



John C. Garde

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Products Liability, Mass Torts & Consumer Class Actions | Class Action & Multidistrict Litigation | Appellate | Life Sciences | Appellate Litigation

Over more than 30 years of practice, John Garde has successfully defended clients in products liability litigation with an emphasis on the national defense of pharmaceutical product liability litigation and the coordination of mass tort product liability litigation involving occupational exposures.

John regularly litigates at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts in New Jersey, New York, and around the nation. He has represented numerous Fortune 500 clients in personal injury, insurance sales practices litigation and property damage litigation involving pharmaceutical and personal care (prescription and over-the-counter) products, toxic dumpsite exposure, silica and asbestos personal injury litigation, as well as cases involving claimed exposures to lead paint, benzene and zinc. He has served as regional and New Jersey counsel for various corporations defending individual and mass tort claims.

John's extensive appellate experience includes arguing *Dafler v. Raymark Industries*, a precedent setting case in New Jersey which established a defendant's right to apportionment of liability between concurrent causes of disease in a toxic exposure case. He has served in coordinating groups managing litigations at the national, regional or local levels involving various pharmaceutical products including antidepressants, silicone gel breast implants, diabetes medications, anti-anxiety medications, hormone replacement therapy, and polio vaccine. In addition to extensive case management responsibilities, John has overseen the full range of pretrial and trial activities, including the development of scientific and medical defenses, the selection and work-up of medical and scientific experts, and the conduct of *Daubert* hearings.

John regularly litigates disputes involving general and specific scientific causation, as well as causation in fact, and deals with the full range of issues that arise in the defense of medical claims in product liability actions. He also has extensive experience with the coordination of e-discovery and document management.

John is a longstanding member of several of McCarter's standing committees, including our Professional Personnel Committee responsible for the management of associates and paralegals and our Compensation Committee. He also serves as a member of the District Ethics Committee for Essex County.

John serves on numerous charitable boards and foundations and is currently President of the Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark responsible for the management and oversight of the Capital and Endowment Assets of the Diocese. He is one of the Chancellors of the Diocese. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Chatham Day School and as a Trustee of St. Philip's Academy in Newark. John has lectured on issues involving the management and legal liabilities of not-for-profit institutions.

Representative Matters

Multinational pharmaceutical & consumer goods company—Appellate victory
Secured a reversal at the New Jersey Appellate Division of a significant trial court verdict in a mesothelioma case for a multinational pharmaceutical company. The appeals court ruled that errors in admission of expert testimony warranted overturning the original verdict.

Multinational pharmaceutical & consumer goods company—Appellate victory
Secured a reversal of a more than \$100 million verdict for a multinational pharmaceutical, medical device, and consumer goods company in a case in which the plaintiff alleged that he developed cancer after long-term exposure to asbestos in talcum powder-based products. The appellate court found that the testimony of two of the plaintiffs' experts was improper and warranted a new trial.

Education

William & Mary Law School, JD, 1986

Drew University, BA, *summa cum laude*, 1983

Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

New Jersey

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second, Third, and Seventh Circuits

U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey

Memberships and Certifications

American Bar Association

American Corporate Counsel Association

Defense Research Institute

Essex County Bar Association

International Association of Defense Counsel

Morris County Bar Association

New Jersey State Bar Association

Recognitions*

The Best Lawyers in America, Mass Torts Litigation/Class Actions—Defendants, Product Liability Litigation—Defendants, New Jersey, 2018–2024

New Jersey Super Lawyer, 2011–2024

Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating
5.0 out of 5

Distinguished Alumni Award for the Class of 1986, William & Mary Law School

* No aspect of this or any advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. For ranking methodologies, please see [here](#).

Speaking Engagements

Ethics within the Contours of the Attorney/Client Relationship, 2023 New Jersey Asbestos Litigation Conference, 9.28.2023

Personal Jurisdiction and Forum Non Conveniens, New Jersey State Bar Association, 10.20.2017

Trial Checklists & Cases You Need To Know, New Jersey Asbestos Litigation Conference, 9.23.2016

HarrisMartin's New Jersey Asbestos Litigation Conference, HarrisMartin's New Jersey Asbestos Litigation Conference , 2.27.2015

Webinars

Talking Talc: A Litigation Update, McCarter & English CLE Virtual Series, 12.1.2022

Quoted

NJ's Judicial Vacancies to Collide with COVID-19 Crisis, Law360, 5.4.2020

J&J Battles To Throw Out \$117M Verdicts In NJ Talc Case, Law360, 5.6.2018

N.J. Asbestos Litigation Still Active and Still Evolving, New Jersey Law Journal, 9.12.2014