



## Leslie A. Sheehan

### PARTNER

Los Angeles

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### RELATED SERVICES

- Product Liability
- Aviation
- Tribal & Native American
- Chemical Exposure
- Transportation
- Environmental & Toxic Tort
- Trucking
- Asbestos & Talc
- Environmental Remediation & Superfund (CERCLA/RCRA)

### OFFICES

- Los Angeles
- Ventura County

### OVERVIEW

Leslie Sheehan is a Partner in the Los Angeles office of GRSM and a member of the Product Liability, Environmental & Toxic Tort and Aviation practice groups. Her practice focuses on the defense of complex litigation matters. She has over 30 years of civil litigation experience concentrating in the areas of product liability, construction defect, environmental and toxic torts, and premises liability defense. In addition, she has experience in aviation law, insurance coverage, and public utility defense.

Leslie has handled a broad range of product liability cases involving consumer products and industrial and construction equipment. A representative sample of products includes: cranes, farm equipment,

high pressure water cutting machines, elevators, escalators, airline tugs, punch presses, dish washing machines, household fans, and other miscellaneous household equipment and electronics. In addition, she has experience in cases involving fires which were allegedly caused by various products and the distribution of electrical power. She has represented developers and subcontractors in numerous cases involving large subdivisions and condominium complexes, as well as, single family homes. Leslie has represented defendants sued in environmental cases involving agricultural and chemical pesticides, asbestos, and benzene. She has defended property owners in claims for remediation of allegedly contaminated property. She also has represented property owners in various premises liability cases, including injuries resulting from a wide variety of causes and the alleged negligence in providing adequate security and excessive force used by security guards. Leslie has obtained summary judgments in actions brought against police and sheriff departments in excessive use of force cases. In addition, Leslie has represented doctors and social workers in malpractice cases. Her aviation experience includes representation of airlines and manufacturers of airplanes and airplane parts.

Prior to joining GRSM, Leslie was a sole practitioner in California and Massachusetts.

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Leslie, working in conjunction with other defense counsel in the case, recently obtained a favorable result for a national solvent manufacturer in United States District Court in Massachusetts in a trace benzene case where plaintiff alleged he developed Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL), a rare subtype of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), as a result of exposure to various kinds of petroleum-based products. After a multi-day evidentiary hearing in the matter of Milward v. Acuity Specialty Products Group, Inc. et al., United States District Court of Massachusetts Civil Action No. 07-11944-GAO, where both sides presented expert testimony on the issue of general causation (whether benzene is a recognized risk factor for this particular disease), Judge George A. O'Toole concluded in his Opinion and Order that plaintiffs' proffered expert testimony is inadmissible because it did not meet the standard set forth in Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 509 U.S. 579 (1993), and its progeny. While reserving their right to appeal, plaintiffs stipulated to a Motion for Entry of Judgment because the Court's ruling prevented plaintiffs from establishing a causal link between the alleged disease and chemicals at issue. An appeal of the decision is expected. However, the Court's ruling may serve as a deterrent for plaintiffs claiming a link between trace benzene exposure and certain diseases.

## CREDENTIALS

### Admissions

- California
- Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court, Northern, Central, and Southern Districts of California
- U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts

**Memberships**

- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel
- Defense Research Institute

**Education**

- J.D., Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
- B.A., *cum laude*, International Relations, University of Southern California

**Honors**

- Top Rated Lawyer-AV® Preeminent™, Martindale-Hubbell