



Kathleen Strickland

Partner

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With more than 30 years of trial experience, Kathy focuses on complex commercial litigation, cybersecurity, class actions, and mass torts. Her class action experience involves the defense of companies targeted with consumer product class claims spanning a wide range of consumer products. She has also defended large developers in commercial disputes and construction cases and has defended chemical companies and commercial developers in environmental lawsuits alleging lost profits and/or lost business opportunities due to environmental contamination in soil and groundwater. Her toxic tort practice has consisted of defending large multinational corporations in mass tort, product liability, and putative class action litigation with hundreds of plaintiffs seeking recovery for injuries allegedly arising from exposure to air or water

PRACTICE AREAS

Business & Commercial Litigation
Class Actions & Complex Litigation
Environmental
Food, Beverage, & Hospitality
Product Liability & Torts
Transportation & Logistics

ACCOLADES

The Best Lawyers in America®, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, 2011-2026

The Best Lawyers in America®, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2022-2026

Northern California Super Lawyers, Class Action & Mass Torts: Defense, 2005-2006, 2012-2025

Martindale-Hubbell, Judicial Edition: AV Preeminent Peer Rating for Highest Excellence, Reflecting the confidential opinions of members of the Bar and Judiciary, 1995-2023

San Francisco Lawyer of the Year, The Best Lawyers in America, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, 2021

ABA Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to the TIPS, 2011, 2012, 2014-2017

contamination or from chemical, pharmaceutical, or health products.

Kathy has served as national trial counsel in litigation involving asbestos, breast implants, drinking water, and groundwater, as well as regional counsel in lead paint and l-tryptophan cases. Due to her extensive trial experience, Kathy is often retained in bet-the-company cases, is substituted into complex cases headed toward trial, and asked to try cases when settlement efforts have failed or brought in to prepare the punitive damages defense for mass tort cases. She represents one of the largest retail companies in the world on its tort litigation in California, including personal injury cases. Kathy manages a large caseload for this client and is very effective in using her skills as a certified mediator to select key cases for early resolution in order save the client the fees and costs of litigation. When necessary, she tries the cases that cannot be favorably settled.

Kathy's trial abilities have garnered her membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) at the Advocate level, and she was invited to be a sustaining member of the Product Liability Advisory Council (PLAC). She is also a certified mediator, ADR neutral, a settlement conference officer for the San Francisco Superior Court, and an Early Neutral Evaluator for the Northern District Court. Kathy uses her skills as a certified mediator to encourage clients to participate in ADR for disputes most likely to benefit from early mediation, reducing the stress and expenses usually incurred during protracted litigation.

BTI Client Service All-Stars, 2014

Martindale-Hubbell, Top Rated Lawyer in Energy & Environmental, 2013

US News and World Report, Best Lawyers, Tier 1 National, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2011-2012

San Francisco's Best Lawyers, Personal Injury Litigation (Defense), 11/29/2011 Chronicle, 2012 Edition

San Francisco's Top Attorneys, 2011

Chambers & Partners USA Guide, National Leader, Recommended in Products Liability, 2006-2007 Edition

Bay Area Super Lawyers, Class Action, 2005-2006

Best Lawyers in the Bay Area, Class Action, 2005

Distinguished Service Award, San Francisco District Attorney's Office

COURT ADMISSIONS

California

Colorado

District of Columbia

New York

Texas

US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

USDC: Central District of California

USDC: Eastern District of California

USDC: Northern District of California

USDC: Southern District of California

USDC: Eastern District of Texas

USDC: Southern District of Texas

EDUCATION

JD, University of San Diego School of Law

BS, Spring Hill College, *magna cum laude*

Institute of European Studies: Vienna, Austria

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Certified Mediator

Early Neutral Evaluator, USDC: Northern District of California

Member, Council, ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (ABA/TIPS), 2019-2022

Member, ABA Presidential Commission on the Pandemic, 2020-2021

Teaching Faculty, Stanford University School of Law, Trial Advocacy Workshops, 1992-2021

She has previously served as the Chair of the ABA's TIPS Cybersecurity Task Force, from 2014–2017, resulting in the creation of a new General Committee, which launched in 2017 with Kathy serving as its first Chair. Kathy has been a member of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice (TIPS) Section leadership group for over 25 years, serving on TIPS Council, the governing body of TIPS. She has received two ABA Leadership in Action Awards for Outstanding Contribution to TIPS, one for her work as Chair of the Cybersecurity Task Force, and the other for Chair of the Disaster Task Force in 2011–2012.

