



# Product Liability

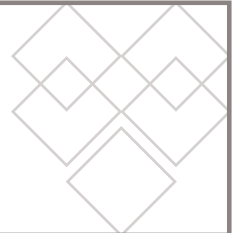
## 2023



PROFILED:

**HARIKLIA KARIS**

Kirkland & Ellis, LLP



## KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP



Product Liability



## HARIKLIA KARIS

Partner

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### PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

**Hariklia Karis** has extensive lead trial experience in jury and bench trials and arbitration in a broad range of high-profile personal injury, product liability and other commercial cases. She was recently recognised as a first-class trial lawyer in mass tort and commercial litigation by Law360 MVP for Trials. The American Lawyer named her 'Litigator of the Week' for achieving the first defence win in 3M's earplug litigation which involves the largest MDL in US history. She was named to American Lawyer's Midwest Trailblazers and named The National Law Journal's Winning Litigator for 2022 after securing wins in three different MDLs.

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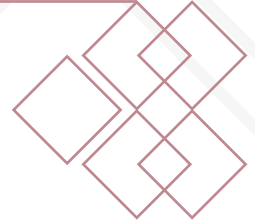
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## Q&amp;A WITH HARIKLIA KARIS

**What do you consider to be your major career achievements?**

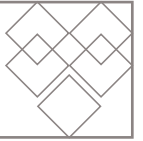
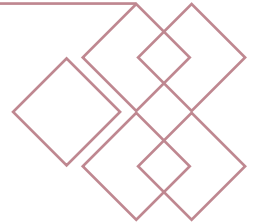
◆ My major career achievements are handling and trying many pieces of litigation and trials on large, ‘bet the company’ litigation for global companies like BP after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. I have also successfully led multiple trial teams throughout the country for several pharmaceutical and other companies in federal and state courts in product liability and other mass tort catastrophic cases. Most recently, I successfully led back-to-back numerous different lengthy trials involving different products – opioids, testosterone therapy and 3M combat-arms earplugs – with different clients in different courts, including winning the first bellwether trial in 3M’s high-stakes product liability case with over 200,000 plaintiffs and the largest multi-district litigation (MDL) ever filed in the US.

**Looking back, have you fulfilled the ambitions and aspirations you set for yourself early in your career?**

◆ My parents emigrated from Greece to Illinois on a worker’s visa. Neither graduated from high school. When they came to the US with two children, they made minimum wage, saving as much as they could for our education. They instilled in us the value of hard work, dedication and pride in whatever we did. Born in Greece, I began school in the US without knowing English. My dad, rest his soul, joked with me growing up that I should be a lawyer, work hard and be successful. My parents instilled in their children that we could do anything, but college was vital. So many of the dreams I did not even know were possible came true. I get to advocate for my clients and am a leading trial lawyer at Kirkland, a premier trial firm. I have worked hard and had the opportunity to represent companies in historical litigation such as BP in its oil spill litigation, and 3M.

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**What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?**

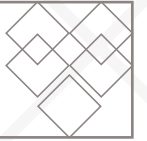
◆ Kirkland's market-leading complex litigation and investigations practice has risen to such success due to the drive, grit and determination each member of the team has to push forward for their clients to get them a win. We also emphasise preparedness, approaching each case as if it will go to trial while staying nimble enough to pursue alternate paths to a more favourable result. Kirkland's global platform of complementary service areas is broad, but our lawyers never lose sight of the important roles collaboration, collegiality and mentorship play in our success. Taking full advantage of the firm's network allows us to create diverse teams to provide creative solutions to complex business issues, leads to more opportunities for attorneys at all levels to contribute to important matters, and helps us identify and develop the next generation of Kirkland litigators.



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## REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Representing 3M as lead trial counsel in the largest MDL arising from allegations that hearing protection devices caused injuries in *Combat Arms Earplugs*.
- ◆ Represented Louis Berger involving the collapse of a pedestrian bridge at Florida International University resulting in fatalities and over 20 lawsuits in *Humble v. FIGG Bridge Engineers*.
- ◆ Represented Actavis as lead trial counsel in testosterone replacement drug that resulted in jury defence verdict in less than one hour of deliberations in *Martin v. Actavis*.
- ◆ Represented Allergan as lead trial counsel in a three-month trial involving prescription opioids in *In re City and County of San Francisco et al. v. Purdue Pharma*.
- ◆ Represented AbbVie as trial counsel in the MDL arising from AndroGel, a testosterone replacement drug, achieving the first victory that led to resolution of MDL in *In re TRT*.
- ◆ Represented BP as co-lead trial counsel for the MDL stemming from its 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in *In re DWH*.

