



## Aneca E. Lasley

Partner

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When Aneca Lasley steps into a courtroom, she embodies a powerful blend of strategic creativity and genuine passion for the law, earning her national recognition and the trust of some of the country's most prominent companies. Her professional approach begins with empathy and active listening, and clients seek her out both for her unwavering dedication to their causes and the hard-won experience needed to protect their interests.

With more than two decades of complex commercial litigation experience representing Fortune 100 and 500 companies, health care providers, global retailers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and financial institutions, her practice spans product liability, insurance coverage, intellectual property, and trade secret disputes, and she has secured multimillion-dollar verdicts and decisive defense wins in courts across the country.

Her trial skills extend to class action and multi-district litigation, where she has led the defense of large-scale disputes stemming from data breaches, digital tracking, and consumer privacy claims. Her ability to manage complex litigation with overlapping regulatory and reputational risks makes her a go-to advisor for companies navigating the evolving landscape of privacy-centric disputes.

This experience and her ability to see the “chess match” of high-risk litigation has made Aneca a valuable strategic asset to her clients. Aneca routinely advises on risk management, product recalls, regulatory compliance, and litigation preparedness, always with a focus on aligning legal strategy with business goals. She is also frequently retained as an expert witness on attorneys' fees, offering authoritative insight grounded in her extensive litigation experience and deep understanding of fee structures and reasonableness standards.

Aneca is a Fellow of the **Litigation Counsel of America**, a member of the **International Association of Defense Counsel**, and a Fellow of the **American College of Trial Lawyers**. Her commitment to excellence in trial advocacy has also earned her numerous accolades, including recognition by *Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers USA*, and *Ohio Super Lawyers*. In 2025, she was named “Lawyer of the Year” for Product Liability Litigation – Defendants.

### Services & Industries

- Advertising & Marketing
- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Coverage & Recovery
- Litigation
- Products Liability
- Risk & Crisis Management

Outside of her legal practice, Aneca is deeply committed to community service and professional mentorship. She has served on the board of the YWCA and is the past Chair of the Board for United Schools Network, a past president of Women Lawyers of Franklin County, and a Fellow of the Columbus Bar Foundation.

A proud Buckeye, Aneca earned her J.D. from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and her B.A. from Ohio Northern University.

## **Notable Trials**

Aneca Lasley has led trial teams in some of the most complex and high-stakes litigation in the country. Her courtroom victories span a wide range of industries and legal issues, including:

- Represented a U.S.-based automotive supplier in supply contract claims valued in excess of \$17 million against the acquirer of an OEM out of bankruptcy and reached a favorable settlement following trial.
- Represented major pharmaceutical manufacturers, as well as a seatbelt and airbag manufacturer, in products liability litigation throughout the United States.
- Represented a science and technology-based company in complex consolidated proceedings alleging toxic exposure to chemicals in drinking water involving multiple MDL bellwether trials.
- Obtained a unanimous defense verdict in favor of a national insurance underwriter against claims of mortgage fraud and a Ponzi scheme seeking in excess of \$4 million.
- Defended a big-four accounting firm in litigation commenced by the Ohio Superintendent of Insurance alleging failure to conduct an audit of insurance company in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Defended a research company and its three founding scientists against claims of trade secret misappropriation and breach of contract and successfully prosecuted counterclaims resulting in a verdict in the amount of \$19 million in compensatory damages and \$7.5 million in punitive damages, in addition to attorneys' fees, placing it among VerdictSearch's Top 100 Verdicts of 2008.
- Obtained a jury verdict for \$5.2 million in favor of a corporate acquisition arm of a U.S.-based promotional products company in litigation involving breaches of representations and warranties and misappropriation of trade secrets.
- Successfully defended a national provider of lithotripsy services in a derivative action alleging breach of fiduciary duty and seeking in excess of \$1 million. Following less than two hours of deliberation, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict.
- Represented a global book retailer in a lawsuit alleging trademark infringement under the Lanham Act. After persuasively arguing the merits of the case during an early case management conference and with very little discovery required, a favorable settlement was reached.
- Obtained a \$5.7 million judgment against a prominent educational institution for negligent misrepresentation made to a foreign investor in a technology development project sponsored by the institution.

## **Education**

- Ohio Northern University (B.A., 1997)
- The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (J.D., 2000)

## **Admissions**

- Ohio

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Columbus Bar Association
- Ohio Women's Bar Association
- Fellow, Columbus Bar Foundation

- United Way's Young Leadership Group
- Member, International Association of Defense Counsel

## Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Insurance, Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2024-2026
- *Columbus CEO's Top Lawyers List*, Commercial & Insurance Litigation Law, 2025
- *Best Lawyers*® "Lawyer of the Year", Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2025
- *Benchmark Litigation*, Litigation Star, 2026; Labor & Employment Star
- *Chambers USA* America's Leading Lawyers for Insurance, 2023-2024
- Ohio *Super Lawyers*: Business Litigation, 2016-2026; Top 25: Women Columbus Super Lawyers: 2019, 2022 - 2024
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers, 2019
- Ohio *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars, 2009-2015
- *Columbus Business First*, Forty Under 40, 2014
- Leadership Columbus, 2009 Graduate

