



Nicholas P. Vari

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Mr. Vari has over 25 years of experience defending asbestos personal injury and product liability claims in trial-level and appellate courts across the United States. He also counsels clients on strategic and case management aspects of defending mass tort and repetitive tort claims across multiple jurisdictions.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Since joining K&L Gates in 1990, Mr. Vari has appeared on behalf of clients in trial and appellate courts in numerous states, including California, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Ohio. He has presented innovative legal arguments regarding asbestos claims across the United States. He frequently lectures and publishes on product liability issues that arise in asbestos litigation. He has been recognized by his peers in both Best Lawyers in America and Pennsylvania Super Lawyers.

Mr. Vari's current practice is focused upon developing and coordinating innovative defense strategies on a national level, and counseling clients on matters of strategy and defense management relating to thousands of asbestos claims pending across more than 45 states and one United States territory. Mr. Vari further maintains an active appellate practice, focusing on product liability issues.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Best Lawyers in America (2014-2020)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers (2014-2016)
- Litigation Counsel of America (Fellow)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Testified – United States House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Hearing on H.R. 526 – The Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2015 (February 4, 2015)

- Speaker, ACI – 13th Annual Advanced Forum on Asbestos Claims & Litigation, Philadelphia, PA (2013, 2016)
- Speaker, Perrin – Cutting Edge Issues in Asbestos Litigation Conference – Los Angeles, CA, (2012-15)
- Speaker, ACI – Annual Advanced Forum on Asbestos Claims & Litigation, Chicago, IL (2013-15)
- 1st Annual Asbestos Litigation Strategies ExecuSummit, Uncasville, CT (2014)
- Speaker, Perrin – Asbestos Litigation Conference A National Overview & Outlook – San Francisco, CA, (2012-13, 2015)
- Speaker, ALI/ABA – Third-Party Liability in Product Liability Cases: Impact of California's O'Neil v. Crane Co. (2012)
- Testified – Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee Hearing House Bill 1150 (April 8, 2013) (Fairness in Asbestos Claims Transparency Act)
- Speaker, PBI Fundamental of Civil Procedure – Pittsburgh, PA 2010-2012 (also 2005 and 2008)
- Speaker, Perrin – Litigating Asbestos Cases in Today's Economic Environment – New York, NY, (2011)
- Testified – Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee Hearing House Bill 1, Harrisburg, PA, (March 29, 2011)
- Speaker, Harris Martin – Pennsylvania Asbestos Litigation Conference – Philadelphia, PA, (2010)
- Speaker, Perrin – Asbestos Bankruptcy Conference – Chicago, IL, (2010)
- Speaker, HB – Northeast Judicial Forum on Asbestos – New York, NY, (2009)
- Speaker, HB – National Asbestos Litigation Conference – San Francisco, CA, (2009)
- Speaker, Lorman – Contract Litigation From A to Z in Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh, PA, (2006)

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Akron School of Law, 1990 (*summa cum laude*; *managing editor, Akron Law Review*)
- B.S.B.A., University of Akron, 1987 (*finance, cum laude*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- New Jersey Supreme Court Issues Compelling Precedent Removing Hearsay Bar to Third-Party-Fault Evidence, Washington Legal Foundation, 15 November 2019
- “Companies dragged into Pennsylvania courts get ammo with recent federal decision: SCOTUS intervention a possibility,” Pennsylvania Record, 2 July 2019
- “Toward a Fairer Case Management Order: Four Keys for New York City's Asbestos Docket”, Legal Backgrounder, Vol. 30 No. 27 (Washington Legal Foundation), 6 November 2015
- “FACT Act Testimony Begins in House Subcommittee,” Washington Examiner, 4 February 2015
- Asbestos Attorneys Face Off At Hearing Over Claim Transparency, Law 360.com, 4 February 2015
- Pa. En Banc Panel Boots \$14.5M Asbestos Verdict”, Law360.com, 23 December 2014
- “High Court Pressured to Send Asbestos Suit to Fed. Court”, Law360.com, 19 December 2014
- “2nd Cir. Keeps Crane Co. Asbestos Suit in Federal Court”, Law360.com, 13 November 2014
- “Navy Workers Ask High Court to Remand Asbestos Cases,” Law360.com, 8 August 2014
- “Asbestos Claimants Fire Back As Charlotte Bankruptcy Case Draws National Attention,” WFAE (Charlotte, NC NPR affiliate) 23 July 2014 (audio available at wfae.org)
- “Asbestos Defense Attorneys publish article to clear up 'every exposure' confusion,” Washington Examiner, 3 April 2014
- “State Courts Move To Dismiss 'Every Exposure' Liability Theory in Asbestos Lawsuits,” Legal Backgrounder, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Washington Legal Foundation), 28 February 2014
- “Pennsylvania Cases to Watch in 2014,” Law360.com, 1, January 2014
- “Pa. Appeals Court Junks \$14.5M Asbestos Verdict,” Law360.com, 6 September 2013
- “8th Cir. Says Alcoa Injury Plaintiff Can't Switch Venues,” Law360.com (March 6, 2013)

- “In a League of Its Own: Restoring Pennsylvania Product Liability Law to the Prevailing Modern 'Attitude' of the Tort Law,” *Widener Law Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2013
- “State High Court Solidifies Tort Liability Law's 'Component Part Supplier' Doctrine,” *Legal Backgrounder*, Vol. 27, No. 18 (Washington Legal Foundation), 21 September 2012

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mass Tort
- Appellate Litigation
- Complex Commercial Litigation and Disputes