

Partner, Los Angeles

Litigation; Mass Torts, Insurance and Consumer Litigation



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#### Education

LL.M., Georgetown University, 1995

J.D., University of Southern California, 1993

B.A., Furman University, 1990

#### Bar Admissions

California

#### Associations

Board Member, California Women's Law Center

Board Member, The Music Center

Former President, National Association of Women Lawyers

Defense Research Institute  
(Products Law and Toxic Tort Sections)

Women Lawyers Association  
of Los Angeles

Women's Rainmaker Roundtable

Black Women Lawyers Association

Langston Bar Association

National Bar Association

Lisa Gilford is consistently recognized as one of the leading complex civil litigators in California. Her practice is focused on class actions, products liability law and jury trials. Since 2015, Ms. Gilford has been named one of the Top Women Lawyers by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, which also consistently lists her among the Top 100 Lawyers and Top Women Litigators in California. She is repeatedly included in Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America and has been named to *Best Lawyers in America* and *The Legal 500 U.S.* In 2018, she was named one of the Most Influential Women Attorneys by the Los Angeles Business Journal, which also named her among the Most Influential Minority Lawyers in 2016. Ms. Gilford was most recently named Consumer Litigation Lawyer of 2018 by the Century City Bar Association and as a Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference alternate lawyer representative for a one-year term starting in October 2018.

Her experience includes:

- serving as lead counsel to an elite university in a series of high-profile litigation matters stemming from a widely publicized academic scandal. Ms. Gilford defended the university in a series of class actions brought by former student-athletes alleging academic fraud, breach of contract and various tort theories, and was successful in getting the suits dismissed with prejudice;
- securing the dismissal of a privately held pharmaceutical company in a law enforcement matter involving marketing techniques for prescription pain medications;
- serving as lead counsel to Toyota in its "Unintended Acceleration" MDL involving more than 400 consumer class actions and personal injury cases, including successfully obtaining dismissal of the claims of plaintiffs from 14 different countries from that proceeding;
- representing corporate clients in class actions brought under California consumer protection and unfair competition laws, including the Unfair Competition Law, False Advertising Law and Consumer Legal Remedies Act; and counseling clients in litigation prevention and risk management in California;
- serving as trial counsel in products liability cases involving claims of design and manufacturing defect for a variety of consumer and commercial products, including motor vehicles, robotics, household appliances, pharmaceuticals, refinery equipment, industrial and agricultural chemicals, and food and nutrition additives; and
- obtaining a defense verdict for a major telecommunications client after a month-long jury trial in a case involving breach of contract and civil rights claims, and representing telecommunications clients in class actions brought under the Telephone Communications Privacy Act and California Invasion of Privacy Act.

Prior to entering private practice, Ms. Gilford taught at The Georgetown University Law Center and was a graduate fellow and public service lawyer with Georgetown's Institute for Public Representation. She frequently lectures on topics such as California tort, consumer protection and unfair competition claims; successful defense of class actions; best practices for outside counsel; and professional development for women lawyers and other diversity issues.

Ms. Gilford received the J. Michael Brown Award from DuPont in 2008 for her personal commitment to diversity, recruiting and mentoring in the legal profession. She is the former president of the National Association of Women Lawyers (2008-2009) and is actively involved in the Black Women Lawyers Association, Langston Bar Association and Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles. Ms. Gilford was profiled in two recent books on women in the legal profession, *Courageous Counsel: Conversations With Women General Counsel in the Fortune 500* and *Women on Top: The Woman's Guide to Leadership and Power in Law Firms*.