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The following excerpts regarding Chadbourne & Parke are taken from the 2010 edition of the US Legal 500.

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

**The Practice:** The products liability counseling and defense practice at Chadbourne & Parke LLP is ‘truly excellent in every respect’ and ‘the best in this area.’ It provides ‘superb knowledge, advice, responsiveness and value.’ The practice fields 34 US attorneys of the highest caliber in New York and Los Angeles, and several others internationally. Its main focuses are tobacco and alcohol, but instructions for other industries such as cosmetics and consumer electronics lend the practice broader perspective. ‘Very solid on the merits and substance of a case,’ the group exhibits ‘sound business acumen and commercial sense, yet is fully conversant on the intricacies of legal theories.’ Clients consistently view the practice as being good value for money.

The firm is longstanding national product liability counsel to Jim Beam Brands for alcohol litigation, and in 2009 continued to fight claims that alcoholic beverages are improperly marketed to underage drinkers, with putative class actions dismissed in seven jurisdictions. The practice successfully argued a motion to dismiss a putative class action against Samsung alleging consumer fraud in relation to certain laser printers. The firm also moved to dismiss a similar class action. Both lawsuits were filed in federal court for the District of New Jersey.

**The Clients:** The practice represents both British American Tobacco (BAT) and Brown & Williamson. In 2009, it earned an appellate win in New York, in which the state appellate court reversed a \$4m punitive damages award against Brown & Williamson. It was the first New York appellate ruling to address the issue of safeguards to due process in awarding punitive damages. The firm is representing BAT as a co-defendant in a Missouri state court action by more than 50 hospitals seeking reimbursement of healthcare costs incurred treating smoking-related illnesses.

**The Individuals:** Donald Strauber is ‘the dean of the bar for alcohol liability,’ having for decades defended the alcohol industry. Strauber, Phoebe Wilkinson and Mary Yelenick are ‘great strategists, tacticians, and writers.’ Similarly, practice head Garyowen Morrisroe and Thomas Riley are ‘great long-term strategists.’ David Wallace and of counsel Bruce Sheffler are also recommended. All of the recommended lawyers are based in New York.