



Buffy Mims

Partner

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Buffy Mims is an accomplished trial attorney who handles cases in a wide range of practice areas, including product liability, toxic torts, commercial, consumer fraud and internal investigations.

She represents clients in the life sciences, automotive, food and beverage, government contracts and retail industries. She defends clients in complex and mass tort litigation in both state and federal multidistrict proceedings. She manages and develops the defense of product liability cases, analyzing ongoing litigation, coordinating the work of counsel across the country and preparing expert and company witnesses for trial. Buffy's experience in multi-jurisdictional product liability litigation includes acting as national counsel from the pre-trial discovery phase, to bellwether trials and resolution.

Buffy has achieved defense verdicts for clients in 'bet-the-company' trials. With her trial partner, she obtained a complete defense verdict in a jury trial of six test plaintiffs alleging damages resulting from the spraying of an aerial herbicide in southern Columbia. She has also tried cases in an ATRA-certified 'hellhole' jurisdiction. In 2014, Buffy successfully tried a case on remand from an active MDL in federal court for a large pharmaceutical company. The jury returned a verdict as to all claims following a seven-day jury trial.

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations

- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail
- Life Sciences
- Healthcare

- *Ehlers v. Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc.*, No. 2:19-cv-00194 (D. Vt., May 2020): Obtained a motion to dismiss in a consumer-brought nationwide class action alleging a false advertising claim against Ben & Jerry's ice cream. The court found the plaintiff was taking marketing statements out of context and therefore the complaint did not stand up to scrutiny
- *Quinteros, et al., v. DynCorp et al.*, No. 7-1042 (D.D.C., April 20, 2017): Obtained a unanimous jury verdict finding no liability in tort in a case in which six test plaintiffs claimed damages resulting from a herbicide used to spray illicit coca plants in the Republic of Colombia
- *Ezeb v. Sandoz Pharm. Corp.*, No. 1992-20622 (La. Civ. Dist. Ct., Orleans Parish, June 21, 2016): Persuaded the plaintiff to accept a settlement favorable to Sandoz on the last day of trial before closing arguments. The settlement finally ended the 26-year-old personal injury case
- *Earp v. Novartis Pharm. Corp.*, No. 11-680 (E.D.N.C., May 14, 2014): Obtained a complete defense verdict following a finding by the jury that the alleged failure to provide an adequate warning or instruction regarding the use of chemotherapy drugs Zometa and

Aredia was not the proximate cause of the plaintiff's jaw injury

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- District of Columbia

Education

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center
- B.A., Temple University

Courts

- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the District of Maryland

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- National Bar Association
- Women's Bar Association
- Chair, Litigation Forum, 2010-2012
- Member, Alternate Housing Committee of the DC Board of Professional Responsibility
- Defense Research Institute

Civic and Charitable

- Children's Law Center, Pro Bono Attorney, 2007-2015
- Lawyers for Civil Justice
- Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Advisory Committee

INSIGHTS

Publications

The Post-Pandemic Jury

23 June 2021

What will a post-pandemic trial look like? DLA Piper partners Lyn Pruitt, Buffy Mims and Adria Conklin discuss.

DLA Piper · The Post-Pandemic Jury

- "Data Must Drive Diversity to Make a Meaningful Impact," *ACC Colorado Quarterly Newsletter*, July 2020
- "The Plaintiffs' Bars' Use of COVID-19 To Spur Personal Care Products Lawsuits," *COVID-19 Shook Client Primer*, May 8, 2020

Events

Previous

Nuclear jury verdicts: Where have we been and where are we going?

20 October 2021 | 12:00 - 1:15 pm EST

Webinar

Elevating Black Excellence Regional Summit Series

27 April 2021 | 9:00 - 10:00 ET

Webinar

- Roundtable Speaker, "Implicit Bias + Debiasing," Association of Corporate Counsel National Chapter Region, August 2020
- Panelist, "Disrupting Structural Barriers Impeding the Advancement of Lawyers of Color", National Bar Association – Commercial Law Section Annual Meeting, February 2020
- Panelist, "Assessing How Recent Current Events are Impacting Juror Mindsets, Perceptions and Verdicts in Drug and Device Cases," 25th Annual Conference on Drug & Medical Device Litigation, December 2020
- Panelist, "The Business Imperative for Diverse Legal Perspectives," Retail Law Conference 2019, Nashville, October 2019
- Speaker, "Disrupting the Mass Tort Industry," 22nd Annual Conference on Drug & Medical Device Litigation, New York City, December 2017
- Panel Moderator, "Inside View: Legal and Ethical Considerations for In-House Counsel," 4th Annual Life Sciences Legal Summit, San Francisco, September 2017
- Speaker, "The Parallel Bars: Investigating Risks From, and Best Practices to Push Against, the Intense Surge in Parallel Proceedings," 27th Annual Seminar on Complex Litigation Defense, Washington, DC, April 2015
- Panelist, "Leave Humble Behind: Lead Your Cheering Section," Georgetown Law Women's Forum, February 2015
- Panel Moderator, "Subprime Lawsuits: Unbundling Baseless Claims in Serial Litigation," 26th Annual Seminar on Complex Litigation Defense, Washington, DC, April 2014
- Speaker, "Big Government in the Courtroom: Case Study of Westrick v. Second Chance Body Armor, et al.," 25th Annual Seminar on Complex Litigation Defense, Washington, DC, April 2013
- Speaker, "Who Pays the Bills: "Loser Pays" and Cost-Shifting in E-Discovery, Daubert Proceedings and More," 24th Annual Seminar on Complex Litigation Defense, Washington, DC, April 2012
- Panelist, "Disrupting Structural Barriers Impeding the Advancement of Lawyers of Color, Corporate Counsel Conference," National Bar Association Commercial Law Section (NBA-CLS), February 2020
- Panel Moderator, "Persuading With Passion: Tips From the Top, Litigation Forum of the Women's Bar Association," January 2012

NEWS

Buffy Mims joins DLA Piper's Litigation and Regulatory practice in Washington, DC

11 January 2021

DLA Piper announced today that Buffy Mims has joined the firm's Litigation and Regulatory practice as a partner in Washington, DC.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- "Ben & Jerry's Gets Quick Win in "Happy Cows" False Ad Suit," *Law360*, May 2020
- "DynCorp Prevails in Ecuadorean Farmer's Herbicide Suit," *Law360*, April 2017
- "Law360 Product Liability Editorial Advisory Board," *Law360*, March 2017
- "10 Partners On the Secret Of Success," *Law360*, December 2015
- "And the Defense Wins," *The Voice (DRI)*, August 2015
- "La. Appeals Court Backs Novartis in Schizophrenia Drug Suit," *Law360*, June 2015
- "And the Defense Wins," *The Voice (DRI)*, July 2014
- "Novartis Prevails in Bone Drug Trial in NC," *Law360*, May 2014
- "Novartis Gets Punitive Damages Barred in Bone Drug Suit," *Law360*, May 2014
- "Novartis Picks Up Win in Okla. Bone Drug Injury Suit," *Law360*, July 2012