



Excellence in the Courtroom

2025 Trial Highlights



Tucker
Ellis | LLP

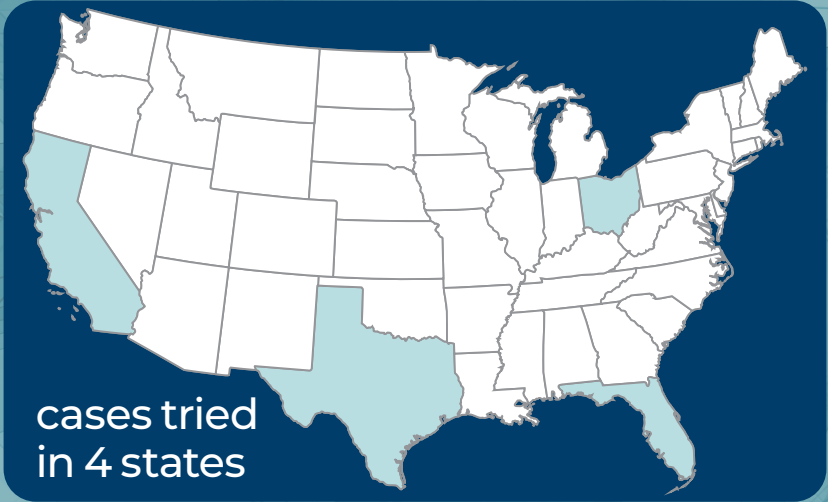
In 2025, Tucker Ellis delivered decisive trial and appellate results in high-stakes matters nationwide.

Our docket featured jury wins from coast to coast, a significant plaintiff’s judgment, and multiple appellate victories, including published decisions shaping class action, copyright, and insurance coverage law. From prevailing in complex product liability, commercial, and medical negligence cases to securing favorable outcomes and lasting precedent in state and federal courts, we’re proud to present some of our most significant trial and appellate achievements of the year.

7
Trials

1
Arbitration

7
Appeals



Defense Trial Win Limiting Exposure in Medical Negligence/Wrongful Death Suit

Following a three-week jury trial in Ohio, Tucker Ellis secured a favorable result for a medical services provider facing negligence and wrongful death claims stemming from a fall during an off-site appointment. The plaintiff sought multimillion-dollar damages, but the jury rejected the wrongful death claim and awarded only a low six-figure total on the remaining claims—allocating approximately one-fifth to the client—yielding minimal net exposure. The verdict reflects the jury's acceptance of the defense narrative regarding causation and responsibility among nonparties and significantly curbed the client's potential liability. The case was tried by **Peter Voudouris, Aaron Howell, and Lucy Zelina**, with support from **Zach Kaplan, Elisa Arko, Mary Wilburn, and Paige Platten**.



Unanimous Defense Verdict in Informed Consent Medical Negligence Trial

After a seven-day trial involving allegations of inadequate informed consent and claimed nerve injury, a jury deliberated for just over a half day before unanimously finding for the defense. The result neutralized a substantial damages demand and affirmed the physician's adherence to proper consent standards. Trial counsel were **Jen Steinmetz, Madeline Dennis, and Tayler Gill**, supported by a deep bench including **Ed Taber, Zach Kaplan, Lucy Zelina, Ethan Weber, Mike Ruttinger, Jeff Whitesell, Jessica Toncler, and Benjamin Crawford**, with assistance from **Renee Chaya, Kris Susinskas, Amanda Bocciarelli, and David Hess**.



Dual Eighth Circuit Appellate Wins for Boehringer Ingelheim in Copyright and Bankruptcy Matters

In a long-running dispute stemming from a family business fallout, Tucker Ellis obtained two complete appellate victories for Boehringer Ingelheim in the Eighth Circuit. The court affirmed summary judgment on copyrightability—solidifying Feist’s minimal creativity standard in this context—and upheld a \$1.7 million attorneys’ fees award. In the related bankruptcy adversary proceeding, the court affirmed approval of a settlement over objection, validating the negotiated resolution with de minimis payments and counterclaim waivers. The copyright team included **Nick Clifford**, **Kelly Baldini**, **Chad Eggspuehler**, and **Ben Sassé**; the bankruptcy appeal was argued by **Tom Fawkes** with support from Nick Clifford.



\$30 Million Judgment Secured in SCUBA Business Ownership and Theft Dispute

In an Orange County trial over decades-old oral agreements placing 100% of our client’s business interests in his brother’s name, Tucker Ellis proved that the client’s brother stole his business interests based on the existence of the oral agreements. After a three-week trial, the jury awarded \$9.5 million in compensatory damages, treble damages under California Penal Code § 496, and punitive damages—resulting in a judgment in excess of \$30 million. Lead trial counsel **Matt Fletcher** was joined by second chair **Anika Prednis**, with significant support from **Scarlet Leggio** and paralegal **Lynn Pham**, alongside broader trial support.



