Denis F. Alia

PARTNER

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Practice Areas

- Asbestos Litigation
- Auto Design Liability Litigation
- Complex Civil & Business Litigation
- Environmental
- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage
- National and Regional Coordinating Counsel
- Products Liability
- Toxic Tort Litigation

OVERVIEW

Denis F. Alia concentrates his practice in the defense of litigation matters, including products liability, toxic torts, automotive accidents, insurance claims, and premises litigation. He has represented a broad range of companies, including manufacturers of heavy industrial equipment, automotive friction parts, premises owners and ride-sharing companies. Denis also serves on the national coordinating counsel team that manages multi-jurisdictional toxic tort litigation for a Fortune 500 company, a role where he has extensive experience handling dockets in trial threat jurisdictions. Denis has represented clients in both state and federal courts as well as at settlement negotiations.

Denis periodically speaks at national conferences, where in the past he has addressed issues involving the statute of repose and its application in various jurisdictions, the evolution of remote depositions as the new discovery frontier, and liability concerns related to remote technologies including self-driving vehicles. Denis is an active member of the Defense Research Institute ("DRI"), where he is currently serving as Chair of DRI's Products – Regulatory, Risk, and Safety Specialized Litigation Group. Denis previously served as Co-Chair of the Corporate Counsel Development committee with the Young Lawyers group, and Vice-Chair of the Manufacturer's Risk Specialized Litigation Group. Denis also periodically publishes articles with the Defense Research Institute and American Bar Association.

While in law school, Denis interned at the Queens, New York Supreme Court and at the Suffolk County Superior Courthouse in Boston. Denis was also involved with the New York City Unemployment Action Center, where he represented clients in front of administrative law judges during employment termination hearings. Prior to starting his legal career, Denis worked as a portfolio analyst for a Fortune 100 insurance company where he focused on complex data analysis.

EXPERIENCE

- Obtained favorable settlement for equipment manufacturer after extensive negotiations with plaintiff's counsel during first day of jury selection in trial involving mesothelioma plaintiff.
- Assisted in successfully defending corporate representative deposition in group of cases involving twenty-five (25) plaintiffs resulting in disposition of all matters for nominal value.
- Successfully negotiated dismissal of claim against heavy equipment manufacturer in claim alleging exposure to insulation on Navy ships.
- Secured dismissal for ride sharing company in case involving auto accident.
- Successfully argued and secured summary judgment ruling in favor of spray paint manufacturer in a case where plaintiff alleged using the client's spray paint products to coat welds for over two decades during his career as a mechanic.

Authorships

- *Thermo-Nuclear Verdicts, Causes and Strategies to Minimize Trial Risk*, For The Defense Magazine, July & August 2026
- *Remote Depositions in the Covid-19 Era*, Defense Research Institute, The Brief Case: DRI Committee News, July/August 2022 Edition, Volume 1, Issue 5
- *Employment and Tenancy Litigation Due to COVID-19, and Legislative Responses*, Defense Research Institute, The Voice, Volume 20, Issue 2
- *Tort Suits Seeking to Circumvent Workers' Compensation Exclusivity*, Defense Research Institute – For The Defense Magazine
- *A Comprehensive Permit Application Is Not Complete Without Full Payment of Filing Fee*l, American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, Real Estate
- *Should a Trustee Be Physically Present at the Auction Sale?*, American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, Real Estate, Condemnation & Trust Litigation
- *Considerations of Using the Statute of Repose Defense in Latent Disease Cases*, Defense Research Institute, The Newsletter of the Young Lawyers Committee

Presentations, Classes & Seminars Taught

- *Shift Into Gear: Self-Driving Vehicles and Questions of Liability*, Defense Research Institute, Product Liability Conference, Denver, Colorado (2024, Speaker)
- *Succeeding in the Practice of Law as a Parent*, Defense Research Institute, Young Lawyers Seminar, Atlanta, Georgia (2022, Moderator)
- *Strategies for Taking & Defending Remote Depositions*, Defense Research Institute,

Business Litigation and Intellectual Property Litigation Super Conference, Houston, Texas (2022, Speaker)

- *Statute of Repose: The SOR Defense Is Both Highly Effective and Constantly In Flux*, Defense Research Institute, Product Liability Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana (2020, Speaker)

HONORS

- Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Award, five (5) consecutive years at Northeastern University based on academic merit and community service.
- O'Rourke Scholarship, two (2) consecutive years at Northeastern University, based on academic merit.

EDUCATION

- J.D., Suffolk University Law School, 2013
- B.S., *Summa Cum Laude*, Northeastern University, 2006

ADMISSIONS

- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- New York
- U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut
- U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts

MEMBERSHIPS

- Chair of DRI's Products Liability – Regulatory, Risk, and Safety Specialized Litigation Group (2024- terms expires 2026)
- Vice-chair of DRI's Product Liability – Manufacturer's Risk Specialized Litigation Group (2022-2024)
- Co-Chair of DRI's Young Lawyers – Corporate Counsel Development Committee (2022-2023)
- Defense Research Institute
- Boston Bar Association
- Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association
- American Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Walk for Hunger
- Boston Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign, Advisor