

■ NEW YORK
LEADERS IN LAW

Success Breeds Success

*Darger Errante Yavitz & Blau LLP
Is on the Cutting Edge of Mass Tort Litigation Defense*

What a difference three years can make in the life of a law firm, especially a dynamic, young firm like Darger Errante Yavitz & Blau LLP.

When we last spoke with founding partner Craig Blau, in 2013, the then-2-year-old practice was just starting to make a name for itself in the area of mass tort litigation, particularly asbestos defense litigation. Formed in 2011 by four former partners at large international firms, the practice had already achieved a number of significant successes. The years since then have brought even more success, as DEYB cements its reputation for providing big firm-quality legal representation in a cost-effective manner.

The firm has doubled in size, to 21 attorneys, plus 16 paralegals, two nurses and seven support staff, as it continues to attract additional work from both existing and new clients, including many Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies.

“At DEYB, we are problem solvers. We’re able to cut through the bull quickly and get to the heart of the matter,” Blau says. “And, unlike some other firms, we approach every case differently. We are always looking for the unique angle that will help our client.”

Creative Strategies in Complex Cases

As New York City Asbestos Litigation defense liaison counsel, DEYB is at the forefront of this complex area of the law. Founding partner Judy Yavitz has served as defense liaison counsel for more than 25 years, having been chosen to advocate on behalf of hundreds of lawyers and clients in this challenging mass tort.



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

“Defendants in these kinds of cases, particularly in New York City, often start out at a disadvantage,” Blau says. “Juries tend to be sympathetic toward the plaintiffs. It’s our job to get the jury to focus on the facts and the judges on the legal issues.” To that end, founding partner Vincent Errante continues to travel the country trying cases and helping juries stay focused.

The practice is known for its skillful and creative use of legal strategies. Blau has had great success, where others have failed, in getting several high-profile cases severed from consolidated trial groups, and in obtaining early dismissals in other cases at the summary judgment stage. “Consolidation of individual cases for trial is a huge issue in mass tort litigation. It is to the plaintiff’s advantage to get as many cases as they can tried together,” Blau explains.

“Such consolidations, as they are called, can result in significant prejudice against the defendant, because the individual issues in specific cases can get lost to a jury. So our goal is to find a way to get these cases tried individually, or severed, when we can.”

Founding partner Jennifer Darger is nationally known for her effective management and resolution of complex mass tort cases, has long-established relationships with a network of attorneys across the country and continues to rack up an impressive track record for a number of high-profile firm clients.

- Product Liability and Mass Torts
- General Litigation and Investigations
- Asbestos Litigation

“Others outside the firm have said that we at DEYB have assembled the ‘dream team’ of lawyers in asbestos defense litigation,” Blau says. “I do know we have a very talented group of lawyers and professionals dedicated to our clients. And the longevity of many of our lawyers and paralegals, some of whom have been doing this work with us for 15 years or more, offers our clients a unique advantage.”



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