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Areas of Practice

Class Action

Commercial Litigation,
Insolvency & Creditors'
Rights

Consumer Products

E-Discovery & Document
Retention

Litigation

Nanotechnologies

Products Liability,
Pharmaceutical & Mass
Tort Litigation

Toxic Tort

Education

Georgetown University
Law Center, J.D., *cum laude*,
1994, Articles Editor, *Law
& Policy in International
Business*, Winner, Beaudry
Cup Moot Court
Competition, National
Moot Court Team

Yale University, B.A.,
summa cum laude, 1991

Bar & Court Admissions

District of Columbia

New York

US Supreme Court

Jennifer Quinn-Barabanov

Jennifer Quinn-Barabanov is a partner in the Washington office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP, where she is a member of the firm’s Litigation Department. Ms. Quinn-Barabanov concentrates her practice on class actions, mass torts, toxic torts, product liability matters, and other complex disputes.

Ms. Quinn-Barabanov is adept at handling toxic tort and product liability matters in all of the contexts in which they arise, including: single plaintiff cases, mass actions involving hundreds of plaintiffs, thousands of similar cases filed in jurisdictions across the country, and class actions. She has litigated product liability matters related to wireless phones, silica, welding fumes, pesticides, and polio vaccines, to name a few. In the toxic tort area, Ms. Quinn-Barabanov has litigated cases involving alleged groundwater, air and soil contamination, as well as vapor intrusion.

Most notably, Ms. Quinn-Barabanov has successfully defeated class certification in several cases seeking medical monitoring relief. She is a recognized leader on issues related to the use of expert testimony in the context of class certification proceedings.

Ms. Quinn-Barabanov frequently serves as national coordinating counsel for companies that face many similar lawsuits related to a product or alleged chemical exposures. In this role, she has formulated and implemented global strategies for successfully representing clients faced with thousands of individual law suits, consolidated federal multidistrict litigation, and class actions.

As a result of her experience with large-scale litigation, Ms. Quinn-Barabanov possesses particular knowledge concerning electronic discovery and related issues. She has leveraged the mass litigation and electronic discovery resources of Steptoe’s Complex Litigation and Discovery Center to achieve superior results and cost efficiencies for her clients.

From 1999–2000, Ms. Quinn-Barabanov served as Special Counsel to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, then Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and currently the Governor of New York.

For several years, Ms. Quinn-Barabanov served as the Chairperson of Operation Crackdown, a group of volunteer lawyers who provide free legal services to Washington, DC, community-based organizations seeking to eliminate crackhouses from their neighborhoods. The Bar Association of the District of Columbia recognized Ms. Quinn-Barabanov with several awards for this work, including, Young Lawyer of the Year and Committee Chairperson of the Year. Operation Crackdown also received the Council for Court Excellence’s Justice Potter Stewart Award under her leadership.

US Court of Appeals for
the Third Circuit

US Court of Appeals for
the Fourth Circuit

US District Court for the
District of Columbia

US District Court for the
District of Maryland

Jennifer Quinn-Barabanov

Prior to joining Steptoe, Ms. Quinn-Barabanov clerked for the Honorable William G. Bassler of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Noteworthy Rulings

- *Rhodes v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours*, 636 F.3d 88 (4th Cir. 2011) (affirming summary judgment on nuisance, negligence, trespass, and battery claims arising from alleged groundwater contamination).
- *Rhodes v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours*, 253 F.R.D. 365, 374 (S.D. W.Va. 2008) (denying class certification of medical monitoring and common law claims arising from alleged water contamination).
- *Rowe v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours*, 2008 WL 5412912 (D.N.J.) (denying class certification of medical monitoring claims arising from alleged water contamination).
- *Baker v. Chevron USA, Inc.*, 680 F. Supp. 865 (S.D. Ohio 2010) (excluding plaintiffs' expert's causation testimony as unreliable and granting summary judgment).
- *Hebern v. American Cyanamid Co.*, 2011 WL 135779 (N.J.Super.A.D.) (affirming grant of summary judgment, concluding that claims were barred by National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act).
- *In re Welding Fume Product Liability Litig.*, 2007 WL 1087605 (N.D. Ohio) (granting summary judgment, resulting in dismissal from multidistrict litigation proceedings involving thousands of claims).

Recognition & Awards

- Burton Award for Achievement in Legal Writing, 2012
- Editorial Board, Product Liability Law 360
- Past Board Member, Leadership 35, National Women's Law Center
- Young Lawyer of the Year, 1998, Bar Association of the District of Columbia
- Committee Chairperson of the Year, 1997-1998, Young Lawyers Section of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia
- Chair, Pro Bono Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, 1997-1998

Jennifer Quinn-Barabanov

Select Seminars & Events

"Daubert Motions in Class Certification After Dukes: Using or Challenging Expert Testimony Amid Divergent Court Standards," *Strafford Publication's Webinar*, May 1, 2012

"Preparing for Litigation Arising out of Unconventional Gas Drilling Operations in Shale Plays," *ACI's 3rd National Forum on Chemical Products Liability and Environmental Litigation Conference*, April 26, 2012

"Case Study: Scientific Evidence in Hydraulic Fracturing Litigation," *George Mason University School of Law Judicial Symposium on Scientific Evidence in the Courts*, April 24, 2012

"Don't Give Up on a Lost Cause: Defeating Novel Theories of Causation in Toxic Tort Cases," *DRI's Product Liability Conference*, April 12, 2012

"Environmental Toxic Injury Claims: Bringing or Defending Against Environmental Personal Injury Actions," *Strafford Publication's Webinar*, February 16, 2012

"Examining a Fracking Contamination Case or Injury," *HB Litigation's Gas Drilling Operations Conference*, December 13, 2011

Selected Publications

Has Dukes Killed Medical Monitoring?
November 2011, *For the Defense*

Avoiding A Fracking Mess
September 7, 2011, *Law360*

Sunscreen Cos. — 1st To Get Burned By Nano Suits?
July 28, 2011, *Law360*

Nanotech—Small Particles, Big Potential for Compliance and Litigation Risk
Government regulators are requesting health and safety information from manufacturers of nanomaterials under various environmental laws.
February 11, 2011, *Industry Week*

How to Minimize Litigation Risks of Nanotechnology
July 22, 2010, *Bloomberg Law Reports*

Can Lead Recall Class Actions Be Stopped At Once?
January 24, 2008, *Product Law360*

Lead Recall Class Actions Chug Along: Will They Run out of Steam?

Jennifer Quinn-Barabanov

December 2007, *The Toy Book*

Professional Affiliations

Sedona Conference Working Group on Electronic Document Retention & Production

Defense Research Institute – Toxic Torts, Product Liability, and Women in the Law Committees

Yale University 20th Reunion Gift Committee

Mixed Company of Yale – 30th Reunion Steering Committee