



Excellence in the Courtroom

2024 Trial and Appellate Highlights

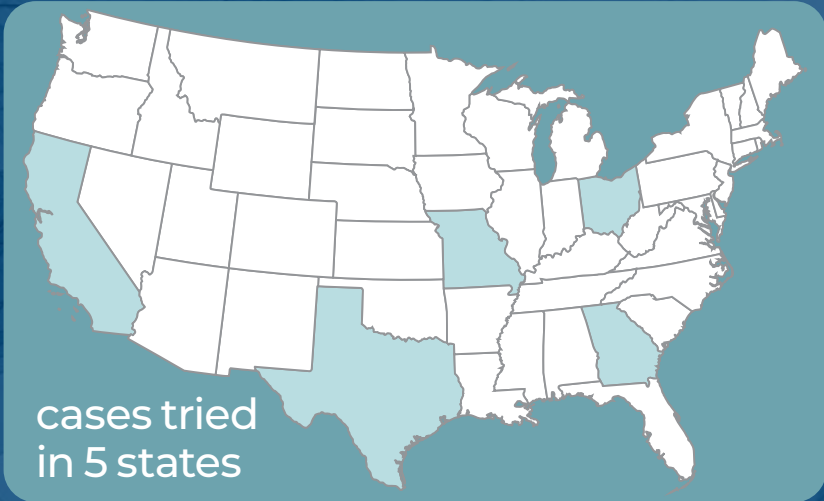


Tucker
Ellis | LLP

In 2024, Tucker Ellis participated in 10 trials and argued 19 appeals in courts throughout the United States. With significant client wins both as plaintiff's counsel and as defense counsel—plus numerous successful appeals—our outcomes reflect the skill, strategy, and dedication that define our trial practice. Here are highlights of some of our most notable cases from 2024.

10
Trials

19
Appeals



Chambers
TOP RANKED
USA
2024
Tucker Ellis LLP

LEADING FIRM
Legal500
UNITED STATES
2024

BEST LAW FIRMS
RANKED BY Best Lawyers
UNITED STATES
2025

TUCKER ELLIS LLP
RECOGNIZED BY
Best Lawyers
2025

LMG LIFE SCIENCES

B BENCHMARK
LITIGATION



CVN's #1 Most Impressive Defense Verdict of 2024: *Whitfield v. St. Louis Children's Hospital et al.*

In a landmark case highlighted by Courtroom View Network (CVN) as its #1 Most Impressive Defense Verdict of 2024 and by *Law360* as one of 2024's Top Product Liability Cases, Tucker Ellis was part of a trial team that secured a unanimous defense verdict for client Mead Johnson in a high-stakes, five-week trial in the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis. The case involved claims that premature infant formula caused the plaintiff to develop necrotizing enterocolitis, a serious gastrointestinal disease. Facing \$6.27 billion in claimed damages against the defendants, the team successfully defended against all claims asserted by the plaintiff. This was a closely watched trial due to concern in the medical community that a verdict for the plaintiff could threaten the continued availability of preterm infant formula, which is an essential source of nutrition for premature infants when human milk is not sufficiently available.

Sherry Knutson and **Charissa Walker** (pictured below) represented Mead Johnson with assistance from **James Mizgala, Madeline Dennis, Brenda Sweet, Kelly Baldini,** and **Brooke Pauley**. Covington & Burling LLP served as lead trial counsel for Mead Johnson. (The court granted a motion for new trial on March 13, 2025; Abbott and Mead Johnson filed an appeal on March 20, 2025.)



Fifth Circuit Victory in Landmark Pharmaceutical Case

The Fifth Circuit vacated a summary judgment denial in *Hickey v. Hospira, Inc.*, making it the first appellate court to clarify drug labeling regulations—and address preemption of failure-to-warn claims—under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act’s § 505(b)(2) approval pathway. Representing Accord Healthcare, Inc., **Julie Callsen**, **Chad Eggspuehler**, and **Mike Ruttinger** earned national recognition, including *Law360*’s Legal Lions of the Week. This precedent-setting decision with implications for thousands of pending cases received acclaim in legal publications and the Drug & Device Law blog, which ranked it among the best drug and device cases of the year.



Defense Verdict for Davey Tree

Tucker Ellis obtained a defense verdict for client Davey Tree Surgery Company in the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County, California. The six-week trial involved claims for traumatic brain injury and other personal injuries asserted by a plaintiff who collided with a Davey Tree truck while riding his motorcycle. The Tucker Ellis team secured the verdict after the plaintiff requested \$60 million in economic and non-economic damages. **Clifford Mendelsohn** and **Tariq Naeem** served as lead trial counsel with assistance from **Jonathan Cooper** and **Kaitlyn Pangburn**.



Summary Judgment for Two Matters of First Impression and Trial

Serving as national coordinating counsel for one of the largest hotel chains in the United States, Tucker Ellis obtained summary judgment in two matters-of-first-impression cases alleging violations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. The team—led by **Chelsea Mikula** and **Sandra Wunderlich**, with support from **Elisa Arko**, **Joe Manno**, **Spencer Krebs**, and paralegal **Cheryl Bunevich** (all pictured below)—also obtained a midtrial settlement for our client following a multiweek trial in Georgia and successfully resolved another case for our client on the eve of trial, both stemming from allegations of sex trafficking at franchised hotel properties.



Defense Verdict in California Battery Case

Mollie Benedict and **Michael Zellers** obtained a defense verdict in a three-week trial involving a battery case against our client, who threw a dart in a bar that punctured the plaintiff's hand and allegedly caused severe injuries, including chronic regional pain syndrome, rendering the plaintiff permanently disabled. In closing argument plaintiff's counsel sought \$15 million in damages, but the jury returned a verdict in our client's favor after an hour of deliberations.



Tucker Ellis Bench Tries Complex Multimillion-Dollar Federal Excise Tax Case

Near the end of 2024, together with tax counsel, **Laura Hong** and **Brendan Kelly** bench-trie a multimillion-dollar federal excise tax case against the United States in Ohio federal court on behalf of an aircraft management company. Some important issues in this complex tax case involved whether the Internal Revenue Service provided sufficiently clear and not speculative guidance to a deputy tax collector regarding the obligation to collect and remit federal excise tax and whether the IRS impermissibly discriminated against the taxpayer placing the taxpayer at an unfair competitive disadvantage.



California Federal Court Defense Victory

Matt Fletcher and **Andrew Johnson**, with assistance from **Tyler Palmer** and **Douglas Hedenkamp**, secured a defense verdict in a two-week federal jury trial, overcoming claims by a counterclaimant who declared itself the “true plaintiff” in seeking damages and delivery of an invention valued at \$20 million.



Tucker Ellis | LLP

ATLANTA | CHICAGO | CLEVELAND | COLUMBUS | LOS ANGELES
MORRISTOWN | ORANGE COUNTY | SAN FRANCISCO | ST. LOUIS
WASHINGTON, D.C. | [TUCKERELLIS.COM](https://www.tuckerellis.com)