder and Former Board Member

Recognition

- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants, 2011-2026
- Selected for inclusion in *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*, 2005, 2007-2016
- AV Rated *Martindale Hubbell*

Matters

- Obtained a precedent setting decision that applied to a 10-year statute of repose to latent disease claims.
- Obtained court's orders dismissing latent disease claims based on challenges to plaintiff's experts. The courts barred plaintiff's experts from testifying and then granted summary judgment because of a failure of proof on general and specific causation.
- Successfully defended client through defense verdicts and an appeal in repeat litigation accusing client of conspiracy to suppress medical and scientific information from workers exposed to toxic substances
- Obtained a federal court ruling that provisions of a state environmental act regulating the transportation of waste in interstate commerce was unconstitutional.
- Evaluated alternative dispute resolution strategies for client to implement long-range solutions to exit from repetitive latent disease litigation.
- Assisted clients in developing efforts to work with EPA to evaluate risks of products to consumer as it relates to product risks and warning issues.
- Provided clients with comprehensive warning/instructional programs for users to reduce risk to client of claims based on failure to warn and instruct.