

Amy E. Furness

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Overview

Amy Furness is a trial lawyer who has dedicated her career to defending diverse clients, including both domestic and foreign corporations, in complex civil litigation, particularly product liability and commercial litigation. She defends product manufacturers in all forms of cases in the pharmaceutical, aviation, chemical, tobacco, and consumer product industries. In addition to her extensive pharmaceutical and medical device litigation defense experience, she has defended manufacturers of cigarettes, yacht engines, automobile and aircraft engines, and propane tanks.

Amy has served as national coordinating counsel on numerous mass tort matters, including a significant litigation for a pharmaceutical company involving nearly 14,000 plaintiffs, with over 10,000 cases pending in federal courts and nearly 4,000 cases pending in state courts. She also has served as regional counsel on a variety of complex civil matters. Amy is a frequent lecturer on product liability and professional liability matters.

Prior to joining Carlton Fields, Amy served as in-house counsel with the environmental claims division of a national insurance company. That experience offered her unique insight into the corporate demands of an in-house legal department, and she remains mindful of the needs and pressures clients face daily.

Before entering law school, Amy was a research engineer. Her scientific education and technical experience informs her law practice today.

Experience

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

- Select trials include: *Bayless v. Boston Scientific Corp. & Coloplast Corp.*, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida. Coloplast's first trial of a pelvic mesh case in the country involving product liability claims arising out of pelvic floor reconstructive surgery augmented with a surgical implant to treat pelvic organ prolapse.
- Defending manufacturer of hernia repair product in litigation alleging personal injuries resulting from product defects.
- Defending manufacturers of FDA-approved prescription opioid medications in suits filed by state and local governments as well as third-party payors across the state of Florida.
- Defending manufacturer of prescription medicine used to treat advanced-stage lung cancer in wrongful death lawsuit.
- National coordinating counsel representing pharmaceutical company in diet drug litigation. Defended client and coordinated counsel in nearly every state.
- Defended manufacturer of surgical implantation of Class III medical device approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration pursuant to the rigorous product development protocol process and obtained dismissal based on express preemption.
- Defended pharmaceutical company and sponsor of double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study in wrongful death lawsuit.

Children's Products

- Representing manufacturer of recalled products in personal injury and wrongful death litigation pending in coordinated state court proceedings in California and Delaware.

Tobacco

- Defended cigarette manufacturer in personal injury and wrongful death actions. Select tobacco trials include:
 - *Ballard v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, Miami-Dade County, Florida. Former smoker claiming compensatory damages for bladder cancer caused by addiction to cigarettes containing nicotine.
 - *Reese v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, Miami-Dade County, Florida. Current smoker claiming compensatory and punitive damages for throat cancer and COPD caused by addiction to cigarettes containing nicotine.
 - *Allen v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Wrongful death action seeking damages for cancer caused by addiction to cigarettes. Defense verdict.

Commercial Disputes Involving Product Manufacturers

- Defended worldwide manufacturer of propulsion system used on cruise lines. Served as lead counsel in commercial litigation involving the joint venture and was responsible for recovery of economic damages due to misrepresentations made about the lifetime and reliability of parts used in the propulsion system.
- Represented aircraft engine manufacturer in litigation against component part manufacturers regarding abnormal and premature failure of engine bearings. Responsible for all aspects of litigation as well as two recall programs, warranty returns, and mandatory replacement program for customers.

Aviation

- Select trials include: *Castillo v. Teledyne Continental Motors, Inc.*, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. Five consolidated wrongful death actions alleging failure of private aircraft's component parts and involving fatal crash in San Luis, Peten, Guatemala.
- Defended aircraft engine manufacturer in litigation involving the Death on the High Seas Act where engine design defects were alleged cause of fatal crash in Greenland.
- Defended aircraft engine manufacturer in trial involving aircraft crash in Guatemala resulting in the death of five on board. Obtained defense verdict.
- Defended aircraft engine manufacturer in litigation and obtained dismissal of action based on Florida's statute of repose and the General Aviation Revitalization Act.
- *Eberli v. Cirrus Design Corp.*, 615 F. Supp. 2d 1357 (S.D. Fla.) (motion to limit/preclude experts).
- *Eberli v. Cirrus Design Corp.*, 615 F. Supp. 2d 1369 (S.D. Fla.) (commercial aviation exception).

