HUSCH BLACKWELL

Danielle R. Luisi

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Danielle is a trusted advisor to clients facing complex asbestos and toxic tort litigation, known for her strategic oversight and hands-on management of national case development and trial teams.

With more than a decade of experience, Danielle serves as national coordinating counsel for a diverse roster of clients, managing the defense of asbestos litigation portfolios across the country including some of the nation's most challenging jurisdictions. She is known for her strategic leadership of case development and trial teams and her ability to craft and execute defense strategies that drive impactful results for clients facing high-risk litigation.

Danielle's approach is hands-on at every stage of litigation. She leads case development from targeted fact investigation through pleadings, discovery, depositions, dispositive motion practice, settlement, and trial. Her experience in case preparation has enabled her to secure early dismissals and favorable settlements, positioning clients for success both in and out of the courtroom.

Danielle has extensive experience drafting and arguing dispositive motions, including summary judgment and motions to exclude testimony, which have resulted in significant case resolutions for her clients. Her courtroom advocacy is complemented by her background as former prosecutor in the civil and criminal bureaus of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, where she tried cases to verdict and defended appeals before the Illinois Appellate Court, First District. This trial experience gives her a unique perspective

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

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

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on risk assessment, settlement evaluation, and trial strategy, making her a trusted advisor to clients navigating mass tort litigation.

Clients value Danielle's pragmatic, client-centered approach. She is known for her ability to see the big picture and develop strategies that move the needle for clients. She goes beyond case-by-case management, focusing on long-term objectives and overall portfolio outcomes. Danielle delivers clients a range of strategic options at every stage of litigation, ensuring that each decision supports broader business goals as well as immediate case needs. Her approach centers on identifying and executing the tactics most likely to achieve favorable results—whether through targeted motion practice, creative settlement strategies, or coordinated trial preparation—allowing clients to navigate complex litigation with confidence and clarity.

Experience

- Defended international steel company, as part of larger trial team, in product liability, premises liability, Federal Employment Liability Act (FELA) and Jones Act cases involving toxic exposures in jurisdictions including Cook County, Madison County and McLean County, Illinois; and City of St. Louis, Missouri.
- Served on national coordinating counsel team for equipment manufacturer strategically managing defense of product liability and premises claims involving asbestos exposure in Illinois and multiple other jurisdictions across the country including in California, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Maryland and Hawaii.
- Served on national coordinating counsel team for home improvement product manufacturer managing and executing defense of asbestos litigation throughout Illinois and in various active state and federal jurisdictions including Pennsylvania, Texas, Georgia, Florida, New Jersey and New York.
- Instrumental in formulating national defense strategy for local product manufacturer's pending asbestos claims in Illinois and Missouri, including successfully drafting motion for summary judgment based on corporate dissolution, which led to favorable ruling against plaintiff and dismissal of remaining cases on docket.
- Achieved dismissal for premises client prior to hearing on motion for summary judgment based on state of Ohio's statutory bar of take-home asbestos exposure claims despite decedent, her father, and her husband working at client's premises.

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Experience

- Secured dismissal prior to jury selection for heating equipment manufacturer in asbestos matter pending in Cook County, Illinois, based on insufficient evidence of exposure, despite record of sales of asbestos-containing equipment to work site at issue, including successfully drafting motion for summary judgment and pre-trial motions.
- Achieved early dismissal for equipment manufacturer in asbestos case before hearing on motion to transfer under doctrine of *forum non conveniens* to Winnebago County, Illinois, from Cook County, Illinois, based on place of injury and weight of private and public interest factors favoring transfer.
- Executed defense strategy and achieved dismissal for local product manufacturer in asbestos matter pending in Madison County, Illinois, including successfully drafting motion for application of Texas law and motion for summary judgment under Texas law, which led to favorable ruling granting application of Texas substantive law and barring plaintiff from introducing any new expert opinions not previously disclosed.
- Argued and prevailed in opposition to plaintiff's motion to continue final trial setting on behalf of product manufacturer in asbestos matter pending in Madison County, Illinois, after judge found lack of exigent circumstances and denied plaintiff's motion.
- Obtained dismissal for contractor client in asbestos case based on successor liability defense by establishing that client was not liable for entity at issue, based on extensive investigation into corporate history and corporate document review.
- Secured dismissal in asbestos case for employer-contractor client based on workers' compensation exclusivity provision and successor liability defense by establishing that client was not liable for entity at issue.
- Argued and prevailed as appointed pro bono counsel on motion for sanctions before federal judge, who granted sanctions for party's failure to participate in good faith at settlement conference.

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Recognition

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
  - Mass Tort Litigation/Class Action - Defendants, 2021-2025
  - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2021-2025
- Illinois Defense Counsel
  - Rising Star, 2021
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*
  - Rising Star, 2020-2026

Education

- J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law
  - Dean's List
  - CALI Award, Highest Grade, Advocacy
  - Philip H. Corboy Fellowship in Trial Advocacy
  - Texas Young Lawyer's Association National Trial Competition, National Quarterfinalist, Midwest Regional Finalist
  - National Association Criminal Defense Lawyers Trial Competition, National Semifinalist
  - Michigan State University National Trial Competition, National Semifinalist
- B.A., Washington & Jefferson College
  - Political Science and Business Administration
  - *summa cum laude*
  - Dean's List
  - Political Science Distinguished Service Award
  - Pi Sigma Alpha – National Political Science Honor Society

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Admissions

- Illinois
- Michigan
- Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois

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*Contact Danielle to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the Chicago office.

FT Innovat Alliance Nomination

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