



Chris Michael Temple

Partner

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Chris is an experienced trial lawyer and business counselor with a national practice who provides strategic litigation and risk management guidance to clients operating in the industrial manufacturing sector, service industries and newly developing and digital ecosystems.

His practice centers on the needs of technology startups, manufacturers and multinational corporations, with a particular focus on assisting companies and their executive management in analyzing and assessing the uncertainties and risks inherent in continuing shifts in the law. Chris is highly experienced in product liability, mass tort and environmental liability laws, and has counseled *Fortune* 500 companies in high-tech and traditional product sectors on strategies to avoid risks by anticipating the directions in which the law may evolve as a result of new theories of liability to be adopted by the courts.

Chris draws lessons for clients from his deep trial and business counseling experience in mass tort, tech, and environmental cases to identify the factors and practices that can create new emerging liabilities. By recognizing the elements that led to decades of litigation over asbestos and now talc, along with other major industrial tort claims, Chris finds the parallels to the potential problems in today's emerging industries and charts a course for incorporating foresight into his clients' planning and strategic liability containment practices to minimize long-term risks.

Companies in today's cutting-edge sectors – including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and the Internet of Things (IoT) – can learn from the mistakes of manufacturers and service providers that did not anticipate the facts or consequences of future liability for their product or service offerings. Chris studies the language used in promotional efforts, as well as document creation and retention practices, to pinpoint and eliminate dangers against existing and emerging threats.

Chris has built his successes on advising company management at the highest levels on the risk and costs they face and the strategic steps they should employ to meet existing and future challenges. He frequently oversees complex commercial litigation matters in the state and federal courts and is well-versed in performance liability; integrated equipment, technology and service supplier/distributor arrangements; toxic exposure claims; and product liability and performance disputes.

Employing innovative and creative approaches to mass tort and multi-jurisdiction litigation specifically designed to challenge the business-as-usual strategies that have too often hurt companies, Chris serves as national coordinating and special trial counsel for U.S. and international-based clients facing repetitive litigation or business liability risks within multiple business segments. In this role, he provides consistent, coordinated and measured legal and strategic



advice to handle the varied sources or disparate locations of the potential liabilities – all while providing management and other stakeholders with a comprehensive strategic plan for the assessment of current and future risks.

In addition to overseeing liability assessment and litigation in underlying matters, Chris coordinates policyholder client claims with general liability, property or workers' compensation insurers. He also counsels European Union-based companies on American product liability, mass tort and liability/risk issues.

Before Fox Rothschild

Prior to joining Fox, Chris was a partner in the Pittsburgh office of an international law firm

Honors & Awards

- Named a Pennsylvania Trailblazer by *The Legal Intelligencer* (2019)
- Named to "The Best Lawyers in America" list for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants in Pennsylvania by *Best Lawyers* (2021)

Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Manufacturing
- Product Liability & Mass Torts
- Technology

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania

Education

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D., 1988)
- Dickinson College (A.B., 1985)

Emerging Technology

Technology is advancing at an ever-increasing pace, presenting businesses with new and uncertain risks of liability. Chris leverages his knowledge of this area to lead a Fox team dedicated to advising product designers, manufacturers and users to understand how to mitigate and manage liability risk associated with products incorporating emerging tech such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, "smart" equipment and devices networking on the Internet of Things (IoT), as well as interconnected industrial automation processes and equipment utilizing the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT).

Chris assists clients with:



- Product safety testing and documentation
- Health and safety risk assessments
- Novel product liability risk mitigation strategies
- Product warnings and instructions
- Dispute and litigation avoidance and preparedness measures

For additional detail, visit our [Emerging Tech: AI, AR/VR, IoT, Automation](#) group page.