MASLONLLP



STEPHANIE M. LAWS

Partner
Co-Chair of Tort & Product Liability Group

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OVERVIEW

Stephanie Laws is a practical problem solver who represents businesses in product liability and complex civil litigation in federal and state courts nationwide. She also conducts internal investigations and helps companies respond to government enforcement actions. Stephanie's product liability bandwidth spans multiple industries, with particular focus on defense of FDA-regulated products. She is an experienced litigator who has handled cases from fact investigation through jury verdict. She has significant experience managing large-scale document collections and productions as well as e-discovery issues, both in one-off cases and across coordinated portfolios. Stephanie leverages insights from multiple client secondments to develop efficient legal strategies that are custom tailored to fit business needs.

Stephanie is also deeply engaged with pro bono work. She partnered with Maslon attorney Steve Schleicher in his role as special prosecutor for the state of Minnesota in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, providing integral support to the state's use-of-force case. Stephanie also serves on Maslon's Pro Bono Committee and maintains an active practice, including representing victims of domestic violence seeking orders for protection against their abusers and representing asylum seekers, among other endeavors.

Prior to joining Maslon, Stephanie was a litigation defense attorney at two large national firms. Stephanie graduated *cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2012 and earned her bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

- Successfully defended Polaroid against a $300 million breach of contract dispute brought by one of its former licensees, C&A Marketing, winning a complete defense verdict after a two-week jury trial in Hennepin County.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Litigation
- Business Litigation
- Investigations & White Collar Defense
- Tort & Product Liability

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota

Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court
- Minnesota
- Pennsylvania, E.D.

U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eighth Circuit

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Law School
J.D., *cum laude*, 2012

University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2007
English

- Represented leading global medical device manufacturer in lawsuits involving variety of complex medical devices in state and federal courts across the country.
- Investigated major hospital system's compliance with the Controlled Substances Act and reporting obligations to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.
- Investigated hospital employee's patient interactions to determine necessary adverse employment actions and reporting obligations under federal and state law.
- Investigated healthcare facility's data security breach resulting in disclosure of Protected Health Information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.
- Investigated a security company holding a multimillion-dollar contract at a major NFL venue on behalf of a worldwide venue management company.
- Sole outside counsel representing global leading medical device company in year-long internal audit involving large-scale document collection and production.
- Part of team that successfully defended medical transportation provider accused of conducting multimillion-dollar conspiracy to commit healthcare fraud during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *Gordon R. Golden, et al. v. Medtronic, Inc.*, et al., No. 17-CV-30568 (Colo. Dist. Ct.). Secured full dismissal of all claims involving pre-market approved medical device on preemption grounds—without any mandatory authority in Colorado state court.
- *Waldo v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, No. Civ. S-13-0789, 2013 WL 5554623 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 8, 2013). Secured dismissal of majority of claims alleging birth defects were caused by pharmaceutical product, significantly reducing scope of discovery.
- *Eklund v. Medtronic, Inc.*, *et al.*, No. 27-CV-17-18038, Fourth Judicial District Court, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Successfully excluded plaintiff's expert and won full summary judgment in a high-exposure product liability matter alleging a teenager's medical device was defective and caused a motor vehicle accident that left him paraplegic.

Pro Bono

- Pro bono representation of low-income individuals seeking Orders for Protection against domestic partners.
- Pro bono representation of LGBTQ+ individuals fleeing persecution in their home countries.

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

- International Association of Defense Counsel: Vice Chair of Rule 702, Product Liability Committee
- American Bar Association
- Minnesota State Bar Association
- Hennepin County Bar Association
- Minnesota Women Lawyers: Partner Leadership Council, 2019-2021
- ABA Death Penalty Representation Project: Volunteer Attorney
- The Advocates for Human Rights: Volunteer Attorney
- Defended local food bank against multiple employment-related claims brought by former employee.
- Community Legal Services of Philadelphia: Past Volunteer. Assisted low-income Philadelphia residents with applications for federal disability benefits.

