



Joyce D. Edelman

partner

A seasoned litigator, Joyce has over 30 years of experience representing clients in high exposure civil litigation, including mass torts, multidistrict and class action litigation. She chairs the life science group within the firm's Product Liability Practice and is a recognized leader in diversity, equality and inclusion. Joyce regularly defends chemical, pharmaceutical and medical device companies involving a variety of products including IUDs, a drug used during coronary bypass surgery, pain medication, antidepressants, vaccines, breast implants, spinal instrumentation, latex gloves, surgical clips and needle products, among others. Her extensive experience also includes representing an international food and flavoring company against workplace exposure claims.

Her experience includes obtaining a complete defense verdict following a nine-day trial in a complex personal injury matter on behalf of the American Red Cross in federal court in Ohio. She also successfully protected the district court's rulings and the jury's defense verdict in the Sixth Circuit, and opposed the plaintiff's petition for a writ of certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, she recently secured a favorable defense result related to third party liability issue under Ohio product liability law.

Joyce handles cases in state and federal courts and she has been involved in every phase of litigation including taking and defending fact and expert depositions, preparing and arguing key motions, negotiating with opposing counsel, trying cases and arguing appeals.

Joyce has been named three times as *Best Lawyers*® Columbus, Ohio, Product Liability Litigation-Defendants "Lawyer of the Year." She received the Columbus Bar Association President's Award for her role in leading a team of 40 lawyers and staff in litigation that resulted in nearly \$6.4 million in fines for an illegal trust mill scheme. And, she received the Ohio Women's Bar Association Founders' Award which recognizes "an outstanding woman attorney who has contributed to the legal profession."

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- **Ross v. American Red Cross:** As lead counsel, Joyce defended the Red Cross in a personal injury trial in federal court in Ohio. After brief deliberations, the jury returned a complete defense verdict.

CONTACT

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Pronouns: she / her / hers

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EDUCATION

West Virginia University College of Law, J.D., 1982

Indiana University, B.A., 1979

SERVICES

Litigation

- Product liability
- Class actions, mass torts and MDLs
- Professional liability
- Arbitration and mediation
- Health Care litigation
- Catastrophic injuries

Health Care

- Litigation

Entrepreneurship & Startups

- Biotech

Environmental

- Chemical industry

Business Growth & Operation

- Chemicals

Joyce successfully argued the appeal including eight assignments of error before the Sixth Circuit which upheld the district court's rulings and the jury's verdict.

- **Mirena® litigation:** Joyce serves as Ohio counsel for Bayer in federal litigation involving the Mirena® intrauterine device.
- **Food flavoring litigation:** Joyce represents an international food and flavoring manufacturer in multi-plaintiff cases involving the chemical diacetyl in state courts in Ohio, Missouri, Georgia and California.
- **One-A-Day® Men's Multivitamins litigation:** Joyce served as Ohio counsel for Bayer in a consumer class action alleging violations of Ohio consumer statutes in federal court in Ohio.
- **Trasylol® litigation:** Joyce served as Ohio counsel for Bayer in product liability cases involving Trasylol®, a drug used during coronary bypass surgery to prevent excessive bleeding. Joyce deposed plaintiffs and prescribing physicians and assisted trial counsel on issues related to Ohio law.
- **CBA v. American Family Prepaid Legal Plan:** Joyce was lead counsel in litigation that resulted in the Ohio Supreme Court imposing nearly \$6.4 million in fines against one of the largest illegal trust mill schemes in the nation — American Family Prepaid Legal Corporation and Heritage Marketing and Insurance Services Inc. and their co-owners, Jeffrey and Stanley Norman, and directing the companies to cease all operations in the State of Ohio. These penalties resulted from Porter Wright's representation of the Columbus Bar Association in connection with the Association's efforts to stop the illegal scheme that preyed upon Ohio's elderly population and involved the unauthorized practice of law by non-lawyers. For more than three years, Joyce and a team of nearly 40 lawyers, law clerks and staff members litigated the case pro bono. This significant victory for the elderly was widely covered in the press across Ohio and nationwide.
- **AIDS and Hepatitis cases:** Joyce has served as lead counsel to the American Red Cross in cases alleging the transmission of AIDS and Hepatitis from blood transfusions.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- West Virginia (inactive status)
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- Pro Hac Vice admission I Courts in California, Illinois, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, West Virginia
- Supreme Court of the United States

PRESENTATIONS

- "Incorporating Diversity and Inclusion into Your Trial Team Development and Litigation Strategy," 22nd Annual Drug & Medical Device Litigation Conference, Dec. 6, 2017
- "Advancing the Next Generation of Women Leaders in the Legal Profession," Ohio Women's Bar Association Annual Conference, May 18, 2016
- "Women's Leaders in Life Sciences Law Conference," American Conference Institute, July 23, 2015
- "Ethics: Inclusion and Diversity and the Products Liability Bar: Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities in Attracting and Retaining Diverse Trial Counsel," ACI Drug and Medical Device Conference, Dec. 8, 2014

PUBLICATIONS

- "Equal to the task," *Best Lawyers Women in the Law* Spring Business Edition, June 26, 2020
- "And the defense wins," *DRI -The Voice of the Defense Bar*, Feb. 11, 2015

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Ohio Women's Bar Association, Founding Member
- International Association of Defense Counsel
- Federal Bar Association, Columbus Chapter
- Defense Research Institute, Drug and Medical Device Committee
- Ohio State Bar Association, Section on Women in the Profession, former Chair
- Columbus Bar Association
- ClientFocus Women Rainmakers' Roundtable

HONORS | AWARDS

- *Who's Who in the World*
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Lawyer of the Year," Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, Columbus, Ohio, 2015, 2021 and 2024
- Ohio Super Lawyers
- Ohio Super Lawyers, "Top 25 Women Columbus Super Lawyers," 2017, 2020
- Ohio Super Lawyers, "Top 50 Women Ohio Super Lawyers," 2021
- Columbus Bar Association, President's Award, 2008
- Ohio Women's Bar Association, Founder's Award, 2006
- *Columbus Business First*, Forty Under 40
- *Corporate Counsel*, Women, Influence & Power in Law 2020
- Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD), Women WELDing the Way, 2020

COMMUNITY

- Community Shelter Board, Trustee 2011-2017
- Columbus Jewish Federation, Cardozo Society, Steering Committee, 2008-2011
- Capital University, Board of Trustees, 2009-2010
- YWCA Housing Corporation, Chair, Board of Directors, 2006-2009
- Columbus Jewish Federation, Leadership 21, Class of 2006
- YWCA Columbus, Board of Directors, 1994-2004
- Leadership Columbus, Class of 1990
- United Way of Central Ohio, Alexis de Tocqueville Society