



Peter L. Choate

Partner

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Peter Choate is a litigator and appellate advocate who represents major corporations in pharmaceutical, medical device, toxic tort/mass tort, and general product liability litigation.

As a litigator, Peter defends clients in state and federal courts throughout the United States, including in multi-district and coordinated proceedings. He works with trial teams to formulate, coordinate, and execute the legal and scientific defense in high-profile product liability litigations. He has led legal teams at multiple trials, including a team responsible for all pre-trial and trial briefing in one of the largest pharmaceutical product liability litigations in history. Peter enjoys the process of integrating a complex set of facts, scientific/medical principles, and legal theories into a simple, straightforward, and compelling story designed to persuade a judge and jury.

As an appellate advocate, Peter also works with trial teams to identify determinative legal and factual issues and then develop and execute trial court strategies with an eye towards appeal. In that role, he drafts and argues in limine, expert, and dispositive motions as well as jury instructions, works with the trial team to protect the record for appeal, and then briefs and argues the appeal. Peter has handled appeals and writ proceedings involving pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and industrial products as well as contract and other business and commercial disputes.

Before joining Tucker Ellis, Peter was a litigation partner at O'Melveny & Myers LLP for several years. Before that, he was a law clerk for the Hon. William J. Rea of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. When he is not working, Peter enjoys cooking, working in his garden, camping, fishing, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Education

- Loyola Law School, Los Angeles (J.D., cum laude, 1999); Order of the Coif; Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review, Articles Editor
- University of California, Los Angeles (B.A., magna cum laude, 1993); Phi Beta Kappa

State Admissions

- California, 1999

Federal Admissions

- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court, Central District of California
- United States District Court, Eastern District of California
- United States District Court, Northern District of California
- United States District Court, Southern District of California

Languages

- French

Service Areas

- Life Sciences Litigation
- Mass Tort & Product Liability
- Class Action Litigation
- Health & Life Sciences
- Appellate & Legal Issues
- Business Litigation

Industries Represented

- Chemical
- Consumer Products
- Manufacturing
- Pharmaceutical & Medicine

Publications & Events

PUBLICATIONS

- Choate, P.L. and Shafroth, T.L. (2021). Damages Theories and Defenses. In C.E. Ward-Reichard (Ed.), *Mass Torts in the United States, Strategy and Practice* (1st ed., pp. 131–194). American Bar Association.
- “[Experts Liberally Construed](#),” *Los Angeles Lawyer* (October 2018)
- “[California’s Evolving Standard on Expert Opinion Evidence](#),” *Law360* (February 2018)
- “*Sargon Enterprises v. USC*: A Step Toward *Daubert*,” *Law360* (Jan. 2013) (co-written with Kelsey Larson)
- “Attributable Risk and Specific Causation,” *Law360* (Nov. 2008) (co-written with Brian Currey and Houman Ehsan)
- “Suspenders and the Perfection of Security Interests in Copyrights: The Undressing of the Contemporary Creditor,” 31 *Loy. L.A. L. Rev.* 4, 1415 (1998)

In the Community

- Sullivan Canyon Preservation Association, Board of Directors
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Amicus Brief Committee
- American Bar Association