## Community Involvement

- Former Board Member, YWCA
- Former Vice-chair of the Board, United Schools Network

# Key Matters

## Reported and Representative Cases

- Represented a US-based automotive supplier in supply contract claims valued in excess of US\$17 million against the acquirer of an OEM out of bankruptcy and reached a favorable settlement following trial.
- Represented major pharmaceutical manufacturers, as well as a seatbelt and airbag manufacturer, in products liability litigation throughout the US.
- Represented a science and technology based company in complex consolidated proceedings alleging toxic exposure to chemicals in drinking water.
- Obtained a unanimous defense verdict in favor of a national insurance underwriter against claims of mortgage fraud and a Ponzi scheme seeking in excess of US\$4 million.
- Defended a big-four accounting firm in litigation commenced by the Ohio Superintendent of Insurance alleging failure to conduct an audit of insurance company in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Defending a research company and its three founding scientists against claims of trade secret misappropriation and breach of contract and successfully prosecuted counterclaims resulting in a verdict in the amount of US\$19 million in compensatory damages and US\$7.5 million in punitive damages, in addition to attorneys' fees, placing it among VerdictSearch's Top 100 Verdicts of 2008.
- Obtained a jury verdict for US\$5,245,000 in favor of a corporate acquisition arm of a US-based promotional products company in litigation involving breaches of representations and warranties and misappropriation of trade secrets.

- Successfully defended a national provider of lithotripsy services in a derivative action alleging breach of fiduciary duty and seeking in excess of US\$1 million. Following less than two hours of deliberation, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict.
- Represented a global book retailer in a lawsuit alleging trademark infringement under the Lanham Act. After persuasively arguing the merits of the case during an early case management conference and with very little discovery required, a favorable settlement was reached.
- Obtaining a US\$5,685,798.29 judgment against a prominent educational institution for negligent misrepresentation made to a foreign investor in a technology development project sponsored by the institution.

#### **Selected Experience**

- Counseling manufacturers on product recall strategies.
- Counseling a Fortune 100 company with respect to its strategy in seeking insurance coverage for a claim in excess of US\$140 million.
- Counseling a Fortune 500 company on intellectual property matters in Ohio.
- Advising companies on trade secret strategies and risk management.
- Advising companies on corporate compliance policies, practices and implementation.

## **Success Stories**

#### **Ice Miller Wins Ohio Supreme Court Ruling Upholding Arbitration in Bad Faith Insurance Case**

Ice Miller LLP secured a key victory for its client, The Doctors Company Risk Retention Group (TDCRRG), when the Ohio Supreme Court issued a pivotal decision in *U.S. Acute Care Solutions, L.L.C. v. Doctors Co. Risk Retention Group Ins. Co.* The Court reinforced the enforceability of arbitration clauses in insurance contracts – even in tort claims alleging bad-faith insurance handling.

The dispute arose after U.S. Acute Care Solutions (USACS) self-funded a settlement in a Connecticut medical malpractice case and subsequently sued TDCRRG in Ohio, alleging bad faith claim handling. Although the Fifth District Court of Appeals ruled that the bad-faith claim was not subject to arbitration, the Ohio Supreme Court unanimously reversed that decision, holding that the arbitration clause in the insurance policy was broad enough to cover the dispute.

In its opinion, the Court emphasized Ohio's strong public policy favoring arbitration and clarified that broad arbitration clauses – like the one in TDCRRG's policy – are presumed to apply to a wide range of disputes, including tort claims. The Court found that the clause, which required arbitration of "any dispute relating to this policy," clearly covered the bad-faith claim, especially since the dispute could not be pursued without reference to the underlying insurance policy or the insurer-insured relationship.

The Court also addressed and distinguished its prior decision in *Scott Fetzer Co. v. Am. Home Assur. Co.*, which the Fifth Circuit relied upon in its decision below, explaining that while bad-faith claims are torts arising by the operation of law, they are not categorically excluded from arbitration. What matters, the Court explained, is the language of the arbitration clause and the parties' intent – and in this case, both support arbitration.

This ruling provides clarity and reassurance to insurers and policyholders alike: When parties agree to broad arbitration provisions, in Ohio, those agreements will be enforced, even against creatively pleaded tort claims. It also underscores the importance of precise contract drafting and the continuing strength of arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism in Ohio.

Ice Miller LLP proudly represented the appellee in this appeal, with partner [Aneca Lasley](#) and senior counsel [Jenny Buchheit](#) leading the litigation team, supported by associates [Ally Petrillo](#) and [Abby DeMare](#). Their advocacy helped secure a decision that sets a meaningful precedent for future insurance disputes.

# Thought Leadership

April 6, 2026

**Law360 | Why MDLs Slow Down — And Three Ways to Speed Them Up**

*Law360*

May 8, 2025

**Quade | Is Your Website or App a Legal Risk? Privacy Lawsuits Are on the Rise—Here's What You Need to Know**

*Quade Blog*

April 4, 2025

**The Continuing Saga of Ad Tracking Litigation: What Businesses Need to Know**