

Thompson Hine Expands Product Liability Practice Group

Fern Phillips O'Brian Joins D.C. Office

WASHINGTON--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))-- Fern Phillips O'Brian has joined the Washington office of the law firm Thompson Hine LLP. A partner in the firm's Product Liability practice group, O'Brian focuses her practice on health effects litigation and counseling companies on regulatory matters involving product liability and toxic tort. She also represents emerging technology companies and research organizations, including those developing and commercializing nanotechnology-enabled products. She has litigated numerous cases involving medical and pharmaceutical products, consumer products, environmental exposures to heavy metals, chemicals and tobacco, among others. She is a frequent author and speaker on product liability and mass tort issues such as class actions, admissibility of expert evidence and product liability prevention.

She was formerly with Arnold & Porter LLP, and served as the head of their London office until returning to Washington in 2003. Prior to that, she served as a law clerk to former Circuit Judge Kenneth W. Starr of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

On joining the firm, O'Brian says, "I'm very pleased to join Thompson Hine. I was impressed with their commitment to client service excellence through their Client Service Pledge, their strong product liability practice and the camaraderie in the D.C. office."

Elizabeth Wright, who leads the firm's Product Liability practice group, says, "We are excited to have Fern join our practice and the firm. Her depth of experience in the toxic tort and consumer and health care products areas will be a great benefit to our clients."

Washington office partner-in-charge Chuck Freed adds, "We're very glad to have Fern on board here in the Washington, D.C. office. She is a strong addition to Thompson Hine."

O'Brian earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from Georgetown University and her B.A., with highest honors, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, Virginia and before the Supreme Court of the United States.

About Thompson Hine LLP: Established in 1911, Thompson Hine is a business law firm dedicated to providing superior client service. The firm has been recognized as one of the Best Corporate Law Firms in America (in an annual survey of corporate directors conducted by *Corporate Board Member* magazine). With approximately 400 lawyers, Thompson Hine serves premier businesses

worldwide. The firm has offices in Atlanta, Brussels, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, New York and Washington, D.C. For more information, go to www.ThompsonHine.com.