

## When Product Liability Turns Into Class Action

By Douglas D. Brannon

Product liability attorneys play a big role in protecting the consumer from hazardous products. Whether it is bad pharmaceuticals or faulty football helmets, the potential of being named in a lawsuit exists for any business involved in the sale of a defective or dangerous product which has caused injury.

Product liability lies with every entity along the distribution chain: The manufacturer, the assembler, the distributor and the retailer. When anyone responsible for getting a defective product into the hands of a consumer can be held liable, it is called “strict liability.”

Any claim alleging that a product is defective must be proven by the injured or affected party. This is where the assistance of an experienced lawyer comes into play. An experienced personal injury lawyer will have the knowledge and resources at their disposal in order to piece together a solid product liability case.

Although laws may vary according to the state where the claim is filed, generally there are several areas within the sphere of “product defects” that can be seen as responsible for causing harm to the consumer. The main areas include:

**Design Flaws:** Defects are found in the actual design of the product before it has been manufactured.

**Manufacturing Defects:** This occurs during the production or construction of a product.

**Marketing Defects:** Product is improperly advertised or labeled to the point of where the potential hazard in question is not conveyed clearly to the consumer.

### Large-Scale Product Liability

While structuring a product liability case, the attorney will gather evidence, organize court documentation and determine who to file suit against.

In dealing with product liability cases, there are also instances where it is discovered that multiple consumers or businesses have been negatively affected or harmed by the same faulty product or service. In these kinds of cases, the claimants might decide to file a class action lawsuit; with one or several plaintiffs representing all those involved in the suit.

There are advantages to filing class action suits compared to multiple individuals filing separate claims. Mainly, there's the “power in numbers” factor, which tends to give more legitimacy to these claims due to the fact that evidence is presented by multiple sources. Class action suits are also more cost effective for the plaintiffs and less of a burden on the court system.

When one person is injured or harmed in some way by a defective product or service, there are usually others who have shared the same experience. A class action suit can achieve fair compensation for the victims of a faulty product while increasing public safety in the process.

**Sources:**

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