Environmental

- Lead counsel and member of trial team representing chemical company in defense of a class action involving private party cleanup of Superfund site in Miami-Dade County.

Medical Malpractice

- Defended cosmetic company involved in medical malpractice action involving Botox injections.
- Defended pharmaceutical company involved in medical malpractice action involving experimental drug study.
- Defended third-party bad faith claim arising out of a medical malpractice action involving 11-month-old brain-damaged child.

Areas of Focus

Practices

- [Mass Tort and Product Liability](#)

Industries

- Litigation and Trials
- Cybersecurity and Privacy
- Representations and Warranty Insurance
- Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices
- Aviation
- Property & Casualty Insurance

Insights

07.12.2017

Your Apps May Be Selling You Out

03.22.2016

Food for Thought: Sixth Circuit Affirms Dismissal of Class Action Complaints Against Anheuser-Busch for Intentionally Overstating Alcohol Content of its Malt Beverages

04.06.2009

California Green Chemistry Program

12.12.2002

Gender Equality in the Legal Profession, Practicing with Professionalism Handbook

12.12.2002

Pro Bono for Paralegals Reference Guide

News

02.01.2024

Amy Furness Recognized as a 2024 “Power 250 Leader”

07.27.2023

Who’s Who Legal Names Carlton Fields Attorneys to 2023 Lists

07.15.2023

Amy Furness Mentioned in Miami's Community News: "Greater Miami Chamber Announces 2023-24 Board Officers, Directors"

06.27.2023

Amy Furness Named Chair of Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

01.20.2023

Carlton Fields Hosts Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2023 Developers Forum

06.28.2022

Carlton Fields' Amy E. Furness Named Vice Chair of Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

01.31.2022

Carlton Fields Attorneys Recognized as South Florida Business Journal 2022 Power Leaders

09.20.2021

Office Snapshot: Carlton Fields' Miami Location

06.29.2021

Carlton Fields' Amy E. Furness Named First Vice Chair of Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

01.29.2021

Carlton Fields Attorneys Recognized as South Florida Business Journal 2021 Power Leaders

01.14.2021

Asst. U.S. Attorney Vanessa Singh Johannes Joins Carlton Fields in Miami

11.18.2020

Carlton Fields' New Miami Office in 2 MiamiCentral Featured in the Media

11.17.2020

Carlton Fields Miami Office Relocates to 2 MiamiCentral

03.13.2020

Carlton Fields' Amy E. Furness Honored as One of South Florida's 2020 Influential Business Women

02.10.2020

Carlton Fields Adds Immigration Attorney Federico M. Maciá in Miami

02.04.2020

Carlton Fields Attorneys Recognized as 2020 Power Leaders

11.12.2019

Carlton Fields' Amy E. Furness Elected Vice President – Sustaining of PLAC

06.28.2019

For the Defense: Carlton Fields' Amy Furness Featured on Cover of Business Magazine

05.02.2019

Prominent Bankruptcy Attorney David L. Gay Joins Carlton Fields in Miami

03.05.2019

Carlton Fields to Move Miami Office to MiamiCentral

03.05.2019

Carlton Fields Completes 50,000-Square-Foot Lease with 2 MiamiCentral

02.01.2019

Carlton Fields Attorneys Recognized As "Power Leaders"

12.03.2018

Renowned Litigator Lee Stapleton Joins Carlton Fields in Miami

12.03.2018

Litigator Lee Stapleton Joins Carlton Fields

06.01.2018

Carlton Fields Outlines Practice Group Expansion Plans

10.24.2017

Jeffrey A. Cohen and Amy E. Furness Speak About Managing Data Breaches at PLAC Fall Conference