Appellate Win Preserving Fee-Shifting Limits in Commercial Lease Dispute

A California appellate panel affirmed the denial of attorneys' fees after a landlord voluntarily dismissed an action that included unlawful detainer allegations. Applying the "gravamen of the action" test, the court held the case was based on the pre-suit notice and operative pleadings, placing it outside the fee-shifting statute applicable to tort-based unlawful detainer dismissals. The court of appeal also rejected reliance on pre-trial motion practice to recast the case and noted the appellant's failure to seek apportionment of the attorney's fees in the trial court. The decision curbs efforts to expand fee entitlement in commercial leasing disputes. The appeal was briefed by **Zi Lin**, **Anna-Sophie Tirre**, and **Chad Eggspuehler**, with Zi presenting oral argument.



Published Opinion Clarifying Mandatory Statutory Buyout in Partnership Dispute

In a published opinion, a California intermediate appellate court reversed a trial court and directed enforcement of the limited partnership buyout mechanism under Corporations Code § 15908.02. Emphasizing the statute's mandatory text once prerequisites are met, the court ordered a stay of the dissolution action and a determination of fair market value, reinforcing that statutory buyouts cannot be sidestepped by disgruntled limited partners seeking dissolution leverage. The ruling provides practical guidance for closely held entities navigating breakup litigation. The Tucker Ellis appellate team was led by **Marc Greenberg**, **Zi Lin**, and **Ed Racek**.



Complete Defense Verdict for BMW in High-Stakes Crashworthiness Trial

Following a five-week Los Angeles jury trial, Tucker Ellis secured a complete defense verdict for BMW AG, BMW of North America, LLC, and South Bay Motors, LLC against claims seeking \$104.25 million for alleged design defects in a vehicle restraint system. The defense established that the system was state-of-the-art and without defect; the jury returned a defense verdict on all claims. Trial counsel **Steven Meyer** and **Brandon Lansche** led the effort with assistance from **Pieter Keushkerian**.



Sixth Circuit Affirms Denial of Seven-Figure Sanctions in Trade Secret Case

A federal appellate court affirmed the denial of a sanctions motion seeking more than \$1 million in a complex trade secret matter. After obtaining a trial-court victory defeating multiple asserted bases for sanctions, the appellees preserved that result on appeal through a focused record-driven defense of the order. The opinion underscores the high bar for fee and sanctions awards in contentious trade secret litigation and the importance of disciplined motion practice and evidentiary support. The team included **Ben Sassé**, **Christine Snyder**, and **Melissa Kelly**.



Defense Verdict in Motor Vehicle Accident Trial

Following a jury trial in Bexar County, Texas, Tucker Ellis secured a complete defense verdict in a personal injury action arising from a five-vehicle highway collision. The plaintiff sought \$8.9 million in damages, but the defense demonstrated that another vehicle caused the accident and that our client's driver bore no responsibility. The team was led by **Cliff Mendelsohn** with support from **Maya Kanaan**, **Amy Papuga**, **David Hess**, **Kasey Vandegrift**, **Stacey Belasic**, **Anna Hayden**, **Paige Platten**, and **Valerie Spears**.



Shaping the Next Generation of First-Chair Trial Lawyers

In 2025, Tucker Ellis continued to invest deeply in hands-on trial training through our Litigation Institute and Trial Academy—signature programs designed to prepare our lawyers to lead in the courtroom. The Litigation Institute brought together 39 associates and nearly 30 faculty members from across the firm for intensive sessions focused on drafting and arguing motions for summary judgment, pairing advanced skills training with mentorship and collaboration.

Our Trial Academy complemented that foundation with a full-scale mock trial, giving participants first-chair experience in a realistic courtroom setting. Centered on a complex products liability subrogation case, the program challenged trial teams to navigate motions practice, evidentiary strategy, and jury instructions while applying the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Evidence. Together, these programs reinforce Tucker Ellis's commitment to developing confident, trial-ready advocates equipped to deliver results for clients.



▲ Faculty and participants in the October session of our Litigation Institute gathered in Cleveland.



▲ Our 2025 Trial Academy teams were led by **Jay Shultz** and **Spencer Krebs** (Defense) and **Maha Kabbash** and **M.D. Akinmurele** (Plaintiff), with assistance from **Brooke Pauley** and **Lucy Zelina**.

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