



Jill M. Lawrie

Partner | Toronto

jill.lawrie@blakes.com

Toronto: 416-863-3082



Jill's litigation and dispute resolution practice focuses on the defence of class actions and other complex claims related to product liability, negligence, contract and consumer protection. Jill is co-lead of the Firm's Consumer Protection Group. She has acted for clients involved in numerous industries, including manufacturers of medical devices, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and all manner of food and consumer products, as well as for professional service organizations, financial institutions and insurers.

Jill is regularly asked to provide proactive advice to corporations on product warnings, recalls and litigation risks including advice related to a wide variety of regulatory regimes and regulatory tribunals. Much of her litigation experience has been gained in large, document-intensive cases involving complex financial, technical, scientific and medical issues, often with a cross-border or multi-jurisdictional focus. She has appeared at all levels of the courts in Ontario, as well as the Supreme Court of Canada.

SELECT EXPERIENCE

- Lead counsel to a leading manufacturer of medical solutions to restore pelvic health in class and individual actions alleging negligent design, manufacture and warning
- Lead counsel to a multinational pharmaceutical company in a proposed class action alleging failure to warn
- Lead counsel to a defendant in a class action seeking the recovery of funds invested in a third party's fraudulent scheme
- Trial counsel in the first medical products class action (146 trial days) to go to trial in Ontario obtaining a trial ruling dismissing the action for one of the world's leading manufacturers of life-saving cardiac devices in a national class action claiming more than a billion dollars in damages alleging negligent design, manufacture and recall (awarded 2013 Canadian Product Liability Case of the Year by *LMG Life Sciences*)
- Counsel to a major North American bank in a class action alleging the receipt of interest on credit card transactions in excess of the maximum permitted by law
- Counsel to a leading manufacturer of defibrillators in a class action alleging negligent design, manufacture and warning
- Canadian member of worldwide counsel network for a leading international confectionary company providing proactive advice on litigation risks and defending product liability claims
- Counsel to a North American vehicle manufacturer in a class action alleging negligent design, testing and manufacture

- Counsel to a leading consumer goods manufacturer in a class action alleging negligence, warranty and breaches of consumer protection laws
- Appeal counsel in two noteworthy decisions in the Supreme Court of Canada

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Jill is recognized as a leading lawyer in the following publications:

- *The Best Lawyers in Canada* (2016-2020 - Class Action Litigation and Product Liability Law; 2015 - Class Action Litigation)
- *Who's Who Legal: Product Liability Defence 2019*: Jill Lawrie is "a wonderful lawyer" who garners much adulation from observers in the space this year. She is "a go-to individual" for matters involving issues such as negligent design and failure to warn.
- *Chambers Canada: Canada's Leading Lawyers for Business* (2019 - Nationwide (Band 2) and included as a Notable Practitioner in the Firm's Band 1 ranking for Litigation - Products Liability - described by the market as "substantively strong" and "has very good litigation instinct and is not afraid to be creative or innovative in litigation strategy"; 2018 - Litigation: Nationwide (Band 3) and included as a Notable Practitioner in the Firm's Band 1 ranking for Products Liability - described by the market as "very strong in that space"; 2017 - Litigation: Nationwide (Band 3) and included as a Notable Practitioner in the Firm's Band 1 ranking for Products Liability; and 2016 - Litigation: Products Liability - Praised for her case management, one source said: "I would trust her with any sizeable matter with no problem - she is really talented.")
- *Acritas Stars 2018: Independently Rated Lawyer* (Nominated as a stand-out lawyer by senior in-house counsel)
- *Benchmark Canada: The Definitive Guide to Canada's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys* (2014-2018 - various Litigation Star recognitions in Class Action, General Commercial and Product Liability)
- *The Canadian Lexpert Legal Directory* (2019 - Consistently Recommended; 2015-2018 - Repeatedly Recommended in Litigation - Product Liability)
- *Who's Who Legal Canada: Product Liability* (2015-2019)
- *Who's Who Legal Canada: Life Sciences* (2015-2019) - "Jill Lawrie is a 'wonderful lawyer' who garners much adulation from observers in the space this year. She is 'a go-to individual' for matters involving issues such as negligent designs and failure to warn."
- *Benchmark Litigation's "Top 25 Women in Canadian Litigation"* (2014 (inaugural) and 2015-2018)
- Legal Media Group's *Guide to the World's Leading Women in Business Law* (2012-2018 - Product Liability)
- Legal Media Group's *Guide to the World's Leading Product Liability Lawyers* (2016-2018)
- *LMG Life Sciences: The Definitive Guide to the Leading Life Sciences Firms and Attorneys in North America* (2013-2018 - Life Sciences Star - Product Liability)
- Benchmark Canada Product Liability Litigator of the Year (2017)
- LMG Life Sciences Awards: Canadian Product Liability Attorney of the Year (2018)

PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCES

Speaker: Post Certification but Pre-Trial...

14th National Symposium on Class Actions, Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, Ontario, April 6, 2017.

Speaker: The Threshold for Admissibility of Scientific Evidence

Science, Evidence and Persuasion: Mastering Science in the Courtroom, The Advocates' Society, Toronto, Ontario, December 9, 2016.

Speaker: Class Action Risk

Beyond Cards: Evolving Regulation of Payments, Blakes Business Class Seminar, Toronto, Ontario, October 20, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Jill has written on many topics, both legal and practical, relating to product liability and class actions. She also regularly participates as a speaker at professional and industry seminars on issues related to product liability and class actions and has taught courses in trial practice at Osgoode Hall Law School.

Jill is a member of The Advocates' Society, the Defence Research Institute, the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel and the International Association of Defense Counsel.

EDUCATION

Admitted to the Ontario Bar - 1993

LL.B., University of Western Ontario - 1991

B.A. (Political Science), York University - 1989