

Patrick W. Dennis

Toxic Tort Litigation

Patrick W. Dennis is a partner in the Los Angeles, California office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, and is a Co-Chair of the firm's Environmental Litigation and Mass Tort Practice Group. Mr. Dennis has extensive experience litigating matters in state and federal courts, representing clients in a wide range of environmental matters.

- Mr. Dennis has represented clients in a wide variety of toxic tort actions, and has developed specific experience in, among other areas, developing and challenging expert testimony under both federal and state law. Representative matters include:
- Lead counsel for Occidental Chemical in toxic tort case pending in Los Angeles County Superior Court involving claims by school teachers and students regarding exposure to hexavalent chromium (Cr 6) from nearby industrial facility. Case is in early stages of discovery.
- Member of core team representing Dole Foods in various toxic tort cases pending in United States state courts involving allegations of sterility due to exposure to 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) brought by workers on banana and pineapple farms in various countries. Cases are currently pending and active.
- Member of core team representing International Paper Company in toxic tort case pending in United States District Court for the District of Minnesota involving allegations of exposure to various chemicals, including Pentachlorophenol (PCP), creosote, dioxin, and poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) by members of a community near a former wood treatment plant.
- Member of core team representing Lockheed Martin in In re Redlands Tort Litigation, involving allegations of exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE) and ammonium perchlorate by over 700 individuals in a community in Southern California. Lead the defense team of epidemiologists who studied the community and published their findings regarding cancer incidence in adults and children and prevalence of congenital hypothyroidism in newborns in the community at issue. Responsibilities at trial include the examination of key plaintiff experts and defense of key defense experts on medical causation issues, along with motion practice. Case involving the first 50 First Tier Plaintiffs ended as a result of motions disqualifying certain experts in June 2008.
- Lead counsel for Occidental Petroleum in toxic tort case in Los Angeles County involving community claims of exposure to crude oil and various derivatives from production operations in West Los Angeles. Successfully defended action resulting in voluntary dismissal of case by all plaintiffs.

- Member of team that represented Lockheed Martin in the Burbank toxic tort litigation involving TCE and Cr 6. Had responsibility for the epidemiological and toxicological experts on hexavalent chromium. Assembled team of international specialists in hexavalent chromium and successfully presented the medical causation case through the development of their opinions and defense of their depositions, then took the key plaintiff experts' depositions on chromium toxicology and epidemiology. Key Plaintiffs' experts subsequently disqualified through motion practice and case settled.
- Member of team that represented major Los Angeles law firm in defense of \$200 million malpractice case regarding the Belmont Learning Center. The core allegation was the claim of alleged unsafe conditions for the school children due to potential exposure to hydrogen sulfide and methane gas. Handled the expert portion of the defense of the case regarding the safety of the school site. Case won on defense motion for summary judgment.
- Co-lead counsel representing major solid waste recycling facility in connection with toxic tort action brought by 50 members of the community. Matter settled on eve of trial.
- Lead counsel to major property developer in toxic tort claims regarding exposures of multiple tenants in commercial building. Case settled with summary judgment motion pending, and none of the settlement money was paid for by client.