HUSCH BLACKWELL

J.Y. Miller

PARTNER

THE LINK VIRTUAL OFFICE
ST. LOUIS, MO*
PHONE: 314.480.1500
EMAIL: J.Y.MILLER@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

OVERVIEW

J.Y. is a proven leader in designing business solutions to effectively navigate the unique challenges presented by mass tort litigation.

At the helm of the acclaimed Innovāt Alliance national asbestos defense team, J.Y. leads a dynamic collection of more than 100 seasoned attorneys, complemented by a robust team of technology experts and data analysts. Together, the team tenaciously defends thousands of cases spanning 35+ states. As national coordinating counsel for esteemed clients managing large portfolios of national toxic tort litigation, J.Y. actively strives to level the playing field for defendants confronting heightened pressures in high-risk jurisdictions.

The innovative business model J.Y. helped pioneer harnesses cutting-edge technology and inventive business methods. His team's approach not only ensures cost certainty for companies but also delivers impactful risk management solutions. Their

> *The National Counsel program that Husch Blackwell has set up for our matters has taken many worries off of my mind. I never have to worry about a deadline, and I don't worry about fees. Especially with respect to my asbestos and other toxic tort cases, I cannot imagine going to anyone else.*
>
> — Molly M. Jones, Senior Assistant General Counsel, Litigation, Bayer U.S.

Industry

Manufacturing

Services

Asbestos Litigation
Complex Torts (CXT)
Product Liability
Product Safety
Toxic Tort

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groundbreaking results have earned recognition with both an ACC Value Champion Award and a CLOC Innovation Award as they disrupt the traditional defense paradigm.

J.Y.'s central focus revolves around constructing and executing strategies to shield companies from enduring threats in toxic tort litigation. With a career spanning 25+ years, he brings a wealth of experience in crafting comprehensive and compelling defenses in a broad range of toxic tort and product liability claims involving asbestos, talc, benzene, solvents, industrial tools, construction equipment, and consumer products.

Dedicated to staying at the forefront of technological advancements, J.Y. actively incorporates solutions such as artificial intelligence to empower companies in gaining a competitive advantage in the defense of their litigation.

J.Y. served as the original managing partner of Husch Blackwell's virtual office, The Link, which began as the first Am Law 100 fully-dedicated virtual office in 2020 with 50 team members and is now home to over 800 professionals working from more than 125 cities in 41 states. He also served on the firm's Executive Board for six years.

J.Y. is a U.S. Army veteran and member of Husch Blackwell's HB Vets employee resource group. He served five years on active duty in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. As a prosecutor and later as criminal defense counsel, he developed trial advocacy and leadership skills while stationed in Texas, Saudi Arabia, Georgia, and Bosnia.

Experience

- Led and managed all aspects of national toxic tort litigation defense team and designed and coordinated defense in hundreds of active asbestos lawsuits for several Fortune 500 companies in some of the toughest and most plaintiff-friendly jurisdictions in the country.
- Defended against alleged workplace injuries/diseases and alleged injuries/diseases from manufactured products for oil-refining companies, chemical manufacturers, an aluminum sheet manufacturer, a building products manufacturer, a tool and equipment manufacturer, a shoe manufacturer and paints and coatings manufacturers.
- Implemented national strategy to build comprehensive good company story and present defense in product litigation in numerous jurisdictions.
- Defended more than 50 benzene/solvent cases around the country alleging various malignancies.

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Experience

- Performed independent investigation of products allegedly at issue in fires that caused major damages to commercial businesses. Claims defeated before lawsuits filed.
- Lead counsel in personal injury action alleging significant pulmonary injuries caused by exposure to cleaning chemicals.
- Obtained significant settlement as lead plaintiff's counsel in complex dispute involving contract, property and negligence claims concerning highly technical geotechnical, materials science and structural engineering concepts.
- Prepared and defended corporate representatives in depositions involving company's products at issue in national litigation.
- Worked closely with expert toxicologist to develop testimony to combat attacks on company's paint and coatings products with favorable results.
- Prepared high-profile asbestos case for trial and developed client's corporate representative, expert industrial hygienist and expert materials science engineer for deposition and trial.
- Prepared significant solvent exposure cancer case for trial, including development of key experts and fact witnesses.
- Led large joint defense group of oil and chemical companies in significant solvent/benzene exposure case.

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Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America®*
  - Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants, 2021-2027
  - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2023-2027
- *Chambers USA*
  - Litigation: Product Liability, 2026
  - Product Liability: Toxic Torts, Nationwide, 2023-2026
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Product liability, mass tort and class action - defense: toxic tort, Recommended lawyer, 2023-2026
- Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer, 2022-2026
- Acritas Star, 2021
- Missouri Lawyers Media, Diversity & Inclusion Award, 2020
- TIM Initiative Award, Ms. JD, 2020
- Association of Corporate Counsel, Value Champion, 2018
- BTI Consulting Group's BTI Client Service All-Star Award, 2011
- Award for Excellence in Advocacy at the U.S. Army JAG Corps Criminal Law Advocacy Course
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent

Education

- J.D., University of Missouri School of Law
- B.S., University of Tennessee at Martin
  - *summa cum laude*

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Admissions

- Missouri

Community Leadership

One of J.Y.'s favorite things is coaching kids, particularly in baseball. As director for the sports baseball and softball programs in his parish, he coaches and coordinates schedules for over 120 kids—and gets to coach his two boys on those teams. J.Y. played baseball and football (and chess) in high school and also played baseball at the University of Tennessee–Martin, so he knows the importance sports can have in a young person's life.

- National Eagle Scout Association
- Veterans of Foreign Wars

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*Contact J.Y. to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the St. Louis office.

FT Innovat Alliance Nomination

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