Member, The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, 2014–Present

Adjunct Professor, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings), Trial Advocacy, 1989–1996

Member, American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)

Member, Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)

Member, Product Liability Advisory Council (PLAC)

Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association

Member, Bar Association of San Francisco

Member, National Charity League

Presently, she continues to teach Trial Advocacy at Stanford University Law School and the University of San Francisco School of Law where she has taught for the past 30 years. Kathy also volunteers at the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association as a basketball coach and National Charity League.

Before going into private practice, Kathy served as an Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco, where she tried more than 150 criminal cases to verdict and was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award. Kathy also worked as a staff lawyer for the Office of Opinions & Review, Federal Communication Commission in Washington, DC, and prior to joining Ropers Majeski was a partner at two AmLaw 100 law firms.

Representative Matters

Class Actions/Complex Litigation

- Successfully handled a cybersecurity matter on behalf of a client who was involved in a scam using a duplicate website to replicate another business's website which the scammers were operating. We were able to shut down the duplicate website and implement precautionary measures so that the client did not suffer any financial losses.
- Represented an auto parts manufacturer in a bankruptcy proceeding commenced by a major automobile manufacturing company. Our client purchased the assets of a division of the auto company in an Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) that placed ongoing indemnity obligations on

the auto manufacturer in connection with various litigation and potential claims relating to products manufactured and premises occupied during the time period prior to the APA. In the bankruptcy, we obtained dismissals in several ongoing actions, successfully pursued a claim for its costs of defense, and obtained critical protection from liability for asbestos claims during the time period prior to the APA. We assisted the client in obtaining protection from liability for future claims relating to the subject of the bankruptcy. This is a relatively unprecedented achievement in bankruptcy that does not involve a Section 524(g) trust.

- Negotiated a negligible settlement avoiding the costs of litigation on behalf of a small, family-run juice manufacturer in a nationwide class action suit involving alleged violations of FDA labeling requirements of sugar content in food products.
- Negotiated a favorable settlement, avoiding the costs of a nationwide class action suit, on behalf of an international cosmetics company in a case involving alleged violations in FDA advertising requirements for cosmetics resolving all claims favorably without suit being filed.
- Defeated class action certification on behalf of an international corporation which designed and sold through various distributors telecommunications cable that was manufactured by a third party. A worldwide class action was brought against our client for alleged defects in the cable, with claims of negligence, breach of implied and express warranty, and breach of various states' consumer protection/fraud acts. The Court denied the plaintiffs' motion for class certification in its entirety, holding that the proposed nationwide class (formerly worldwide) for the express warranty claim could not be certified because the laws of each putative class member's state (or foreign country) of residence applies, and conflicts with those laws meant that common issues did not predominate. An appeal filed by the plaintiffs is pending in the Ninth Circuit.
- Defeated a putative class action on behalf of a large national retailer of electronics and other products, who claimed these consumer products spontaneously caught fire when the battery was charged. The plaintiff sought a class action on behalf of himself and all similarly situated purchasers of the same products spanning a period of years. Kathy obtained dismissal of the action.
- Represented 10 defendants in a highly complex case involving the food and beverage industry. The case involved six separate agreements, eighteen causes of action, and 2.4 million pages of documents produced by plaintiff's counsel. We responded to thousands of discovery requests and took or defended twenty-three depositions. Ultimately, we were able to get this

complicated case into a settlement conference and resolve it favorably for our clients for a fraction of the initial demand.

- Served as shared counsel to three international corporations, and as liaison counsel to the court in 15 mass tort actions coordinated before the LA Superior Court's Complex Litigation Department in Central Civil West. The 15 actions were filed by more than 1,500 plaintiffs, alleging personal injury, wrongful death, and property damage, and named more than 50 industrial manufacturing companies and seven public and private water purveyors as defendants. The injuries were alleged to have been caused by contaminated drinking water due to underground TCE, PCE perchlorate, dioxane, and NDMA as the primary contaminants. After the trial court granted us a demurrer based on the issues of primary jurisdiction and preemption, Kathy's display of leadership resulted in her invitation to participate in the Complex Litigation Symposium II presented by the Los Angeles Superior Court Judges handling complex litigation. It was Kathy's leadership in successfully moving for change of venue, thereafter coordination, and ultimately the decision to argue primary jurisdiction of the PUC which were turning points in this litigation.
- Secured a negligible settlement on behalf of a technology association in a class action brought against a top manufacturer and 56 co-defendants that manufactured portable, car, home, and home theater audio speakers in which the plaintiffs alleged unfair and fraudulent business practices. According to the suit, no standard effective piston area to outside diameter ratio existed upon which a consumer could rely in assessing the quality and power of a speaker.
- In earlier years, Kathy served as national trial counsel in both the breast implant litigation as well as the early rounds of the asbestos litigation. She tried cases in 14 states on behalf of asbestos defendants and obtained defense verdicts in every case tried.
- In a rare plaintiff's case, Kathy's longtime client, a national HVAC manufacturer, brought suit against a national laboratory for contract and construction delay damages regarding installation of air handlers at the facility. After a one-day mediation, the client obtained a significant settlement representing costs and damages generated by the defective design and changes required by the defendant.
- Obtained dismissal in a \$26 million construction delay damage claim based on *International Shoe* lack of minimum contacts. The dispute arose during the construction of the largest mozzarella cheese manufacturing facility in the US, for which the client was contracted to