09.26.2017

Carlton Fields Strengthens South Florida Real Estate Practice with Addition of Miami City Commissioner Francis X. Suarez

08.31.2017

Carlton Fields Bolsters Its South Florida Real Estate and Commercial Finance Practice with Addition of Brian A. Hart

01.02.2017

Carlton Fields Attorneys Named to the 2017 "South Florida Legal Guide"

Recognition

- South Florida Power Leaders, *South Florida Business Journal* (2019–2022)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2019–2025)
- *Who's Who Legal: Product Liability Defence* (2023–2024)
- *Who's Who Legal: Transport – Aviation Contentious* (2023–2024)
- Top Lawyers, *South Florida Legal Guide* (2021–2022)
- Influential Business Women of 2020, *South Florida Business Journal* (2020)
- "[Law: For the Defense](#)," *Florida Trend* (July 2019)

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
 - Section of Litigation

- Product Liability Advisory Council (PLAC)
 - Vice President – Sustaining, Board of Directors (2019–2022)
 - Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors (2017–2019)
- DRI
- The Florida Bar
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
 - Board of Directors (2016–present)
 - Chair (2023–present)
 - Chair-Elect (2022–2023)
 - Executive Committee (2020–present)
 - Co-Chair, Senior Executive Orientation Program (2016–2020)

Speaking Engagements

- "“Betting” on Collaboration Tools and Navigating the Discovery Challenges they Present," Association of Corporate Counsel South Florida’s 12th Annual CLE Conference (September 16, 2022)
- "Health Related Research and Effectiveness of CBD" and "Failure to Warn and Class Action Claims," CBD Seminar, PLAC, Miami, FL (January 15, 2020)
- "Data Breaches and Cybersecurity Planning – Best Practices in Managing the Risk," Product Liability Advisory Council Fall Conference, Irving, TX (October 18, 2017)
- “Products Liability Year in Review,” ABA Environmental, Mass Torts, and Products Liability Joint CLE (January 2016)
- “The Ethics and Business of Law,” Dade County Defense Bar Association Annual Ethics Symposium (October 2015)
- “Law Firm Marketing and Management,” Dade County Bar Association Bench and Bar Conference (February 2015)
- “The Extraordinary Case of *Chevron Corp. v. Steve Donziger*,” Product Liability Advisory Council (October 2014)
- "The Business Case for Diversity and Flexibility," Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association, Caribbean Bar Association, The Florida Bar, and Diversity and Flexibility Alliance (July 2014).
- "Recent Applications of the General Aviation Revitalization Act," National Institute on Aviation Litigation (June 2014)
- Co-Chair, ABA and National Institute on Aviation Litigation Seminar, New York, NY (2013)
- Faculty Member, ABA’s Trial Advocacy Program for Legal Services Attorneys at the University of Tennessee College of Law (2012)

- “Opening Statements – No Second Chances: How to Make Your Best First Impression With a Skeptical Jury,” ABA and National Institute on Aviation Litigation Seminar, New York, NY (2012)
- Faculty Member, ABA’s Trial Advocacy Program for Legal Services Attorneys at the University of Miami School of Law (2008)
- “Evaluating Cause and Effect of Certain Chemicals,” ACI Chemical Products Liability Litigation Seminar, Chicago, IL (2006)
- “Networking and Client Development 101: It’s Easier Than You Think,” ABA Women’s’ Interest Network, Miami, FL (2006)
- “The Growing Role of Mediation in the Americas,” ABA Section of International Law Fall Meeting, Miami, FL (2006)

Pro Bono

- Member of Election Protection
 - A national, nonpartisan coalition formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.
- Past Chair of the Legal Command Center for Miami-Dade County Election Protection Coalition

Credentials

Education

- Widener University School of Law (J.D., 1991)
- Drexel University (B.S., 1988)

Bar Admissions

- Florida
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Background

- Former in-house counsel for environmental claims division of Reliance Insurance in Pennsylvania.
- Former research engineer with United Engineers in Pennsylvania.