



Cara D. Edwards

Partner

CO-CHAIR, LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN

cara.edwards@dlapiper.com

New York

T: +1 212 335 4714

F: +1 212 884 8714

Cara Edwards is a partner in DLA Piper's Product Liability and Mass Tort practice group, recognized in 2015 by Chambers as a finalist for Product Liability Practice Group of the Year, in 2014 by Legal 500 as a "top-tier" firm in the field, and by *Law360* as the 2013 Product Liability Group of the Year. Cara has experience with direct defense of aging services facilities in lawsuits asserting professional liability, personal injury, negligence, elder abuse, wrongful death and other related claims. Cara has a diverse range of experience representing and advising global pharmaceutical, medical device, and consumer goods clients in a variety of product liability and commercial litigation matters, with an emphasis on serving as national counsel in complex, multijurisdictional product liability suits in state and federal courts.

Cara provides strategic advice at every stage of litigation, beginning with proactive risk assessments before medications and devices are approved, and continuing through pretrial discovery, expert development and strategy, dispositive motion practice, bellwether trials, appeals and ultimately, resolution. Her experience also includes regularly counselling clients on a wide range of risk management, regulatory, clinical research and development, product labeling, recall and public disclosure issues.

Cara's practice involves matters with cross-border aspects and international parties. She has experience litigating cases outside the US for her global clients and offering counselling regarding foreign healthcare authorities.

Cara is the Co-Chair of the firm's Leadership Alliance for Women (LAW), the Deputy Managing Partner of the New York Office, and serves on the firm's Policy Committee.

EXPERIENCE

Representative of her experience are the following cases:

- *In re Eliquis Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2754 (S.D.N.Y.): National counsel for Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Pfizer in product liability litigation alleging that Eliquis causes bleeding, in which the DLA Piper team obtained landmark rulings finding

RELATED SERVICES

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Product Liability, Mass Torts and Product Stewardship

RELATED SECTORS

- Life Sciences
- Healthcare

that plaintiffs' claims were preempted at the pleading stage (*Utts v. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.*, 226 F. Supp. 3d 166, 177 (S.D.N.Y. 2016) ("Utts I"); *Utts v. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.*, 251 F. Supp. 3d 644, 658 (S.D.N.Y. 2017) ("Utts II"). The MDL decisions were affirmed on appeal (*Gibbons v. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.*, No. 17-2638, 2d Cir. Mar. 26, 2019), a ruling the Drug & Device Law Blog called "*the Twlqbal* decision to end all *Twlqbal* decisions" in the preemption context and noted, "If anyone wonders why we consider preemption our side's most powerful defense, *Gibbons* is Exhibit A"

- *In re Proton Pump Inhibitor Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2789 (D.N.J.): National counsel for Pfizer and Wyeth in product liability litigation alleging that proton pump inhibitors Protonix and Nexium 24HR (OTC) cause chronic kidney disease and other kidney injuries
- *Proton Pump Inhibitor Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2789 (D. N.J.): National counsel for Pfizer and Wyeth in product liability litigation alleging kidney injuries caused by PPI use
- *Essure Product Liability Litigation*: Counsel for Bayer in product liability litigation alleging injuries caused by permanent contraceptive device
- *In re: Eliquis (Apixaban) Product Liability Litigation*, MDL 2754 (S.D.N.Y.): National counsel for Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Pfizer in product liability litigation alleging that Eliquis causes bleeding; obtained order dismissing all claims on basis of impossibility preemption
- *In re Testosterone Replacement Therapy Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 2545 (N.D. Ill.): Lead Counsel for Pfizer and Pharmacia & Upjohn in product liability litigation involving testosterone replacement therapies; obtained order dismissing all failure-to-warn claims on basis of impossibility pre-emption
- *Pfizer's National Asbestos Litigation*: Part of National Coordinating Counsel Team responsible for defending against various personal injury claims based on alleged asbestos-containing products, and talc-containing products
- *In re: Chantix (Varenicline) Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 2029 (N.D.AL): Defended Pfizer in product liability litigation involving smoking cessation medication; formulated expert witness defense, participated in preparing for initial bellwether trials and resolution efforts
- *In re Prempro Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 1507 (E.D.AK): Defended Pfizer and Wyeth in product liability litigation involving claims that hormone therapy medication causes breast cancer, including assisting with several successful *Daubert* challenges and bellwether trials
- *In re Pfizer Inc. Securities Litigation*, MDL No. 1688 (S.D.N.Y.): Defended Pfizer in a securities class action involving disclosures related to popular anti-inflammatory medications
- *In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL No. 1699 (N.D. Cal.): Defended Pfizer in product liability and consumer fraud litigation involving selective COX-2 inhibitors, including coordinating discovery with cases pending in state court, and assisting with a successful general causation challenge for the most commonly prescribed dose of Celebrex

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- New York

Recognitions

Since 2017, Cara has been ranked by *The Legal 500 United States* as a "Next Generation Lawyer" or "Leading Lawyer" in the area of Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action – Defense: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices.

From 2013 – 2020 she was named a New York Metro Super Lawyer in the area of product liability defense and has been selected to "Rising Stars" since 2012.

Cara was also DLA Piper's 2014 Leadership Counsel for Legal Diversity (LCLD) Fellow.

