



Rick Mueller

Partner

St. Louis
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PRACTICES

- Litigation
- Product Liability
- Commercial

INDUSTRIES

- Product Liability
- Commercial Litigation
- Maritime

EDUCATION

- Washington University School of Law, J.D., 1976, Order of the Coif, Law Quarterly
- Washington University in St. Louis, B.A., 1973

ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Missouri
- Illinois USDC, Southern District
- Missouri USDC, Eastern District
- US Ct Appeals, 8th Circuit (Covers AR, IA, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)
- US Supreme Ct

Rick has earned defense verdicts for products manufacturers in courts across the country. He has taken more than 100 jury trials to verdict in venues ranging from Guam to New York City and from Seattle to Miami. His considerable experience and determination are recognized by clients and opposing attorneys alike.

Rick regularly serves as national counsel for major Japanese manufacturers. Drawing on his 40 years of litigation experience, Rick focuses on product liability matters (including, *inter alia*, personal injury claims involving off-road vehicles, personal watercraft, motorcycles and automotive products). He also has represented clients facing fraud claims, patent claims, class action matters and commercial contract disputes. Rick has cross examined experts in a variety of fields, including engineering, epidemiology, human factors, warnings, naval architecture, validation, computer simulations, management policies, a variety of fields of medicine, aerodynamics, and patent law, to name a few. While his practice is national in scope, Rick has tried two of the three longest-running antitrust trials in Missouri.

Rick is experienced in front of a jury, but he also achieves significant defense victories before the case goes to a jury. Recently, he has obtained summary judgments on design defect and warnings issues in federal district courts in Utah (*Wells v. Kawasaki Motors Corporation, U.S.A.*) and South Carolina (*Hickerson v. Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.*), and obtained directed verdicts in federal district courts in New Jersey (*Ruggerio v. Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.*) and Florida (*Mizrahi v. Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.*).

Furthermore, Rick represents clients in dealings with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. In the CPSC context, he has guided clients through product recalls and obtained successful results in investigations.

Rick's experience extends to appellate briefing and argument. Rick has successfully argued appeals before federal courts of appeal in the Second, Third, Fourth, Seventh, Eighth, and Eleventh Circuit, as well as state appellate courts in Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Illinois, New Jersey, Texas, Alabama and Arizona.

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- Amada Company, Ltd.
- Captive Planners, Inc.
- Economy Forms
- Genmar Industries
- Honda North America, Inc.
- Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.
- Kawasaki Motor Corp. USA
- Lennox International
- Miller Elevator Service Co.
- Miller Elevator
- Montgomery Kone
- Pettibone Corporation
- Riso, Inc.
- Sally Beauty Supply
- Schindler Elevator
- Toro Corporation
- Wellcraft, Inc.

AFFILIATIONS

- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Bar Association
- American Journal on Science and Health
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Defense Research Institute, Chairman, Recreational Boat Subcommittee, Admiralty Law Group, DRI
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers
- New York Academy of Sciences
- The Maritime Law Association
- Practicing Law Institute
- The Missouri Bar
- United States Supreme Court Bar
- Admiralty Law Institute Speaker

Instruction

- Trial Practice, Washington University School of Law, 1979-1981

Recognitions

- Named Lawyer of the Year for Product Liability Litigation - Defendants in St. Louis by The Best Lawyers in America (by BL Rankings), 2022
- Listed in "The Best Lawyers in America®", 2009-2022 (by BL Rankings)
 - Product Liability Litigation-Defendants
- Listed in "Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers" 2005, 2007-2018 (by Thomson Reuters)
- Admitted Pro Hac Vice
 - Alabama
 - Alaska
 - California
 - Connecticut
 - Florida
 - Guam
 - Kentucky
 - New Jersey
 - Pennsylvania
 - U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit

Presentations

- "Case Update: Products Liability"; Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers, 1995
- "Coordinating Products Liability Litigation"; The University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1990
- "Effective Coordination of Multiple Products Liability Litigation"; Practicing Law Institute, 1988
- "Trial Practice"; The Missouri Bar, 1987
- "Insurance Practice"; The Missouri Bar, 1986
- "Defending the Lawsuit: Products Liability of Manufacturers"; Practicing Law Institute, St. Louis, 1981
- "Missouri Practice and Update on Law"; Special Problems in Products Liability Litigation, Practicing Law Institute, St. Louis, 1978

Publications

- "Ruggiero v. Yamaha ruling cited, 'Recent Expert Reliability Rulings' *New York Law Journal* October 2019
- Inside the Minds, "Leading Product Liability Lawyers"; *Aspatore Books*,

2003

- "Defense of Marine Products Litigation"; *Defense Research Institute Monograph*, June 1990
- "The Use of Standardized Materials"; *Practicing Law Institute*, 1988
- "Protecting Experts Consulting Teams From Discovery"; *For The Defense*, 1987
- "Subsequent Remedial Measures"; *A Products Liability Commentary and Cases*, 1987
- "The Investigation and Use of Experts"; *Product Liability of Manufacturers, Practicing Law Institute*, 1979
- "Defending the Products Liability, Prevention and Defense of Manufacturers' Products Liability"; *Practicing Law Institute*, 1978
- "A Dilemma for the Legal and Medical Profession: Euthanasia and the Defective Newborn"; *22 Saint Louis University Law Journal* 501, 1978
- "The Defense of a Products Liability Lawsuit, Products Liability Manufacturers"; *Practicing Law Institute*, 1977