

GO TO Lawyers

Business Litigation 2022

U. GWYN WILLIAMS

PARTNER, LATHAM & WATKINS



U. Gwyn Williams, leader of the product liability, mass torts and consumer class actions litigation practice at Latham & Watkins, has nearly three decades of experience in a comprehensive range of state and federal courts across North America.

Williams's clients include manufacturers of retail products, including cigarettes, industrial products and a wide range of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, as well as financial services companies.

She has handled complex, multi-defendant, and class action cases in nearly every combination of venues, including state and federal trial and appellate courts and administrative agencies across the United States and Canada.

Williams also regularly advises private equity firms and operating companies on diligence and liability risk assessment in the context of corporate transactions, including asbestos-related risk. She draws on her litigation experience across industries to counsel clients on product warnings, risk management, disclaimers of warranties and indemnification strategies.

Williams uses her experience to help clients navigate particularly complex cases, often coordinating or collaborating with multi-defendant legal teams across jurisdictions. As clients pursue changing business objectives throughout the course of long-running litigation, Williams carefully calibrates litigation strategy and joint defense positions accordingly.

Among Williams's representations is her representation of UnitedHealthcare, one of the world's largest managed healthcare and insurance companies in ongoing litigation brought by various medical groups that provide staffing for emergency rooms. Plaintiffs allege that UnitedHealthcare routinely underpays on such out-of-network emergency services claims, and are pursuing implied contract, unjust enrichment, and RICO claims.

Williams is also representing American Airlines in major class action lawsuits relating to checked baggage fees. Most recently, just weeks before the scheduled trial, the airline reached a favorable settlement concerning allegations that it failed to honor free luggage promises for certain customers.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Leader, Product Liability, Mass Torts and Consumer Class Actions Litigation Practice, Latham & Watkins; member, global steering committee, Women Enriching Business (WEB) Initiative, Latham & Watkins; special assistant attorney general, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; member, board of trustees, Hotchkiss School