



## Andrew Ryan

SHAREHOLDER IN ST. LOUIS, MO

Andy is a shareholder with Sandberg Phoenix. He served as the firm's product liability department leader for eight years from 2008 to 2016 and is currently a Recruiting Committee member. Andy has more than 20 years' experience with litigation throughout the country defending manufacturers of various products, to include drugs and medical devices, hospital products, construction equipment and machinery, aerial lifts, digger derricks, cranes and potentially toxic chemicals. Additionally, he is retained by clients in the railroad, transportation and construction industries.

Andy's goal in representing large, publicly traded companies is to help minimize any negative impact on their image, brand, stock price, distributors and salespeople by trying and winning cases. At the same time, he recognizes from experience how litigation can impact a company financially. Andy works closely with clients at the beginning of every case to provide an up-front evaluation that informs them of their chances of success, potential and probable exposure, and anticipated costs so they know the risks involved. He also provides recommendations at the end of a case based on lessons learned during the lawsuit on steps a company can take to avoid future litigation and on developing quality assurance procedures to ensure nonconforming products can be identified and taken off the market.

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### SERVICES

Class Actions

Personal Injury & Tort Defense

Product, Asbestos & Toxic Tort  
Liability

### INDUSTRIES

Consumer Products

Drugs & Pharmaceuticals

Heavy Machinery

Hunting & Sporting Goods

Manufacturing & Distribution

Medical Devices

Mining & Mineral Rights

Tobacco & Nicotine Alternatives

Much of Andy's litigation activity involves defending clients based in the United States, Canada, England, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea and other countries in complex, high exposure matters involving multiple injuries and deaths. These cases have included mass casualties associated with prescription medications, lead and other toxic substances, trucking accidents, amphibious vehicles and fireworks and explosives. Andy has also defended general contractors and subcontractors in catastrophic injuries related to the construction and maintenance of energized transmission lines, communications towers, highways, airports and fire suppression systems. In handling these matters, Andy has become knowledgeable regarding a variety of construction standards and building codes, government regulatory standards and standards organizations such as ANSI and ISO have promulgated. More recently, Andy has expanded his product liability expertise to defending manufacturers and distributors of alternative nicotine delivery systems.

Andy's litigation experience has allowed him to develop particular skill in neutralizing opposing experts' opinions and qualifications to the point he is routinely successful in excluding those experts from testifying. He is one of the few attorneys in the United States who has been able to convince a judge to prohibit a life care planner from offering opinion testimony despite the fact the life care planner was a medical doctor and he has also enjoyed success in disqualifying experts in other disciplines such as accident reconstruction, biomechanical engineering, product design and product warnings. Indeed, Andy's partners and attorneys from other firms frequently consult with him on strategies for eliciting testimony from opposing experts during depositions that will support pretrial motions to strike those experts.

## **REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

Successfully defended a plumbing client alleging burn injuries from negligent installation of a water pipe that burst. Unanimous defense jury verdict.

Obtained a favorable resolution of a lawsuit defending a railroad against an engineer's cumulative trauma claim.

Obtained summary judgment for a treestand manufacturer against a hunter who fell from a climbing stand after convincing the trial court judge to exclude plaintiff's metallurgist's opinions on how the climbing stand allegedly failed.

Successfully resolved a claim against a life insurance company that was accused of negligently issuing life insurance benefits that exceeded the insured's needs after the insured's husband murdered her to collect those benefits.

Defended a proppant sand manufacturer in a case involving a worker who allegedly developed severe neck injuries, eye movement problems, and cognitive deficits after he was struck in the head by a conveyor he was using to transport proppant sand from trucks to barges. Obtained a favorable settlement.

Defended a pharmaceutical manufacturer against multiple claims involving individuals who allegedly developed tardive dyskinesia after using a prescription pharmaceutical to treat acid reflux. Worked closely with national counsel to resolve.

Defended a pharmaceutical manufacturer against multiple claims involving children who allegedly developed birth defects associated with their mothers' use of a prescription pharmaceutical to treat depression and anxiety. Worked closely with national counsel to resolve.

Successfully defended a tree harness manufacturer for injuries a hunter experienced from falling nearly 30 feet after plaintiff's engineering expert conceded that he could not explain how the harness supposedly failed.

