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## PRACTICES

Toxic Tort

Product Liability

Asbestos

## Ryan M. Frierott

PARTNER

### EXPERIENCE

Ryan M. Frierott focuses his litigation practice in the fields of toxic torts, product liability, complex insurance coverage, and professional liability. He has represented clients in state and federal courts throughout the United States and has extensive experience defending cases involving fires, product defect, expert witness challenges, and toxic tort exposure.

### EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Toxic Tort

Ryan currently serves as national discovery counsel in toxic tort cases. In this capacity, he is responsible for identifying product issues, uniform discovery compliance, assisting local defense counsel in product-related issues to prepare for discovery, and presenting corporate witnesses for deposition. These cases involve defending alleged exposure to asbestos, manganese, and benzene contained in furnaces, welding rods, dry cleaning equipment, plastics, photographic chemicals, home appliances, and other industrial products.

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#### Product Liability

Ryan is a products liability columnist for the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel's quarterly publication and has written for the Defense Research Institute. These articles involve substantial product liability issues, including the investigation of fire scenes and the applicability of the malfunction theory in fire and medical device cases.

- Winning summary judgment and Daubert exclusion of plaintiffs' experts for product manufacturer in a \$2 million-plus property loss/fire case in Arkansas involving alleged defects in a home appliance
- Obtaining summary judgment and Daubert exclusion ruling affirmed for product manufacturer in a personal injury/property loss/fire case in Eighth Circuit involving alleged defects in a home appliance
- Winning summary judgment for surveyor in Illinois case where plaintiff suffered significant personal injuries when she tripped over a construction stake

### HONORS & AWARDS

- Illinois *Super Lawyers, Rising Stars*: Product Liability Defense, 2015–19

### BACKGROUND

#### ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. District Courts for the Central and Northern Districts of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

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### EDUCATION

Ryan M. Frierott

PARTNER

- Michigan State University College of Law, J.D., 2006
  - University of Notre Dame, B.A., 2002
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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Defense Research Institute
  - Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
  - Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel (IADTC)
  - Notre Dame Club of Chicago
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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Legal Prep: Board Member

## PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

### PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author, “**The Eroding Distinction Between Strict Liability and Negligence in Illinois Product Liability Cases**,” *IDC Quarterly*, June 2017
- Author, “Illinois Appellate Court Holds That Plaintiff Must Experience Physical Symptoms of an Asbestos-Related Disease to Recover in Products Liability Action,” *IDC Quarterly*, 4th Quarter, 2016
- Co-Author, “Multiple Defendants in Product Liability Cases: Pleading a Sufficient Claim,” *IDC Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 3, Third Quarter 2016
- Co-Author, “The Seventh Circuit Excludes Toxic Tort Experts for Analytical Gap,” *IDC Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 2, Second Quarter 2016
- Co-Author, “Spoliation: Illinois Appellate Court Creates a High Standard to Bring Derivative Claim,” *IDC Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 1, First Quarter 2016
- Co-Author, “**Connecticut Ponders Liability in the Absence of Evidence**,” *Law360*, July 18, 2014
- Co-Author, “**Design Defect and the Social Utility of a Product**,” Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel *IDC Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 2, 2014
- Co-Author, “The Viability of Using Circumstantial Evidence to Prove Malfunction Defects in Medical Device Cases: *DiCosolo v. Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*,” *IDC Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2012
- Co-Author, “Defending Fire Claims 101: Investigation,” *Defense Research Institute’s Strictly Speaking*, Vol. 6, No. 4, 2009