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Skadden Lands 5-Attorney Mass Torts Team From DLA Piper

By Patrick Smith
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What You Need to Know

- Lyn Pruitt, Adria Conklin, Mary Catherine Way and David Koehler join as partners, resident in the firm's Chicago office.
- Brian O'Donoghue joined in the same practice in July from Chicago litigation boutique Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum.
- The five new arrivals all joined DLA Piper in 2021 from a Dallas boutique.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom continues to add to its mass torts and product liability group, adding a four partner, five-attorney group from DLA Piper on Tuesday just a couple of months removed from adding another prominent mass torts litigator from a Chicago boutique.

Lyn Pruitt, Adria Conklin, Mary Catherine Way and David Koehler join as partners, resident in the firm's Chicago office, while Lauren Grinder is joining as counsel.

"Lyn, Adria, Mary Catherine, David and Lauren are highly regarded litigators with extensive experience handling sophisticated pharmaceutical and medical device, PFAS environmental and other product liability matters," John Beisner, leader of Skadden's mass torts and product liability group, said in a statement. "Each has played a pivotal role in landmark litigation, opposed the most aggressive leading plaintiffs' firms, and built winning partnerships with local counsel across jurisdictions nationwide."



Courtesy photos

(l-r) Lyn Pruitt, Mary Catherine Way, Adria Conklin, David Koehler and Lauren Grinder of Skadden.

Brian O'Donoghue, who joined Skadden in July from Chicago litigation boutique Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum, said his previous experience with the group leads him to believe big things are on the way with their arrival.

"I have worked successfully with this team of litigators for years, often in the toughest jurisdictions," he said in a statement. "They bring deep knowledge of the national liability landscape and strategies for disputing plaintiffs' tactics, leveraging technology and strategic relationships to resolve massive case dockets, and efficiently minimizing exposure for our clients."

Pruitt, Conklin and Way all joined DLA Piper as partners in March 2021 from Mitchell Williams Selig Gates and Woodyard in Dallas, while Koehler joined as an associate at the same time.

The group, while handling a variety of complex matters across various industry sectors, specializes in medical devices, pharmaceutical liability and product liability.

DLA Piper also lost a six-member team from its products liability and mass tort practice in May, when three partners, a senior counsel and two counsel left for Norton Rose Fulbright.

But the firm did bolster its roster in March when it landed the product liability co-chair from Shook Hardy & Bacon in Miami.

A request for comment sent to DLA Piper was not returned prior to publication time.

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