

Nicholas P. Vari

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Nicholas Vari has 35 years of experience defending asbestos personal injury and product liability claims in trial-level and appellate courts across the United States, having represented parties and amicus curiae in over 50 appeals in federal and state courts across the United States. He also counsels clients on strategic and case management aspects of defending mass tort and repetitive tort claims across multiple jurisdictions.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

For more than three decades, Nick has helped mass tort defendants navigate the issues that companies face when dealing with multitudes of personal injury claims in multiple forums. In addition to framing the substantive defenses that are litigated in the context of individual claims and presenting and preserving those defenses through the trial and appellate processes, Nick advises companies on a broad range of issues regarding developing and maintaining case management and defense efficiencies, insurer relations/reporting, legislative affairs, and transactional matters. His subject-matter knowledge has led him to argue numerous state supreme court and federal circuit appeals, testify on mass tort topics before federal and state legislative bodies, and speak before numerous academic and professional development audiences. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America in the area of Mass Tort Litigation/Defense and by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers in the area of Class Actions/Mass Torts. He serves as a Senior Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America.

Nick has appeared on clients' behalf in courtrooms across the country, including those in California, New York, Illinois, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania. He has represented clients in nine federal circuit courts of appeal, and has argued before various state supreme courts and intermediate-level courts of appeal. His courtroom work has ranged from conducting discovery through trying cases before judges, jurors, and arbitration panels, arguing appeals, and negotiating settlements involving thousands of claims. This background, when combined with over two decades of experience managing national defense litigation, provides him with a unique perspective on both the legal and business aspects of effectively managing a mass tort docket. Nick's community service extends to serving as Trustee for the Holy Family Foundation, and assisting clients on pro bono matters.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Listed in the *Best Lawyers in America*® (2014-2023)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list (2014-2016)
- Litigation Counsel of America (Fellow)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Perrin Conferences Cutting-Edge Issues in Asbestos Litigation Conference, Beverly Hills, CA (6-7 March 2023)
- Perrin Conferences National Asbestos Litigation Conference, San Francisco, CA (27-29 September 2021)
- Panelist, “The Economics of Docket and Court Resource Management: Innovative Approaches to Preserving Standards of Fairness and Justice While Managing Dockets and Court Resources Affected by COVID-related Impacts on Court Procedures”, Law & Economics Center at George Mason University Fifteenth Meeting of American College of Business Court Judges, Savannah, GA (29 October 2020)
- Panelist, “Managing Dockets and Judicial Resources During COVID-19 While Preserving Standards of Fairness and Justice”, George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School Civil Justice Fest, Virtual (9 November 2020)
- Panelist, “Asbestos Litigation: Lasting Perversions of Common Law”, Law & Economics Center at George Mason University Ninth Annual Judicial Symposium on Civil Justice Issues, Arlington, VA (2 June 2015)
- Testified – United States House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Hearing on H.R. 526 – The Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2015 (4 February 2015)
- Speaker, ACI – 13th Annual Advanced Forum on Asbestos Claims & Litigation, Philadelphia, PA (2013, 2016)
- Speaker, Perrin – Cutting Edge Issues in Asbestos Litigation Conference – Los Angeles, CA, (2012-15)
- Speaker, ACI – Annual Advanced Forum on Asbestos Claims & Litigation, Chicago, IL (2013-15)
- 1st Annual Asbestos Litigation Strategies ExecuSummit, Uncasville, CT (2014)
- Speaker, Perrin – Asbestos Litigation Conference A National Overview & Outlook – San Francisco, CA, (2012-13, 2015)
- Speaker, ALI/ABA – Third-Party Liability in Product Liability Cases: Impact of California's O'Neil v. Crane Co. (2012)
- Testified – Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee Hearing House Bill 1150 (April 8, 2013) (Fairness in Asbestos Claims Transparency Act)
- Speaker, PBI Fundamental of Civil Procedure – Pittsburgh, PA 2010-2012 (also 2005 and 2008)

