

Marissa Alkhazov

Seattle, Washington
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Litigation; Products Liability Law; Environmental Law Practice



Marissa Alkhazov is a Shareholder in Buchalter's Seattle office and a member of the Firm's Litigation practice group. Ms. Alkhazov has extensive experience in product liability, asbestos, toxic and mass torts defense, environmental and general liability claims. She is a trial attorney handling litigation in both Washington and Oregon on behalf of her Fortune 500 clients ranging from pharmaceutical companies, product manufacturers and distributors, retailers, food industry and agribusiness companies, small businesses and local tech startups in the community. Ms. Alkhazov regularly serves as local counsel in national complex litigation matters, including catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death/survival lawsuits and class actions having noted successes in all levels of State and Federal Court.

Marissa is a sustaining member of PLAC (Product Liability Advisory Council), a prestigious trade association at the forefront of helping product manufacturers, retailers and suppliers shape the common law of product liability and complex regulation applicable to their distinct industry.

Marissa's work and growing presence in the industry has been widely recognized having been named as "Top 100 Women Attorneys in Washington (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021)" in Seattle Metropolitan Magazine, a Washington Law & Politics "Rising Star (2012-13)", and "Super Lawyer (2016 – 2021)".

Representative Matters

- Defended a national hotel chain in a multi-million dollar Consumer Protection Act, Personal Injury, Negligence and Civil Rights action. Following extensive discovery and motion practice, all claims were dismissed, leaving only the claims of negligence against the hotel. A very favorable settlement was reached shortly thereafter.
- Defended an auto supply retailer in Wrongful Death action. Discovery and motion practice resulted in dismissal.
- Defense of a pharmaceutical company in multiple Wrongful Death and Personal Injury actions in WA and OR related to alleged talc exposure. Extensive discovery and motion practice resulted in dismissal, and/or favorable settlements.
- Defense of aeronautics company in multiple Personal Injury and Wrongful Death actions alleging that component parts in engine exposed decedent to hazardous substances causing death. Rigorous discovery and motion practice resulted in dismissal.
- Defense of valve manufacturer in multi-party Personal Injury action alleging component parts contributed to or caused plaintiff's lung cancer. Via successful dispositive motion practice, summary judgment was granted.
- Defense of local company in MTCA and other environmental claims resulting from a solvent spill ("perc") by a vendor. By coordinating efforts with the Department of Ecology and other parties involved in litigation, a favorable settlement was reached.
- Defense of pharmaceutical company in over 200 cases in multi-state litigation involving the application of

apparent manufacturer theory of liability. This includes representation of the client through all levels of state court and up to the Washington Supreme Court.

- Defense of retailer in food poisoning claims allegedly related to 'tainted spinach.'
- Defense verdicts in disputed liability automobile accidents.
- Represented a paper mill in multi-party asbestos/toxic tort litigation. Plaintiff sued over 50 corporate defendants for Wrongful Death and Survivorship allegedly caused by his alleged exposure to asbestos by use of their products at the paper mill. After extensive discovery, summary judgment dismissal was granted in favor of the paper mill. Plaintiffs appealed the dismissal to the Ninth District and following oral argument, the court affirmed the dismissal granted by the lower court.
- Defended a national fitness equipment manufacturer in a product liability matter. The minor, mentally impaired Plaintiff sued the client, his school district and several of its employees for personal injuries to his eye, including permanent vision loss, allegedly caused as a result of being struck in the eye with the client's resistance tubing product. The school district and its employees were sued for negligent supervision and other theories of liability. A favorable settlement was reached on the second day of trial.
- Defense of local businesses in class action wage, hours and employment discrimination matters. Favorable settlement reached at the conclusion of intense discovery phase of litigation.

Publications

- Pfizer Absolved In Quigley Asbestos Injury Suit, *Law360*, December 2013
- Five Juror Misconceptions of Insurers, *Property Casualty 360 Blog*, October 2011

Presentations

- Presenter, "Navigating the Apparent Manufacturer Doctrine," Client Seminar, March 1, 2020
- Speaker, "The Apparent Manufacturer Doctrine: A WA and National Perspective," Asbestos Medicine Seminar, November 1, 2019
- Presenter, "Expert Depositions and Preparing Daubert and Frye Motions," ABA TIPS, April 1, 2018
- Presenter, "Successful Mediation Techniques in Mass Tort & Environmental Litigation," ABA TIPS, April 1, 2017
- Presenter, "GMO's and Agribusiness: Labeling and Other Hot Issues," ABA TIPS, April 1, 2016
- Speaker, "Matsyuk v. State Farm: Next Steps for Insurers," Client Seminar, May 1, 2012
- Speaker, "Bad Faith & IFCA in Washington State," Client Seminar, May 1, 2011

Education

Ms. Alkhazov earned her J.D. from Albany Law School, where she won Best Oral Advocate on the National Trial Team in 2002, 2003. She earned her B.S. with honors from the University of Washington.

Bar Admissions

- Washington
- Oregon

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the State of Oregon

Community

- American Bar Association
 - Vice Chair, TIPS Committee (2016-current), Environmental & Toxic Torts
- International Association of Defense Counsel
 - Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (current)
 - Vice Chair, Environmental and Energy Law Committee (2018-current)
 - Vice Chair, Membership for Trial Techniques Committee (2016-2018)
 - Member, Products and Medical Devices Committee (2016-current)
 - Member, CLE Steering Committee (2016-current)
 - Member, Toxic & Mass Torts Committee (2016-current)
- Products Liability Advisory Council
 - Member (2019-current)