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Companies face increasingly well-coordinated attacks in jurisdictions across the country. These assaults are becoming more complex and costly as plaintiffs' counsel pursue novel theories and claims to keep asbestos litigation thriving. Husch Blackwell's team has experience in numerous jurisdictions throughout 37 states. Our attorneys can help you navigate the intricate web of plaintiffs' firms, changing laws, evolving science and anti-defendant courts. [\[More information\]](#)

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New Developments

Illinois Supreme Court Set to Rule on Asbestos Civil Conspiracy Claim

By [Danielle Luisi](#) & [Michael Hopkins](#)

The Illinois Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments in *Jones v. Pneumo Abex LLC*, where Plaintiffs, John and Deborah Jones, sued brake lining company Pneumo Abex ("Abex") and glass bottle maker Owens-Illinois ("O-I") for injuries John Jones allegedly suffered due to asbestos exposure during his construction career. Although Jones never worked for Defendants and never used or was exposed to any product of Defendants, Plaintiffs allege that Defendants entered into a civil conspiracy with the asbestos industry at large including Johns-Manville, an insulation and roofing materials manufacturer, to conceal the harmful health effects of asbestos exposure. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

District Court of New Jersey Finds Specific Jurisdiction Lacking Based on Successor Liability Theory

By [Shannon Peters](#) & [Sam Thomas](#)

In *Thomas-Fish v. Aetna Steel Prod. Corp.*, plaintiff Helen Thomas-Fish alleged her husband Robert Fish had died from mesothelioma caused by exposure to asbestos through his work at a shipbuilding yard in New Jersey in 1960. Plaintiff brought a wrongful death claim against various defendants including Sonic Industries ("Sonic"), an alleged joiner contractor that installed asbestos-containing paneling during shipbuilding. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

A "Substantial Factor" in Bringing About Change? Illinois' McKinney Appellate Decision Raises Plaintiff Burdens for Duty and Causation

By [Ryan White](#) & [Caleb Hunt](#)

On September 5, 2018, the Appellate Court for the Fourth District of Illinois introduced heightened standards for plaintiffs to establish duty and causation in asbestos litigation through its reversal of a McLean County trial court's decision denying a defendant's motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Pennsylvania Federal Court Holds Statutory Scheme Requiring Out-of-State Corporations to Register to Do Business and Consent to General Jurisdiction is Unconstitutional

By [Jen Dlugosz](#) & [Lucas Funk](#)

The Eastern District of Pennsylvania in *Sullivan v. A. W. Chesterton, Inc., et al.*, grappled with the constitutionality of the Pennsylvania statutes, 15 Pa.C.S. § 411 and 42 Pa.C.S. § 5301, (the "PA Statutory Scheme") requiring out-of-state businesses to register in the state, which in turn functions as consent to general jurisdiction. This issue became salient only in light of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Daimler AG v. Bauman*, (holding corporation is "at home" only where it is incorporated or maintains its principal place of business). [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Florida Jury Awards \$70M in Mesothelioma Verdict

By [Andrew German](#) & [Maysa Daoud](#)

A former laboratory technician at a biopharmaceutical company and his wife were awarded close to \$70 million by a Florida state jury over claims he developed mesothelioma resulting from exposure to asbestos-containing products at work. At the end of the two-week trial, the jury found against GEA Mechanical Equipment ("GEA"), an equipment company, for its negligence in distributing the alleged asbestos-containing products and failing to adequately warn plaintiff of the related health hazards. [\[Continue Reading\]](#)

Looking Ahead: The Future of Ovarian Cancer Litigation

By [Tim Larkin](#)

Last year, a St. Louis city jury sent shock waves across the world, awarding 22 plaintiffs nearly \$5 billion in compensatory and punitive damages in a lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson over claims its asbestos-contaminated talcum powder caused ovarian cancer in women who used the company's product for years in the case of *Ingham v. Johnson & Johnson*, No. 1522-CC10417 (Mo. Cir. Ct. St. Louis City July 12, 2018). Prior to trial, Imerys Talc America Inc., a co-defendant supplier of talc to Johnson & Johnson, settled plaintiffs' claims for at least \$5 million [\[Continue Reading\]](#)