



Frederic "Rick" Norris

PARTNER

THE LINK VIRTUAL OFFICE

PHONE: 213.337.6561

EMAIL: RICK.NORRIS@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

LOS ANGELES, CA*

PHONE: 213.337.6550

OVERVIEW

Rick's practice is focused on litigation involving product liability, mass torts and premises liability. Rick has served as trial counsel for companies in the petrochemical, agricultural, construction and automotive industries.

As a trial counsel in one of the first remote jury trials since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rick has first-hand trial experience selecting a jury and conducting witness examinations via Zoom. His thought leadership in this area led to an article in Law360 and CLE presentations providing advice on overcoming the challenges inherent in remote trials.

Rick is well-versed in defending clients against claims of mesothelioma and other malignancies, as well as handling matters of catastrophic death and catastrophic injury. As part of the firm's Asbestos Litigation team, Rick is among the recognized innovators and award winners when handling complex tort claims with a business solutions approach.

In 2013, Rick completed the prestigious Trial Advocacy Program (TAP) through the Los Angeles Bar Association. In this program he served as a Volunteer Prosecutor with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. During his time with the District Attorney's Office, Rick prosecuted two cases to verdict.

Industries

Manufacturing
Transportation

Services

Asbestos Litigation
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
Product Liability
Toxic Tort

Experience

RICK HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT LITIGATION:

- Trial counsel for agricultural company in Oregon case where plaintiff claimed his non-hodgkin lymphoma was caused by use of herbicide. The case resulted in a unanimous defense verdict. More information on the case can be found [here](#).
- Trial counsel for contractor defendant in one of the first Zoom jury trials conducted anywhere in the nation and which involved the jurors and all counsel appearing remotely. *Robert Fenstermacher v. 3M Company, et al.* Alameda County Superior Court.
- Lead trial counsel for talc supplier to Johnson & Johnson in living mesothelioma matter. After multiple weeks of trial, secured complete dismissal of supplier defendant during plaintiffs' case-in-chief. *Von Salzen v. Imerys Talc America*, Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Lead trial counsel for contractor defendant in living mesothelioma matter where plaintiff claimed defendant installed and removed asbestos-containing refractory material in his presence while serving in the U.S. Navy. After two-week trial, verdict entered resulting in only a 1 percent finding of fault for defendant. *Joseph and Kathryn Houpt v. A.K. Steel Corporation, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Trial counsel for contractor defendant in wrongful death mesothelioma matter where plaintiffs claimed defendant disturbed asbestos containing insulation in decedent's presence causing his mesothelioma. Judgment entered in defendant's favor after a six-week trial. *Rose Marie Ganoe, et al. v. Air & Liquid Systems Corp., et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Trial counsel for premises owner in *Petitpas v. Ford Motor Company*, which was selected by the Daily Journal as one of the "Top Defense Verdicts of 2012."
- Trial counsel for major petrochemical company in living mesothelioma matter where plaintiff claimed asbestos exposure at defendant's premises. Nonsuit motion granted in favor of defendant at the close of plaintiff's case. *William Marvin Webster v. 3M Company, et al.*, Los Angeles Superior Court (affirmed on appeal).

Experience

- Trial counsel for convenience store in case involving allegation that convenience store was negligent in operation of premises by allowing homeless individual to injure plaintiff at the premises.
- Trial counsel for agricultural company in Missouri case where plaintiff claimed his non-hodgkin lymphoma was caused by use of herbicide. The case resulted in a directed verdict in favor of the client at the close of plaintiff's case.
- Lead trial counsel for automotive retailer in living mesothelioma matter. Trial resulted in a directed verdict in favor of client. *Chapman v. Avon Products, Inc.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court.

APPEALS

- *Petitpas v. Ford Motor Company* (2017) 13 Cal.App.5th 261. Published decision affirming verdict in favor of defendant premises owner.
- *Murat v. SeaRiver Maritime, Inc.*, Second Appellate District Case No. B247889

Recognition

- Rising Star, Southern California Super Lawyers, 2014-2019
- Daily Journal, 40 Under 40, 2019

[Education](#)

- J.D., Southwestern Law School
 - *magna cum laude*
 - *Southwestern Law Review*
 - Dean's List
 - Dean's Merit Award and University Scholarship
- B.A., University of California, San Diego
 - Political Science

[Admissions](#)

- California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

[Community Leadership](#)

Rick participates in his neighborhood council and coaches his children's softball team.

*Contact Rick to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the Los Angeles office.



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