HINKLE LAW FIRM LLC



SCOTT R. SCHILLINGS

MEMBER

Scott focuses his practice on representing clients in matters involving product liability, commercial disputes, mass torts and construction defects. With more than 25 years of litigation experience, Scott has additionally represented clients in matters involving will and trust disputes, medical malpractice, insurance coverage, and other complex litigation.

OVERVIEW

SCOTT R. SCHILLINGS

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Scott R. Schillings is a trial attorney who has spent more than 30 years representing businesses, manufacturers, insurers, and individuals in complex civil litigation throughout the United States. He leads Hinkle Law Firm's Product Liability and Complex Tort Litigation practice group, where he defends manufacturers and distributors against claims involving allegedly defective products, catastrophic personal injuries, wrongful death, and significant property damage.

Scott has represented corporate clients in more than 35 states and has tried cases to verdict in multiple jurisdictions. His product liability work spans a broad range of consumer and industrial products, including heating and fuel-burning appliances, propane and other fuel delivery systems, industrial machinery, and mechanical equipment. These cases often involve allegations of design and manufacturing defects, inadequate warnings, product misuse, and noncompliance with industry standards.

Beyond product liability, Scott has litigated commercial disputes, business torts, construction defect claims, insurance coverage controversies, mass torts, and contested trust and estate proceedings. His practice has also included contractual and fiduciary disputes, corporate governance issues, and constitutional and statutory challenges involving governmental entities. He has represented clients in state and federal courts at both the trial and appellate levels.

Much of Scott's practice involves defending claims arising from catastrophic accidents, fires, explosions, and other incidents that raise complex questions of causation, product performance, and how responsibility should be shared among multiple parties.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Litigation
- Civil Rights Defense of Governmental Entities
- Commercial & Complex Litigation
- Insurance Defense
- Personal Injury Litigation
- Product Liability
- Transportation & Motor Carrier Litigation
- Trust and Estate Litigation

EDUCATION

- University of Kansas School of Law, J.D., 1993
- Oklahoma State University, B.S., Political Science, 1990

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Kansas Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
- United States District Court, District of Arizona
- United States District Court, District of Kansas
- United States District Court, District of Wisconsin

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He has extensive experience developing and presenting technical evidence, challenging expert opinions, and examining expert witnesses. He takes particular care to translate complicated engineering and scientific concepts into clear, plain-language explanations for judges and juries.

At trial, Scott has successfully defended clients against claims seeking substantial damages for personal injury, wrongful death, and property loss. He has also represented clients in mediation and arbitration and has won dispositive motions that resolve disputes efficiently and favorably. His approach emphasizes thorough factual investigation, careful expert development, and a clear, persuasive presentation of the evidence.

Outside the courtroom, Scott advises manufacturers and other businesses on product safety, risk management, claims handling, litigation avoidance, and the development and review of product warnings and instructions. He works closely with in-house teams, including engineers and risk managers, to evaluate potential liabilities and coordinate strategy for claims involving products distributed nationally. Clients value his practical, straightforward advice and his focus on solving problems before they become lawsuits.

AFFILIATIONS

- ALFA International Product Liability Steering Committee
- American Bar Association
- Best Lawyers
  — 2023 - Present (Commercial Litigation)
  — 2025 - present (Product Liability Litigation - Defendants)
- Defense Research Institute
- Kansas Association of Defense Counsel
- Kansas Bar Association
- Kansas Bar Foundation, fellow
- 2026- Super Lawyers
- Wichita Bar Association

PRESENTATIONS

Scott is a regular presenter on product liability, construction defects, and other complex litigation. Below are a few highlighted presentations:

- Negotiating and Overcoming the Unconscious Bias. ALFA International Client Seminar. Marco Island, Florida - March 2020.
- Infinity Warns! What is the End Game on the Duty to Warn? ALFA International Product Liability & Complex Torts Seminar. Marana, Arizona - 2019.
- Defending Products Involved in Single Catastrophic Incidents or Multiple Incidents in Different States. ALFA PLCT. Santa Barbara, California - October 2017.
- SKINNING THE REPTILE: What the Reptile Theory is, Where it

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