Defended an automobile manufacturer against a claim alleging a seat belt "rolled out" and failed to restrain a woman who experienced significant spinal cord injuries in a car accident. Obtained a favorable resolution.

Obtained summary judgment for a sterilization and surgical products manufacturer against a claim alleging that the product's viscosity caused a woman to slip and fall.

Obtained a successful settlement defending an amphibious passenger vessel manufacturer in litigation involving 17 deaths and 14 injuries to passengers and crew members when the vessel sank.

Secured a summary judgment in favor of a medical device manufacturer on punitive damages claims in a case alleging an expired knee implant failed.

Defended a fireworks manufacturer following an explosion that resulted in the deaths of five individuals who were preparing the fireworks for a display. Obtained a favorable resolution.

Defended a brass manufacturer in a lawsuit where a welder and pipefitter experienced extensive burn injuries from spraying hydraulic oil that an open flame heater ignited immediately after they had supposedly repaired a hydraulic line leak. Obtained a favorable settlement for less than 1% of plaintiffs' claimed damages.

Defended a lift manufacturer in a claim by two laborers who alleged they experienced severe injuries when the lift they were using tipped over because of insufficient safety features. Obtained a favorable resolution.

*Yeargain v. Summit Treestands, LLC*, 2012 WL 1033649 (E.D.Mo. Mar. 27, 2012)

*Wetzler v. Barnes-Jewish Hosp.*, No. ED94034 (Mo.App. Aug. 17, 2010)

*Long Motor Corp. v. SM&P Util. Res., Inc.*, No. 100,336 (Kan.App. Aug. 21, 2009)

*Baltzell v. R&R Trucking Co.*, 554 F.3d 1124 (7th Cir. 2009)

*Clark's Res., Inc. v. Ireland*, 142 S.W.3d 769 (Mo.App. 2004)

*Keisker v. Farmer*, 90 S.W.3d 71 (Mo. banc 2002)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Missouri Bar Association

National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel

Product Liability Advisory Council

Treestand Manufacturers Association.

Additionally, Andy serves as a member of Mackrell International, one of the world's premier networks of independent legal firms.

## EDUCATION

J.D., University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

- Andy was the Articles Editor for *The Urban Lawyer* quarterly journal on local government law and urban legal affairs.

B.S. in Business Administration, University of Missouri - Columbia

## LICENSURE(S) AND ADMISSION(S)

Illinois

Kansas

Missouri

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri

United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois

United States District Court for the District of Kansas

## **CIVIC ACTIVITIES**

Andy serves on the Board of Directors for Lafayette Industries, a contract packager that provides employment opportunities to persons with development disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older. He is also actively involved with Glendale Lutheran Church where he serves as the Congregation's President and is a member of the Friends of the St. Louis Symphony.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

"The Latest in Subrogation and Liens and Ethical Considerations for the Attorney in the Tripartite Insurance Relationship - Who is the Client?" National Business Institute

"How to Reduce Litigation Costs Using Experts," Marcus Evans Chief Litigation Officer Summit

"Managing Liens and Subrogation in Auto Accident Litigation, Liens and Subrogation in Auto Accident Litigation and Litigation Ethics," National Business Institute

"Current Case Law, Market Trends and Legal Updates," National Business Institute

"Products Liability: From Beginning to End," PLRB/LIRB Central Regional Adjusters Conference

"Managing Liens and Subrogation in Auto Accident Litigation, Subrogation Liens in Detail," National Business Institute

"Ethical Considerations for the Attorney in the Tripartite Insurance Relationship - Who is the Client?" National Business Institute

"Insurance Law from A to Z, Insurance Law Legislative Update and Ethical Considerations for the Attorney in the Tripartite Insurance Relationship - Who is the Client?" National Business Institute

## **PUBLICATIONS**

"The Explosion in E-Cigarette Battery Explosion Litigation: Tips and Tactics for Manufacturers, Distributors, & Retailers," *V Smoke & Vape Business Solutions* (Jan/Feb 2018)

## RECOGNITION

MARTINDALE-HUBBELL®

AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating™

Received from attorneys who have worked with and against Andy. This rating reflects his commitment to high ethical standards and his broad knowledge and experience.

LITIGATION COUNSEL OF AMERICA

Fellow

An invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society with membership limited to less than one-half of one percent of North American lawyers, judges and scholars.

2016-2024

BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA

Best Lawyer

Product Liability Litigation – Defendants