



The Legal 500 series — the world's largest legal referral guide. The following excerpts regarding Chadbourne & Parke are taken from the 2009 edition of the US Legal 500.

“Clients speak of the practice as being generally ‘outstanding’, ‘excellent’ or ‘terrific in the product liability space’”

Product liability and mass tort defense: consumer products (including tobacco)

The Practice: *‘You know you are going to get an aggressive defense,’* according to clients of Chadbourne & Parke LLP’s products liability counseling and defense practice. The attorneys have *‘technical expertise’* and *‘their intellectual horsepower is excellent’*. According to clients, the practice offers *‘top-notch’* and *‘world-class representation,’* and *‘if you want serious representation in New York, you’d put Chadbourne & Parke LLP top of the list’*. 34 US attorneys — in New York and Los Angeles — and eight more internationally, plus two full-time scientific consultants, staff a good-sized practice and one that represents numerous industries — its primary representations involve tobacco and alcohol, but it has some engagements with cosmetics and consumer electronics clients. The practice will miss Thomas Bezanson — *‘a true gentleman’* and *‘an extraordinarily talented trial lawyer’* — who recently retired from the partnership after 34 years.

Clients speak of the practice as being generally *‘outstanding,’ ‘excellent’* or *‘terrific in the product liability space,’* providing *‘breadth of experience’* and *‘excellent client service’* and *‘long-term strategic thinking’*. It is a practice that is universally respected and one with substantial depth.

Recent representations include Jim Beam Brands in relation to litigation concerning alleged advertising of alcoholic beverages to underage drinkers. Five putative class actions were dismissed in 2007, decisions upheld on appeal. The practice represents Avon Products as product

liability and toxic tort counsel and, in the former capacity, obtained summary judgment dismissal of a case pending in the New York Supreme Court. *‘World-class in tobacco litigation,’* the practice is appealing against the decision in the Eastern District of New York to certify nationwide class action in the Lights cigarettes consumer fraud litigation. Chadbourne & Parke LLP lawyers are representing British American Tobacco, the same client for which the practice successfully obtained dismissal from a consolidated action in West Virginia — a case which remains active against other defendants.

The Clients: Other representations include Brown & Williamson, Fortune Brands, Gallaher and Samsung Electronics.

The Individuals: All of the recommended lawyers are based in New York. Clients admire *‘wonderful’* Donald Strauber — *‘his signal quality is the maturity of his judgment’* and he has a record of *‘outstanding success on product liability matters brought to verdict’*. He forged his reputation winning Jim Beam’s cases in fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) litigation, and he is considered the alcohol industry’s go-to figure for liability defense. Thomas Riley, Bruce Sheffler and Phoebe Wilkinson are highly rated by clients, who say that each produces *‘great product liability work’* and *‘great strategic analysis’*. Wilkinson is *‘a deeply committed lawyer’*. Mary Yelenick is *‘very responsive’* and clients say her work is *‘very high quality’*. David Wallace is also recommended.