

As Seen In... Forbes, May 6, 2013

Darger Errante Yavitz & Blau LLP

Creative and Cost-Effective Strategies in High-Stakes Litigation

When Fortune 100 companies face complex legal challenges in the areas of mass tort, product liability, premises liability and commercial litigation, they turn to the Manhattan law firm of Darger Errante Yavitz & Blau (DEYB) for help. Whether through litigation, negotiation or trial, DEYB specializes in finding practical solutions to the most complex legal issues involving asbestos, benzene, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, Chinese drywall, dietary supplements, cell phones and much more.

Founded in 2011, but with many years of prior legal experience, this boutique litigation firm brings big-firm experience to every case. With partners who previously worked at some of the biggest firms in New York City, DEYB has prevailed against powerful adversaries. In one high-profile case, DEYB was instrumental in obtaining a court ruling that bankrupt companies were required to share liability for asbestos-related injuries, significantly lowering the financial burden on the firm's clients. This seminal decision was upheld by the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, and has had a huge impact on mass tort litigation throughout New York State.

"Each of our partners has 20 to 30 years of experience in litigation, mass tort and product liability," says Craig Blau, a founding partner at DEYB. "We are solution-driven problem solvers. We get to the heart of complex matters quickly. We pride ourselves on listening to our clients and providing advice consistent with their business goals."

Even small to midsize businesses and individuals receive this first-class representation. When water lines on residential property began leaking, the resulting flood damaged expensive equipment owned by a large utility company. The utility sued the homeowners, claiming they were responsible for monetary damages, which were significant and would have far exceeded the value of their property. An adverse decision in the case could have had costly repercussions for homeowners throughout New York State.



Partners (left to right): Craig Blau, Vincent A. Errante Jr., Jennifer W. Darger and Judith A. Yavitz

- Product Liability & Mass Torts
- General Litigation & Investigations
- Asbestos Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation

"We help juries stay focused on facts."

– Craig Blau, Partner

"Our partner Jennifer Darger argued that homeowners do not have any duty to maintain, control or inspect subsurface water lines, and therefore should not be held responsible for subsurface defects that they were not even aware of," says Blau. "The court agreed with our arguments, and granted summary judgment in our favor."

Blau, who at one time chaired the product liability department at a large New York City law firm, has been published in the *New York Law Journal* and contributed a chapter on product liability and mass tort litigation for the book *Inside the Minds: Strategies for Limiting Product Liability* (Aspatore, 2008). Partner Judy Yavitz, a former co-chair of litigation at a top New York City law firm and currently New York City Asbestos Litigation defense liaison counsel, is recognized repeatedly as a Super Lawyer®, while DEYB is recognized by *Best Lawyers/Best Law Firms*®. Partner Vincent Errante, an accomplished trial lawyer, regularly travels around the country defending companies in complex cases in some of the most difficult jurisdictions. Founding partner Jennifer Darger, also once a partner at a top New York law firm, has developed a particular expertise in organizing, synthesizing, managing and negotiating tens of thousands of mass tort claims nationally.

"I like the scientific aspect of a lot of the work we do," says Blau, who was interested in medicine before going into law. "Plaintiffs often have an advantage over defendants, because juries tend to be sympathetic toward people who are sick or dying. We help juries stay focused on facts."

DEYB
LLP