



## Michael J.R. Schalk

### Partner

Pittsburgh  
+1.412.355.6493

michael.schalk@klgates.com

### OVERVIEW

Michael Schalk is a highly experienced first-chair trial attorney and litigation partner in the firm's Pittsburgh office. He has extensive jury and bench trial experience involving environmental and toxic tort claims, product liability claims, and wrongful death and catastrophic personal injury claims. He has also represented oil and gas producers and pipeline companies in land use and zoning matters and in construction disputes.

Michael frequently serves as part of the national trial counsel team for a number of clients facing mass tort and personal injury claims in jurisdictions throughout the United States and has significant experience developing and implementing clients' national defense and risk management strategies in such claims. He has also assisted clients in maintaining consistent multi-claim defenses in the context of "mass" torts involving a substantial number of claims growing out of the same underlying conduct and/or product sales. Michael has tried numerous cases to verdict nationwide and also has appellate experience.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2023 for work in Product Liability Litigation - Defendants

### EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 2004 (*cum laude*; *Topics Editor, University of Pittsburgh Law Review*)
- B.A., University of Iowa, 2001

### ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 12 December 2016, EPA Announces 10 Chemicals to Be Evaluated for Risks to Human Health and the Environment

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- *Expert Witness Answer Book*, 2012-2019 editions, Practising Law Institute (PLI), coauthor
- Understanding Possible Residual Waste Management Responsibilities that may be Asserted Against Oil and Gas Operators, IOGA Monthly Newsletter, December 2008

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mass Tort
- Product Liability

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented a major aluminum company in state court and the Supreme Court of Arkansas in personal injury claim, obtaining a dismissal at the state court level and affirmance from Supreme Court on Workers' Compensation exclusivity bar.
- Represented U.S. parent company in Pennsylvania state court in lawsuit brought by employee of Brazilian subsidiary, which was dismissed on forum non conveniens grounds.
- Represented a major aluminum company in a jury trial in federal court defending claims of strict liability and negligence by a plaintiff alleging that pulmonary injuries necessitating a double-lung transplant resulted from inhalation of aluminum particles from fabricating metal in the workplace.
- Represented a major aluminum company in a jury trial in state court in a bodily-injury (amputation) case in Philadelphia County, PA; successfully obtaining a granting of non-suit following the close of plaintiffs' case.
- Obtained defense verdict after 2-week trial in Cook County, IL, for an equipment manufacturer in wrongful death action involving asbestos exposure on Navy ships and at land-based facilities.
- Represented an equipment manufacturer and obtained full defense verdict after a 4-week trial in Philadelphia County, PA, in a wrongful death action involving asbestos exposure at the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh Research Center.

- Represented an equipment manufacturer and obtained full defense verdict after 5-week trial in Philadelphia County, PA, in wrongful death action involving asbestos exposure at a Foundry located in Stowe, PA.
- Represented an equipment manufacturer in wrongful death action in Philadelphia County, PA. After a multi-week trial, plaintiffs' counsel dismissed their claim against the client prior to the start of the liability phase (case was reverse bi-furcated).