

Steven M. Crawford

Partner

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Industries

Manufacturing

Energy

Industrials

Oil, Gas & Minerals

Utilities

Practice Areas

Construction

Consumer Products Litigation

Fire & Explosion

Product Liability

Product, Tort & Insurance Litigation

Bar Memberships

Kentucky

Steve has been handling mass tort, fire and explosion, toxic exposure, and premises and product liability lawsuits in both state and federal courts across the United States since 1993. He has represented product manufacturers, distributors, service providers, and property owners in incidents and exposures involving industrial facilities, distribution centers, and other commercial and residential properties. Steve is Chair of the firm's Manufacturing Industry Team.

Steve is also involved in national litigation management, participates in crisis response teams, and analyzes safety systems and procedures across a variety of business sectors.

Steve's comprehensive understanding of the construction industry contributes to his legal expertise as a first chair lawyer in the fields of industrial processes, electrical, structural, chemical, and mechanical engineering, metallurgy, fire cause and origin, and failure analysis. Steve also utilizes the knowledge gained from almost 3 decades of litigation experience as a basis to provide advice on product warnings, product testing, fire suppression equipment, and compliance with industry and regulatory standards.

Other Info About Steve

Experience

National and regional representation of multiple product manufacturers, distributors, and premises defendants in asbestos litigation.

Representation of building owners and property managers in the evaluation of appropriate fire suppression systems.

Representation of an aluminum manufacturer in amputation case on issue of first impression in Kentucky at trial level, affirmed on appeal to Sixth Circuit.

Representation of a manufacturer in a wrongful death case arising from an industrial process accident.

National Coordinating Counsel for distributor of lithium ion batteries and related devices.

Representation of propane supplier in fire/explosion litigation.

Representation of sports and entertainment venue on all litigation matters.

National Fire Litigation Counsel for an agricultural equipment manufacturer.

Representation of a furnace manufacturer arising from a fatal residential propane gas explosion.

Representation of a medical product supplier in fire litigation arising from misuse of medical equipment.

Served as lead counsel for CertainTeed Corporation in litigation arising from an explosion and fire at the CTA Acoustics manufacturing facility in Corbin, Kentucky involving seven deaths and over $100 million in alleged damages.

Served as counsel to Amgen in litigation involving significant property damage and product loss caused by improper installation of sprinkler equipment.

Representation of a smoke detector manufacturer in fatal apartment fire litigation.

Representation of various explosives manufacturers and distributors in personal injury and property damage litigation arising from the misuse of explosives and fertilizers.

Representation of ICI Explosives USA in a lawsuit filed on behalf of those injured or killed in the terrorist attack by Timothy McVeigh in Oklahoma City in 1995.

National representation of general contractors in North Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky arising out of the use of synthetic stucco as the exterior cladding on commercial and residential structures.

National representation of a raw material supplier in the Breast Implant Litigation.

National representation of a distributor of spinal fixation devices in the Orthopedic Bone Screw litigation in state and federal courts.

Education

Chase College of Law, J.D., 1993

Kentucky Wesleyan College, B.A., 1987

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

State of Kentucky

United States District Court, Western District of Kentucky

United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky

Recognition

Selected to Kentucky Super Lawyers, 2010-2026

The Best Lawyers in America®, Litigation – Construction, 2011-2027, "Lawyer of the Year," 2015, 2024; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, 2013-2027; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2013-2027

Leadership Louisville, Class of 2021

Professional Affiliations

American Bar Association, Member

Kentucky Bar Association, Member

Louisville Bar Association, Member

Leadership Louisville Center, Member

Defense Research Institute, Member

Propane Gas Defense Association, Member

Civic Activities

Joint Local Federal Rules Committee for Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, Member

The Power of Will, Inc., Advisory Committee Member

Firm Committees

Manufacturing Industry Team, Team Leader

Associate Recruiting Committee, current Member

Legal Personnel Committee, former Member, 2013-2020

Executive Committee, former Member, 2011-2020

Compensation Committee, former Member and Chair, 2004-2010

Presentations

Co-presenter, "Stay in Your Lane", Propane Gas Defense Association Fall Meeting, 2019.

Speaker, "Recent Developments in Lithium Battery Litigation and Mitigating Exposure Before and After an Accident", Vapor Trade Association Annual Conference, June 2018.

Panelist, "Unique Industry Challenges and Opportunities Involving Lithium Batteries", Vapor Trade Association Annual Conference, June 2018.

Major Publications

Co-author, "Daller, Tort Law Desk Reference – A Fifty-State Compendium" [Kentucky section], 2003-2025 editions.

Author, "Liability Claims Based on Choice of Construction Materials," DRI In-House Defense Quarterly, Spring 2017.

Co-author, "Absence of Prior Accidents Evidence – Recent Trends in Admissibility", DRI ACMIE News, December 2013.

Co-author, “Sixth Circuit Adopts Differential Diagnosis Admissibility Standard”, Australian Product Liability Reporter, 2009.

Author. “The Role of Legal Counsel for a Private Litigant Involved in a Chemical Dust Explosion Investigation By the CSB”, International Symposium on Fire Investigation Science and Technology, 2006.

Co-author, “Learning from Experience: A Survey of Recent Legal Developments in the Blasting Industry”, The Journal of Explosives Engineering, September/October 1998.

Co-author, “Stolen Explosives: The Unexpected Liability”, The Journal of Explosives Engineering, January/February 1998.

Featured Articles

Future-Proofing Production Facilities

Future-Proofing Production Facilities: How to Prepare for and Manage Crisis Scenarios

What to Expect When the Chemical Safety Board Shows Up at Your Plant

U.S. District Court Rejects 3M’s Subsidiary Liability Argument After Years of Claiming Sole Responsibility

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