

Legal 500 US 2010

Founded in 2003, Cleveland-based **Tucker Ellis & West** is '*awfully good*' and demonstrates '*depth, breadth and experience in product liability*'. It is another of the young, vibrant boutiques that have earned great popularity among in-house counsel in the life sciences industry as they seek to combine good-quality lawyering with sensible fees. The firm, which is '*excellent and in all respects a good business partner*' to clients, absorbed Denver-based litigation boutique Socha, Perczak, Setter and Anderson PC at the start of 2009, a move which increased its depth at senior partner level and its geographical coverage. Clients appreciate the practice for its sensible fee structures and openness to alternative fee arrangements. The firm is also noteworthy as one of relatively few that is prepared to span the divide (where conflicts of interest permit) to represent manufacturers on both the branded and generic sides of the pharmaceuticals market. The Johnson & Johnson group of companies routinely instructs the firm on product liability matters. Ortho-McNeil utilizes it as national counsel in the ongoing hormone replacement therapy MDL in Toledo, Ohio, while the firm represents Ortho Diagnostics as national counsel for thimerosal vaccine in autism litigation. Other clients include Actavis, which the group is representing in consolidated MDL proceedings in West Virginia relating to digoxin-based heart medication Digitek. Denver-based Charles Socha is '*a really terrific lawyer*'. Socha and K Michele Anderson are experienced attorneys whose recent work includes Pfizer's Celebrex/Bextra litigation, and the firm has won instructions from that client. The '*tremendous*' Robert Tucker and Curtiss Isler in Cleveland are highly recommended.