

Richard A. Crites
Special Counsel, Orange County, California

Civil Litigation
 Products Liability
 Environmental and Toxic Tort
 Personal Injury



Richard A. Crites

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Current Scope of Practice

Richard Crites is a trial attorney with significant experience in multiple areas of civil litigation, with a focus on products liability and toxic tort practice. Mr. Crites manages complex cases from inception through trial, including post-judgment and appellate practice. He concentrates his practice on products liability, and has significant experience in myriad areas of the field, including pharmaceutical and dietary supplement cases, tire failure cases, fire subrogation, toxic tort and environmental contamination cases, work-place exposure claims, and other serious personal injury actions.

Affiliations, Activities and Accomplishments

In a crowning achievement, Mr. Crites was named as national coordinating counsel for a Tennessee-based manufacturer in nationwide subrogation litigation with exposure in excess of \$100 million. In that role, Mr. Crites was instrumental in securing a unanimous defense verdict for his client, which *The Daily Journal* recognized as one of California's "Top 10 Defense Verdicts of 2004."

As elected co-chair of the Orange County Bar Association's Products Liability Section since 2007, Mr. Crites organizes section meetings and moderates panel discussions on topics pertinent to the legal community. He also holds a leadership position with the Defense Research Institute's Recreational Product Specialized Litigation Group and participates with the DRI's products liability and toxic tort groups as well.

Mr. Crites was named "Who's Who" by the Orange County Bar Association in the March 2011 edition of *Orange County Lawyer Magazine*. This is the fifth consecutive year that he has received this honor, and was included in *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Edition 2011 in the category of Product Liability defense attorneys for Southern California.

Mr. Crites is admitted to practice in all California State Courts (1999), the Central District Court of California (2004), as well as the United States Eastern District Court of California (2004).

Publications

- “Consortium Without a Cause?” DRI’s *dritoday* (June 2, 2011).
- “Personal Jurisdiction Going Nationwide?” DRI’s *dritoday* (March 10, 2011).
- “The Nationalization of Personal Jurisdiction?” *Product Liability Law360* and *International Trade Law360* (June 29, 2010).
- “The Nationalization of Personal Jurisdiction—Are Minimum Contacts Drowning in the Stream of Commerce?” Sedgwick’s *Product Liability Advisory* (June 8, 2010).
- “And the Defense Wins,” DRI’s *The Voice* (May 26, 2010).
- “The CPSIA and State Statutes Create a Web of Consumer Protection Laws,” American Bar Association’s *Products Liability* (Spring 2010).
- “Who’s Who in the OCBA,” *Orange County Lawyer Magazine* (March, 2010).
- “Iqbal’s Heightened Pleading Standard and Its Probable Effect on Product Liability Cases,” Sedgwick’s *Product Liability Advisory* (January 4, 2010).
- “The CPSC Utilizes Common Sense—But Does It Offer a Safe Harbor?,” Sedgwick’s *CPSC Advisory* (July 22, 2009).
- “CPSC: A Watchdog Finally Gets Its Teeth,” *In-House Defense Quarterly* (Winter 2009).
- “Who’s Who in the OCBA,” *Orange County Lawyer Magazine* (March, 2009).
- Co-author, “The Times are Changing at the CPSC,” *Product Liability Law 360* (March 14, 2008).
- Co-author, “New Rules, Greater Protections - Regardless of How A Company’s CGMPs Are Implemented, Manufacturers Should Consider The Liability Risks,” *Nutritional Outlook*, p. 24-27 (March, 2008).
- “Who’s Who in the OCBA,” *Orange County Lawyer Magazine* (March, 2008).
- “Who’s Who in the OCBA,” *Orange County Lawyer Magazine* (March, 2007).
- “Richard Crites Elected to Chair of OCBA Products Liability Section,” *Orange County Business Journal* (January 29, 2007).
- “On the Move,” *The Recorder* (January 8, 2007).
- “On the Move,” *The Daily Journal* (December 27, 2006).
- “Top 10 Defense Verdicts of 2004,” *The Daily Journal*.

Presentations

- “Annual Case Law Update,” DRI Product Liability Conference (April 2010).
- “Landmark Legislation Alert: The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008,” Orange County Bar Association Products Liability Section (September 19, 2008).
- “Born to Be Wild: Litigating a Design Defect Claim,” Orange County Bar Association Products Liability Section (June 20, 2008).
- “Mold 101: Defending Mold Claims,” CNA Insurance Companies, Chicago, IL (July 19, 2005).

Education

Mr. Crites attained his J.D. (1999) from The George Washington University Law School, located in Washington, D.C. His B.A. (1996) in political science was conferred by the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Mr. Crites is also a graduate of the Sedgwick Trial Academy (2007), an intense weeklong simulated trial designed to hone trial skills.