- Speaker, Perrin – Litigating Asbestos Cases in Today's Economic Environment – New York, NY, (2011)
- Testified – Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee Hearing House Bill 1, Harrisburg, PA, (March 29, 2011)
- Speaker, Harris Martin – Pennsylvania Asbestos Litigation Conference – Philadelphia, PA, (2010)
- Speaker, Perrin – Asbestos Bankruptcy Conference – Chicago, IL, (2010)
- Speaker, HB – Northeast Judicial Forum on Asbestos – New York, NY, (2009)
- Speaker, HB – National Asbestos Litigation Conference – San Francisco, CA, (2009)
- Speaker, Lorman – Contract Litigation From A to Z in Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh, PA, (2006)

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Akron School of Law, 1990 *(summa cum laude; managing editor, Akron Law Review)*
- B.S.B.A., University of Akron, 1987 *(finance, cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 24 September 2025, Recent Appellate Opinion Offers Litigants Reason to Revisit the Application Of "Product Line" Successor Liability in Asbestos Cases

- 12 April 2024, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Hears Argument to Preclude Occupational Disease Claims Against Former Employers

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Moved by a SCOTUS Dissent, PA High Court Invites More Lawsuits With Specific-Jurisdiction Ruling, Washington Legal Foundation, 8 January 2021
- New Jersey Supreme Court Issues Compelling Precedent Removing Hearsay Bar to Third-Party-Fault Evidence, Washington Legal Foundation, 15 November 2019
- "Companies dragged into Pennsylvania courts get ammo with recent federal decision: SCOTUS intervention a possibility," Pennsylvania Record, 2 July 2019
- "Toward a Fairer Case Management Order: Four Keys for New York City's Asbestos Docket", Legal Backgrounder, Vol. 30 No. 27 (Washington Legal Foundation), 6 November 2015
- "FACT Act Testimony Begins in House Subcommittee," Washington Examiner, 4 February 2015
- Asbestos Attorneys Face Off At Hearing Over Claim Transparency, Law 360.com, 4 February 2015
- Pa. En Banc Panel Boots $14.5M Asbestos Verdict", Law360.com, 23 December 2014
- "High Court Pressured to Send Asbestos Suit to Fed. Court", Law360.com, 19 December 2014
- "2nd Cir. Keeps Crane Co. Asbestos Suit in Federal Court", Law360.com, 13 November 2014
- "Navy Workers Ask High Court to Remand Asbestos Cases," Law360.com, 8 August 2014
- "Asbestos Claimants Fire Back As Charlotte Bankruptcy Case Draws National Attention," WFAE (Charlotte, NC NPR affiliate) 23 July 2014 (audio available at wfae.org)
- "Asbestos Defense Attorneys publish article to clear up 'every exposure' confusion," Washington Examiner, 3 April 2014
- "State Courts Move To Dismiss 'Every Exposure' Liability Theory in Asbestos Lawsuits," Legal Backgrounder, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Washington Legal Foundation), 28 February 2014
- "Pennsylvania Cases to Watch in 2014," Law360.com, 1, January 2014
- "Pa. Appeals Court Junks $14.5M Asbestos Verdict," Law360.com, 6 September 2013
- "8th Cir. Says Alcoa Injury Plaintiff Can't Switch Venues," Law360.com (March 6, 2013)
- "In a League of Its Own: Restoring Pennsylvania Product Liability Law to the Prevailing Modern 'Attitude' of the Tort Law," Widener Law Journal, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2013
- "State High Court Solidifies Tort Liability Law's 'Component Part Supplier' Doctrine," Legal Backgrounder, Vol. 27, No. 18 (Washington Legal Foundation), 21 September 2012

NEWS & EVENTS

- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mass Tort
- Appellate Litigation
- Commercial Disputes
- Product Liability

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Briefed and argued California Supreme Court case involving question of whether a product supplier can be responsible for replacement component parts that it did not make or sell.
- Testified before subcommittee of the United States House of Representatives regarding bill promoting transparency in asbestos bankruptcy trust claim.
- Negotiated the successful resolution of thousands of asbestos claims in over 40 US and UK jurisdictions.
- Located and accessed insurance coverage for manufacturing entity facing asbestos claims after several prior counsel opined that no coverage existed.
- Briefed and argued case before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals retaining federal jurisdiction over product liability case that had been remanded to a Missouri state court.
- Tried a three-day FINRA arbitration hearing regarding customer claims of improper financial benefits after successfully compelling arbitration in West Virginia federal court.