install air handlers and chillers. We extricated our client through a motion to dismiss based on lack of jurisdiction and forum selection.

Environmental

- Successfully resolved a \$225 million claim filed against a leading distributor of research laboratory products in a complex federal litigation alleging breach of a commercial real estate contract and environmental contamination. The plaintiff, a commercial property entity, claimed our client allowed chlorinated solvents, gasoline components (such as benzene and toluene), metals, and other hazardous substances to remain unremediated on the leased property. After leading a strategic discovery campaign, Kathy and her team achieved an amicable settlement of all matters at an early phase in the litigation, before any corporate deposition or costly expert discovery took place.
- Secured dismissal of all claims against our clients, an environmental contractor, municipal authority, and five cities, brought by the developers of properties neighboring a landfill who alleged that contamination from the landfill migrated onto their properties and prevented development. The plaintiffs sought millions of dollars in claims for cost recovery and contribution pursuant to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Michigan's version of CERCLA), as well as tort claims for negligence, trespass, and nuisance. Obtained summary judgment on all of the plaintiffs' claims resulting in dismissal of the action.
- Secured a dismissal prior to trial for a dry cleaning manufacturer when a private water provider filed suit against numerous companies involved in the dry cleaning industry, including equipment manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, and retail dry cleaning companies, alleging its groundwater supply in Southern California was contaminated with TCE from the defendants' business operations. The plaintiff sought millions of dollars in remediation costs, as well as punitive damages. By examining our client's records and public records, we were able to demonstrate that our client did not supply dry cleaning equipment to any company doing business over the aquifer from which the plaintiff obtained its water.
- Currently representing, and has historically represented, clients in various Proposition 65 lawsuits. These clients have been manufacturers of food products, wine, jewelry, and imported candies.

Product Liability/Toxic Torts

- Completely resolved a high-stakes, protracted personal injury lawsuit on behalf of our client, a US common freight carrier, brought by a longshoreman who was injured at a commercial maritime facility in Southern California. The plaintiff dismissed our client from the personal injury litigation and proceeded to take a multimillion-dollar default judgment against a Malaysian entity, which it then sought to enforce on our client, under alter ego and fraudulent conveyance theories. Not only did we obtain a summary judgment dismissing all claims against our client, but we secured sanctions against the plaintiff for procedural and discovery abuse as a result of an attempt to coerce our client to settle.
- Served as national trial counsel, working with a team of lawyers assembled nationwide to defend a Fortune 500 company in a product liability matter involving silicone gel breast implants. In addition to serving as trial counsel, Kathy was also retained to prepare the scientific and medical experts and assist in preparing a punitive damage defense for the company.
- Successfully defended six class action cases on behalf of a Fortune 500 international company that manufactured cell phones sold in the US. The plaintiffs alleged personal injury and alleged unfair business practices, claiming that the defendants manufactured, supplied, promoted, sold, leased, and provided service for wireless handheld that allegedly generated and emitted radiofrequency radiation that caused injury. We successfully challenged the prosecution under Daubert, and subsequently helped prepare the updated product insert labels to stave off future claims.
- Successfully settled a matter for less than 15% of the initial \$2.4 million demand in a wrongful death suit. The plaintiffs were the family of a deceased fertilizer worker and claimed the decedent contracted Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma from exposure to fertilizers, including granular and liquid ammonium nitrate, manufactured by our clients.
- Obtained a complete dismissal for our client, a copier manufacturer in a case where the plaintiffs, the family of a copy machine repairman, sued our client in an action for wrongful death, alleging that he was exposed to asbestos while repairing copy machines. Through early factual and legal case assessment and valuation, we were able to convince the plaintiffs' lawyer that it was scientifically impossible for any asbestos to be released from our client's product.
- Secured a negligible settlement on behalf of the defendant, a landlord for an apartment complex. The plaintiffs alleged they suffered personal injuries and property damage as a result of mold in the apartment they rented. Through the investigations of our expert consultants and

a private investigator, we were able to assemble a large amount of evidence indicating that the mold came about as a result of the living habits of the plaintiffs.

