

Peter M. Durney

Partner, Cornell & Gollub



Peter M. Durney graduated *cum laude* from Boston College, after having studied at The Institute of European Studies, La Sorbonne, and L'Ecole de Medecine in Paris, France.

He then attended Suffolk University Law School and began his law career in 1980 as in-house counsel with GE's products liability insurance division. In 1982 he joined Cornell & Gollub in Boston, concentrating in litigation. Since becoming a partner in 1987, Mr. Durney has represented hundreds of domestic and foreign corporations and individuals – including various Fortune 500 companies and Irish, Swiss, German, Austrian, French, British, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese corporations, among others – in the state and federal courts in each of the New England states and elsewhere in the U.S. His broad litigation experience and many reported decisions encompass: personal injury; products liability; clinical, rehabilitative and nursing home care and treatment; medical and other professional malpractice; pesticide, pharmaceutical, and chemical exposure; medical device; automotive; marine; mass torts; franchise law; copyright infringement and myriad aspects of commercial litigation, and appellate work. The complex litigation in which he has been involved has run the gamut from Mercedes-Benz and BMW motor vehicles to heart tissue transplants and computer software.

Mr. Durney is admitted to the state and federal bars of Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, and has been a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States since 1984. He has been a frequent speaker, and has written extensively.

List of publications:

California's Recent \$70+ Million Asbestos Verdict an Outlier Amidst National Trends, Toxic Torts Newsletter, The Defense Research Institute, Vol. 18, Issue 1, March 20, 2015

Negotiated Risk Agreements In Assisted Living Facilities, For the Defense: Medical Liability and Health Care Law, August 2013

A High Level View of the Current Debate Regarding Off-Label Speech, In-House Defense Quarterly, Fall 2012

Fending Off the Use of a Rule 12(f) Motion to Strike Affirmative Defenses, Defense Counsel Journal, Vol. 79, No. 4, October 2012

The Rules on Removal in Multiple-Party Cases: A Reprise, American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Mass Torts Litigation Committee Newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 4, Summer 2012

Inactive Asbestos Dockets: A Case for Preserving Important Discovery, Toxic Torts Newsletter, The Defense Research Institute, Volume 14, Issue 1, May 18, 2011

Bifurcating Discovery for Early Summary Judgment in Class Actions, IADC Defense Counsel Journal, Vol. 78, No. 2, April 2011

Understanding Time Limits on Removing Multiparty Cases to Federal Court, American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Mass Torts Litigation Committee Newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 3, Summer 2009

- reprinted, Appellate Practice Journal, Vol. 29, No. 2, Winter 2010
- reprinted, Committee on Pretrial Practice & Discovery Newsletter, Vol. 18, No. 2, Winter 2010

Preserving Objections to Jury Instructions: Speak Now, or Forever Hold Your Peace, Federal Bar Association, Federal Litigation Section Sidebar, Vol. 9, No. 2, Summer 2009

A Few Fundamental and Practical Tips: Product Testing for Use at Trial, For the Defense, December 2006, Vol.48, No.12

Mr. Durney is an active member of a host of organizations, including state and federal bar associations, the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, the Product Liability Advisory Council, Inc., Litigation Counsel of America, the Defense Research Institute, the International Association of Defense Counsel and the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine. He was President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates in 2010, and currently serves as a National Board Representative. Mr. Durney has been consistently recognized as a Massachusetts Super Lawyer (as published in Boston Magazine) in the area of General Litigation (2005) in Business Litigation (2006) and as a New England Super Lawyer in Personal Injury Defense: Products (2007-2015).