HUSCH BLACKWELL



Brianna Cole

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Brianna defends clients in mass tort, product liability, and labor and employment litigation.

With a passion for complex cases, Brianna loves digging into mass and toxic tort allegations, meticulously examining plaintiffs' accounts, and sorting through allegations and facts to build a compelling defense. She has worked extensively with chemical exposure and chemical failure cases, representing a water purifying and chemical manufacturing company in litigation throughout the U.S.

In addition to toxic tort, Brianna handles traditional product liability cases for manufacturers ranging from strength training equipment to culinary ingredients and restaurant supplies. She also defends clients in a variety of employment litigation, including accusations of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment, and wrongful terminations.

Early in her career, Brianna had the opportunity to defend a chemical manufacturer of a disinfectant cleaner in a 14-week jury trial—letting her put into practice two years' worth of observations made during her time as a clerk to the Honorable Jamie L. Anderson. As a new J.D. graduate and judicial clerk, Brianna received a front row seat to more than 10 jury trials, as well as bench trials, giving her a solid understanding of the type of legal work and arguments that work—and don't work—in court, as well as how judges and juries operate. She also gained in-depth, detailed knowledge of court procedure, making her a go-to associate attorney for procedural issues after joining her first firm in 2021.

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Employment Litigation Defense
Labor & Employment
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
Product Liability
Toxic Tort

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In addition to her courtroom experience, Brianna is known for building relationships and getting to know fully each client's business practices and products. She enjoys representing companies, and she knows that the best defense relies on solid knowledge of the product in question. Brianna also knows that close client relationships are the key to successful strategies: she wants to ensure that she understands exactly what clients need and that she makes decisions with them rather than for them.

Experience

- Represented manufacturer of chemical supplied as the coolant used at an air compressor plant in Missouri, where plaintiffs allege significant inhalation and respiratory injuries, and claims for wrongful death.
- Represented manufacturer of daily disinfectant cleaner in 14-week jury trial California, where plaintiffs alleged significant inhalation, respiratory, dermal, and eye injuries due to chemical exposure.
- Represented manufacturer of chemical designed to control popcorn polymer formation and growth in chemical plants around the world, where plaintiffs alleged significant personal injury and property damage due to multiple explosions in Texas.
- Represented a company known for cooking oil management, in various personal injury and property damage lawsuits.
- Represented manufacturer of chemical designed to eliminate pests in the restaurant setting, where different multiple plaintiffs across various jurisdictions claim injuries from slip and fall incidents.
- Represented a fitness equipment manufacturing for commercial and consumer use, defending against product liability claims.
- Defended a company specializing in stone fabrication in conciliation court, as well as in district court against claims for negligence.
- Defended a company specializing in heavy-duty truck and trailer parts, against claims for property damage.

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Experience

- Represented an international chain of fast casual restaurants in the Court of Appeals, arguing for an issue of first impression.
- Defended companies and the companies' employees against accusations of discrimination, retaliation allegations, and wrongful terminations.
- Represented a healthcare employment agency and the agency's employee, defending against accusations for violation of human rights, medical malpractice, and negligence.
- Represented various insurance companies and the insureds, defending against personal injury claims related to motor vehicle accidents and slip/trip and falls.
- Represented an insurance company and the insured, defending against claims for vicarious liability, negligent hiring, and retention, related to an inappropriate therapist-patient relationship.

Education

- J.D., Mitchell Hamline School of Law
  - *magna cum laude*
- B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Admissions

- Minnesota
- U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota

Clerkships

- Honorable Jamie L. Anderson, Hennepin County District Court

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