- Won a dismissal after we disqualified the plaintiff's causation expert. We were retained as trial counsel six weeks before the trial to defend a client in property damage cases in which 435 plaintiffs sued alleging personal injuries, wrongful death, and decline in property value due to groundwater contamination arising from a landfill in Louisiana.

News

Twelve Ropers Majeski Lawyers Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2026 in America

August 21, 2025

Congratulations to these outstanding lawyers for this recognition

Ropers Majeski Attorneys Selected to 2025 Northern California Super Lawyers & Rising Stars Lists

June 30, 2025

Congratulations to the Ropers attorneys selected to the 2025 Northern California Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists

Four Ropers Majeski Lawyers Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2025 in America

August 15, 2024

Congratulations to these outstanding lawyers for this recognition

Ropers Majeski Attorneys Selected to 2024 Northern California Super Lawyers & Rising Stars Lists

June 26, 2024

Congratulations to our Northern California attorneys who are recognized in the 2024 Northern California edition of Super Lawyers

Four Ropers Majeski Lawyers Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2024 in America

Best Lawyers®

August 17, 2023

Congratulations to these outstanding lawyers for this recognition

Ropers Majeski Attorneys Recognized Among the 2023 Northern California Super Lawyers & Rising Stars

Super Lawyers

June 27, 2023

Congratulations to our Northern California attorneys who are recognized in the 2023 Northern California edition of *Super Lawyers*

Ropers Majeski Attorneys Recognized Among 2022 Northern California Super Lawyers & Rising Stars

Super Lawyers

July 05, 2022

Congratulations to our Northern California attorneys who are recognized in the 2022 Northern California edition of *Super Lawyers*

Ropers Majeski Partner Kathleen Strickland Named a 2021 "Lawyer of the Year"

August 21, 2020

We congratulate Kathy on this well-deserved honor

Ropers Majeski Partner Kathleen Strickland Appointed to the ABA Task Force for the COVID-19 Pandemic

American Bar Association

August 14, 2020

Our team is proud to have Kathy represent the firm in this important role

Ropers Majeski Partner Kathleen Strickland Elected to ABA TIPS Council

ABA Tort and Trial Practice Section

December 03, 2019

Ropers Majeski congratulates Partner Kathleen Strickland on her election to TIPS Council

When I Was a New Lawyer

ABA Tort Source

December 02, 2018

Kathleen Strickland was interviewed in the *American Bar Association Tort Source*

Partner Kathleen Strickland Appointed to Chair the ABA's TIPS Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Committee

Ropers Majeski

August 24, 2017

Ropers Majeski congratulates Partner Kathleen Strickland on her appointment to the committee

TIPS Lawyers Educate Students on Legal Profession, Encourage Them to Consider Career in Law

American Bar Association News

February 04, 2014

Kathleen Strickland discusses professional development

Speaking Engagements

An Introduction to the Use of AI in the Legal Practice & the Ethical Ramifications

American Bar Association

July 17, 2023

Ropers Partner Kathleen Strickland moderated an insightful webinar as part of the ABA TIPS Non-CLE Lunch & Learn Series

Best Practices for Placing Cutting Edge Cyber Insurance: Policyholder, Insurer, and Broker Perspectives

ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section

August 10, 2020

Kathleen Strickland was a speaker for the webinar presentation

Managing Risk at the Intersection of Cybersecurity, Data Privacy, and Business

George State University College of Law

March 05, 2020

Kathleen Strickland spoke about cybersecurity and data privacy

Planes, Trains, Automobiles, and Cybersecurity

ABA/TIPS Conference

April 21, 2017

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA TIPS Conference

Legal Year in Review

Ropers Majeski

May 12, 2016 – May 29, 2016

Ropers Majeski Partners present a Year in Review

Preparing for the Worst – Is the Nation Prepared for Natural Disasters?

ABA TIPS Spring Meeting

May 06, 2012

Kathleen Strickland spoke on preparing for national disasters

Port Program: Protecting Our Ports: Security Measures and Business Impacts

ABA TIPS Fall Leadership Meeting

October 14, 2011

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA TIPS Fall Leadership Meeting

Homeland Security 10 Years Later: How Innovation and Technology Have Changed the Approach to Homeland Security Since the 9/11 Attack

ABA TIPS Fall Leadership Meeting

October 13, 2011

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA TIPS Fall Leadership Meeting

September 11th, Ten Years Later, Where Are We In The Handling Of Mass Claims Within The Legal System?