SELECTED HONORS

- **Ranked Band 1 in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business***, Product Liability Litigation, Minnesota, 2026
- **Selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch**, 2021-2025 (*These awards recognize attorneys, who are earlier in their careers, for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States.*)
- **40 Under 40 Honoree**, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*, 2025
- **Invited to join the International Association of Defense Counsel**, 2023

- **Up & Coming Attorney**, *Minnesota Lawyer,* 2022
- **Recognized on Minnesota Super Lawyers® list**, 2023-2026 (*Minnesota Super Lawyers® is a designation given to only 5% of Minnesota attorneys each year, based on a selection process that includes the recommendation of peers in the legal profession.*)
- **Recognized on Minnesota Rising Stars list as part of the Super Lawyers® selection process**, 2018-2022 *(Minnesota Rising Stars is a designation given to only 2.5% of Minnesota attorneys each year, based on a selection process that includes the recommendation of peers in the legal profession.)*
- **Light of Justice Award**, Texas Defender Service, 2018
- **Top Women Attorneys in Minnesota® list**, 2019-2025 *(The annual edition of the Top Women Attorneys in Minnesota list features attorneys selected for the previous year's Minnesota Super Lawyers® and Rising Stars lists.)*
- **Recognized as a Top Lawyer**, *Minnesota Monthly*, 2024 (The research for the Top Lawyers list, created by Professional Research Services, is based on an online peer-review survey sent to all attorneys in Minnesota.)
- **North Star Lawyer**, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2017-2022, 2024 *(North Star Lawyer is a designation that recognizes members who provide 50 hours or more of pro bono legal services in a calendar year.)*
- **Pro Bono Award**, for commitment to pro bono service, Maslon LLP, 2022

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Reading the Jury Room: Defense Tactics That Win Cases,” panelist, Product Liability Roundtable, International Association of Drilling Contractors, 2026
- "From Code to Courtroom: The Growing Risk from AI Products," presenter, and "Raids, Rights, and Repercussions: Lessons from Operation Metro Surge," panelist, Spring Litigation Program, The Trial Network, 2026
- "From Labels to Links: Defending Product Warnings and Instructions in the Digital Age," ACC MN Second Annual Manufacturing Summit Sponsored by Maslon, 2025
- "GenAI: Separating Hype from Reality," co-presenter, The Trial Network, 2025
- "More Warnings, More Problems? Failure-to-Warn Claims in the Digital Age," The Trial Network Top Gun Litigation Program, 2024
- "The Growing Risk Posed by Public Interest Litigation," panelist, The Trial Network Top Gun Litigation Program, 2024
- "Attempts to Rebrand Product Liability Claims Is the Real Nuisance Here - Public Nuisance, The New Product Liability Super Tort," panelist, Product Liability Roundtable, International Association of Defense Counsel, 2024
- "New Rule 702: Everything You Need to Know About the Admissibility of Expert Testimony," The Trial Network, 2024
- "Preparing For and Taking the Fact or Rule 30(b)(6) Witness Deposition," co-presenter, Minnesota CLE, 2024
- "Things to Consider as You Prepare for Your First Trial," International Association of Defense Counsel, 2024
- "Big Brother Is Suing You - Trends in Government Enforcement Actions," panelist, Napa Litigation SuperCourse, The Trial Network, 2023
- "Conducting Efficient Internal Investigations," Association of Corporate Counsel Minnesota Chapter, 2023
- "Write Smart: Coaching Employees on How to Avoid Creating the Internal Document from Hell," co-presenter, ACC Minnesota, 2023
- Maslon Partners Steve Schleicher, Stephanie Laws, and Melissa Muro LaMere to Present at the Trial Network's In-House and Outside Counsel: In Sync and In Person National Conference
- "COVID-19 Impacts and Innovations for Manufacturing Companies," moderator, Minneapolis Products Liability SuperCourse, Association of Corporate Counsel Minnesota Chapter and The Trial Network, 2021
- "When Are Communications with Experts Exempt from Discovery?" Pressure on the Privilege, Minnesota CLE, 2019
- "Surviving the Waves: Implied, Express, and Subject Matter Waivers of Attorney-Client Privilege," 2017

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- "From Code to Courtroom – The Growing Risk from AI Products," co-author, Spring Litigation Program, The Trial Network, 2026
- "5 Mistakes to Avoid in Responding to a Government Investigation," co-author, *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2025
- "New Rule 702: Everything You Need to Know About the Admissibility of Expert Testimony," The Trial Network, 2024
- "Big Brother Is Suing You - Trends in Government Enforcement Actions," co-author, The Trial Network, 2023
- Featured In "Breaking the Ice: 'Serendipity' boosts career, IADC selection," *Minnesota Lawyer*, 2023
- "Ten Steps to Avoid Creating the Internal Document from Hell," co-author, Association of Corporate Counsel, 2023
- "Snap Removal: Key Practical Considerations," Product Liability Litigation newsletter, American Bar Association, 2023
- "Why These Minnesota Diehards Are Rooting for Wisconsin: Rennick and the Learned Intermediary Doctrine," *Drug & Device Law* blog, 2021
- "Manufacturers Face Evolving COVID-19 Legal Challenges," Law360, 2021