Education

- J.D., New York University 2003

President, Student Bar Association
Managing Editor, *Environmental Law Journal*
Member, Federal Defender Clinic

- B.A., Colgate University 1997
English Literature
Colgate Alumni Scholar
First Team All Patriot League, Softball

Courts

- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Memberships

- American Bar Association, Women Advocate Committee
- New York City Bar Association, Product Liability Committee
- Association of Black Women Attorneys
- National Association of Women Lawyers
- DRI (Defense Research Institute), Drug & Medical Device Committee & New York State Liaison

DLA Piper Committees

- North American Pro Bono Committee
- New York Office Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Firm Policy Committee
- New York Office Hiring Committee
- New York Office Deputy Managing Partner

INSIGHTS

Publications

"Power Moms": A candid conversation on the roles of executive mothers through the years

27 April 2021

Pulitzer-winning *Wall Street Journal* journalist Joann Lublin, author of *Power Moms: How Executive Mothers Navigate Work and Life*, joins Jackie Park and Cara Edwards.

DLA Piper · "Power Moms": A candid conversation on the roles of executive mothers through the years

Personal and professional firsts

30 March 2021

We celebrated Women's History Month by spotlighting some of our women attorneys' personal and professional firsts.

#DLAWomenLeaders

Cara Edwards interviews Catalyst CEO Lorraine Hariton, Part Four

26 March 2020

The fourth and final installment of the Women's History Month video series.

Cara Edwards interviews Catalyst CEO Lorraine Hariton, Part Three

19 March 2020

Watch our third video of Cara Edwards discussing metrics from Catalyst CEO Lorraine Hariton showing when employees experience inclusion at work, organizations see enhanced team problem-solving, more work engagement, increased employee retention, heightened employee innovation.

LAW co-vice chair Cara Edwards interviews Catalyst CEO Lorraine Hariton, Part Two

12 March 2020

In the second interview of this series, Cara and Lorraine focus on virtual work environments that provide flexibility for workers.

Leadership Alliance for Women co-vice chair Cara Edwards interviews Catalyst CEO Lorraine Hariton

5 March 2020

In this interview, Cara and Lorraine discuss intersectionality and some of the unique challenges sometimes faced by women of color in the workplace.

- Author, "With a 'Snap' Litigators Have a New Tool To Thwart Forum Shopping," *New York Law Journal*, February 2020
- Co-Author, "Keeping Civil Cases Civil: A Best Practices Guide from 4 Perspectives," *ACCDocket*, July 15, 2019
- Author, Expansion of FDA Authority to Regulate Food and Drug Products Globally, DRI: For the Defense, August 2011

Events

- Panelist, Corporate Counsel Women of Color Bootcamp 2020: How to Become an Expert in Your Field and the Go-To Lawyer Within Your Company (September 30, 2020)
- Panelist, ACI Conference: ACI's 24th Annual Conference on Drug & Medical Device Litigation: The Federal Courts Divided: Overcoming Challenges to Jurisdiction in the Continuing Aftermath of *BMS* (December 10-11, 2019)
- Panelist, American Bar Association, 2018 Current Issues in Pharmaceutical, Medical Device and Biotech Litigation: Civility Panel, (November 9, 2018)
- Panelist, National Bar Association, Commercial Law Section: "Ethical Considerations: Diversity, Inclusion and Overcoming Unconscious Bias" (February 16, 2018)
- Panelist, American Bar Association Litigation Section: "Current Issues in Pharmaceutical, Medical Device and Biotech Litigation," (November 4, 2016)
- Panelist, 12th Annual CCWC Career Strategies Conference: "Industry Trends and Best Practices: Healthcare, Life Sciences, and Pharmaceutical," (September 21, 2016)
- Panelist, Charting Your Own Course Career Conference: "Relationship Recovery and Other Moments of Truth," (February 8, 2016)
- Panelist, ACI Conference: "Ethics and Products Liability Litigation: Maintaining Civility While Defending Against an Increasingly Aggressive Plaintiffs' Bar," (December 10, 2014)
- Panelist, LMA Panel on Women's Initiatives, (June 19, 2014)
- Panelist, *Think Globally Think Globally—Strategies and Recent Developments in International Dispute Resolution*, DRI Annual Meeting, (October 17, 2013)
- Panelist, Women, Influence & Power in Law Conference, (October 3-4, 2013)
- Speaker, Expert Witness Admissibility Part II: The Winning Daubert Motion, Internal CLE (March 7, 2012)
- Speaker, Expert Witness Admissibility: The Basics, Internal CLE (February 27, 2012)
- Seminar Contributor, ACI Conference: 16th Annual Drug and Medical Device Litigation, Sorting Through the Science and Explaining Complex Medical Data (December 7, 2011)

PRO BONO

Cara's pro bono work focuses on various outreaches that include obtaining uncontested divorces for battered women, obtaining legal name changes for transgender individuals in conjunction with Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, volunteering at the New York Family Court Legal Services Project, and representing a charter school as part of the firm's Signature Pro Bono Project. Most recently, she helped a Tibetan refugee obtain asylum, and represented the NAACP in a housing-discrimination lawsuit originally brought against the town of Huntington, New York, more than a decade ago. The case alleged that the town of Huntington discriminated against families with children and racial minorities and violated the Fair Housing Act by limiting an affordable housing development to one-bedroom units. On the eve of trial, DLA Piper achieved a settlement in favor of the NAACP.