



Rikard L. Bridges

Of Counsel

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Rik began his legal career as a general civil litigator and state court prosecutor. Since 1990, Rik's practice has concentrated on toxic tort and personal injury litigation, both as a trial lawyer and a litigation manager.

Rik has appeared as trial counsel in asbestos cases in more than ten states. He has served as first chair trial counsel in asbestos trials in Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. Rik has tried asbestos cases to verdict in single settings, aggregations, and consolidations.

Rik served as regional litigation manager for Pittsburgh Corning's asbestos litigation for the Southeastern United States, including Georgia, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. In that capacity, Rik tried cases, managed litigation, and participated in regional and national strategic planning and budgeting. Rik negotiated settlements with virtually all of the active asbestos plaintiffs' firms in the Southeast and with most of the national asbestos plaintiff firms.

Rik also served as a principal contributor to the post-trial and appellate strategy and briefing team for Pittsburgh Corning Corporation which resulted in the reversal of hundreds of verdicts entered via "extrapolations" and "mini-trials" in the 1990 Cimino consolidated/class action procedure in the United States District Court in Beaumont, Texas. (See *Cimino v. Raymark Industries, Inc.*, 151 F.3d 297, (5th Cir. 1998)).

Beginning in 2000, Rik has directed the national management of discovery and witness development for an engineering firm, has served as national coordinating counsel for a major construction firm's asbestos litigation and has directed the development of corporate witnesses for national defendants in toxic tort litigation. As such, he remains actively involved with plaintiff and defense counsel and in expert and corporate witness and strategy development and trial management on a national scale.

Rik has earned a reputation among the plaintiffs and defense bar with whom he has dealt over the years for his abilities and integrity. His reputation as a candid and principled opponent has served his clients well.

Education

- Juris Doctor, The University of Georgia, 1977, *cum laude*

- Bachelor of Arts, The University of Georgia, 1974, *magna cum laude*

Admissions

- State Bar of Georgia

Related Practices

- Products Liability
- Asbestos
- Toxic Tort