

Biography of Panelist Tara Hanley

Professional Background

Tara Hanley is one of two founders of Markland Hanley, a boutique product liability litigation firm in Dallas, Texas. Markland Hanley concentrates on the defense of manufacturers of technologically advanced products, including artificial intelligence and other autonomous products, in product liability cases, both in Texas and throughout the country. The firm has repeatedly been ranked by U.S. News and World Report and Best Lawyers as a Tier One “Best Law Firm” in Dallas for Product Liability Litigation-Defendants. Before founding Markland Hanley, Tara practiced, for more than 15 years, in the Product Liability group of one of the nation’s largest law firms, Vinson & Elkins, LLP.

Tara has over twenty years of experience defending manufacturers of products in complex product liability matters pending throughout Texas and around the United States. She has secured numerous dismissals and final summary judgments on behalf of product manufacturers and has extensive experience defending manufacturers in a wide variety of product liability litigation, including crashworthiness cases, post-collision fuel fed fire cases, and cases involving allegations of defective design, manufacture, and/or marketing, involving automobiles, heavy trucks, buses, tractors, rollover protections systems, tires, farming and industrial equipment and components, pharmaceuticals, oil field equipment, and vehicle components, including seatbelts, brakes, and fuel and electrical systems, among other products.

Tara has a particular interest in defending manufacturers of autonomous and semi-autonomous vehicles. She serves as Co-Chair of the Product Liability Advisory Council Inc.’s Autonomous Vehicles and Products Action Group ADAS Sub-Group.

Education

- Tara received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Southern Methodist University School of Law. She was awarded an academic tuition scholarship each year during law school and served as the Notes and Comments Editor of the Southern Methodist University Law Review.
- Tara received a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in Public Policy Studies and Economics from Duke University.
- Tara completed one semester of her undergraduate studies at the London School of Economics & Political Science in London, England.