Webinar

September 08, 2011

Kathleen Strickland moderated a panel discussing the current state of disaster-related mass claims

Recent Developments & Ethical Issues in Class Actions

ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

April 01, 2010

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

Quelling Plaintiffs' Causation Arguments: Strengthening Defense Tactics by Using Experts and Advancements in Science Effectively and Convincing Courts to Apply the Cause in Fact Standard

American Conference Institute

April 01, 2010

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the American Conference Institute

Globalization and Litigation: Challenges Presented in Domestic Litigation Involving Foreign Products

ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

April 01, 2010

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

Masters in Cross Examination

ABOTA San Francisco

June 06, 2008

Kathleen Strickland gave a presentation for ABOTA San Francisco

Mock Mediation: Strategies for Successful Mediation of the Kryptonite Toxic Tort Case

ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

April 01, 2008

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

Ethical Issues Raised in Bulk Settlement Agreements in Mass Torts

ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

April 01, 2007

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

Creating and Adhering to a Viable Exit Strategy

4th National In-House Counsel Conference on Managing Complex Litigation

February 06, 2007

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the 4th National In-House Counsel Conference on Managing Complex Litigation

Daubert, From The Judicial Perspective

ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

April 01, 2006

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA Tips Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

Daubert: Where Are We and How To Do It

National Groundwater Conference

July 01, 2005

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the National Groundwater Conference

Risk Assessment and Risk Characterization, Does It Work?

National Groundwater Association Conference

July 01, 2005

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the National Groundwater Association Conference

Media Management: Before, During and After

ABA Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Conference

January 01, 1999

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Conference

Trial Techniques: Presenting Yourself and Your Case in the Best Light

National Business Institute

January 01, 1999

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the National Business Institute Law Conference

Adverse Use of Your Public Domain Documents

DRI Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Conference

April 01, 1998

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the DRI Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Conference

Practical Tips on Trying Punitive Damage Cases

ABA Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Conference

January 01, 1998

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Conference

If Daubert Doesn't Work Here, Where Does It Work?

DRI Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

May 01, 1997

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the DRI Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Program

Punitive Damages: An Interactive Jury Demonstration

ABA TIPS Section Annual Meeting

January 01, 1996

Kathleen Strickland spoke at the ABA TIPS Section Annual Meeting

Articles

Preparing for the California Consumer Privacy Act

American Bar Association - Committee News

June 01, 2019

Kathleen Strickland offers insight on the CCPA

Task Force on Disaster Preparedness and Response: A Stellar Inaugural Year

The Brief

August 01, 2012

Kathleen Strickland discusses disaster preparedness

Be Prepared for When Disaster Strikes

KCBA Bar Bulletin

January 26, 2012

Kathleen Strickland offers views on natural disaster preparedness

Interview with Kenneth Feinberg

ABA TIPS Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force Blog

January 09, 2012

Kathleen Strickland interviews Feinberg about disaster response

September 11th, Ten Years Later, Where Are We in the Handling of Mass Claims Within the Legal System?

ABA TIPS Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force Blog

September 12, 2011

Kathleen Strickland reviews legal changes post-9/11

European Union's REACH Will Affect All Manufacturers, Users of Chemicals

BNA, Inc. Chemical Regulation Reporter

May 21, 2007

Kathleen Strickland gives insight on environmental regulations

European Union's REACH Will Affect All Manufacturers, Users of Chemicals

BNA, Inc. International Environmental Reporter

May 16, 2007

Kathleen Strickland discussed the implications of EU environmental policies

FDA Final Rule on Prescription Drug Labeling

Food and Drug Law

March 01, 2006

Kathleen Strickland reviews the FDA's amended requirements for Rx drugs

Case Management in 2004: Practical Guide for Mass Tort Practitioners

BNA, Inc. Class Action Litigation

December 10, 2004

Kathleen Strickland gives an overview of case management strategies

Litigation 101: A Huge Toxic Tort Case Provides Lessons in Litigation and Case Management

The Recorder

May 03, 2004

Kathleen Strickland discusses case management

The Substantial Factor Analysis as Applied to Environmental Toxic Torts Post-Asbestos

Shepard's Expert and Scientific Evidence Quarterly

June 01, 1996

Kathleen Strickland gives insight on factor analysis in toxic tort cases