

Arnold & Porter



Sheila S. Boston

Partner

New York

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Credentials

Education

JD, Columbia Law School, 1993

AB, Princeton University,
Woodrow Wilson School of
Public Policy and International
Affairs, 1990

Admissions

New York

Supreme Court of the United
States

US Court of Appeals for the
Second Circuit

US District Court, Southern
District of New York

US District Court, Eastern
District of New York

Activities

President, New York City Bar
Association

Member, Second Circuit Attorney
Grievance Committee

NY Governor
Appointee/Member, New York's
First Department Judicial
Screening Committee

Chair, Federal Bar Council Board

Chair, DRI's Drug and Medical
Device Seminar

Sheila S. Boston is a trial lawyer and litigation strategist who defends clients from initiation of the case through trial and/or settlement.

Ms. Boston is valued by her clients for her advocacy skills, dependability, and collaborative spirit. Ms. Boston has successfully litigated before both state and federal courts, with significant MDL experience in mass tort actions, providing litigation avoidance counseling, and conducting audits to evaluate the potential product-related liabilities in proposed corporate acquisitions and reorganizations. She helps her clients by assessing litigation risks and defending lucrative products by weeding out frivolous individual personal injury lawsuits, defending against class actions and mass torts, and devising creative settlement solutions.

Adept in "battle of the experts" litigation, Ms. Boston has served as national coordinating counsel of experts, involving the retention, development and preparation of experts for depositions, *Daubert/Frye* hearings and trials; she has worked with numerous experts in various fields of medicine and science including, but not limited to, toxicology, infectious diseases, epidemiology, oncology, urology, hepatology, endocrinology, cardiology, psychology, and psychiatry.

A passionate advocate of diversity and inclusion in the workplace, Ms. Boston has won several awards for her efforts including the prestigious Chambers Diversity Awards USA 2016 inaugural award for her "Outstanding Contribution to Furthering the Advancement of Diversity in the Legal Profession, Private Practice." An active participant in bar associations and the legal community at large, Ms. Boston was appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve a three-year term on New York's First Department Judicial Screening Committee as well as appointed by former Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to serve on the Circuit's Attorney Grievance Committee. Notably, Ms. Boston is currently serving as the 69th President of the New York City Bar Association, and she is the first woman of color to serve in the position.

Experience

- *Bayer Corporation*, as co-trial counsel, in a personal injury action in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas involving the drug Xarelto, a blood thinner; defense verdict.
- *Bayer Corporation*, as co-trial counsel, in a personal injury action in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas involving the drug Yasmin, a birth control pill; settled favorably.
- *Takeda*, as co-trial counsel, in a personal injury action in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas involving the drug Actos, a diabetes medication; plaintiff verdict with low damages

Chair, Minority Partners in
Majority Firms Division,
National Bar Association

Member, New York State Bar
Association

Member, American Bar
Association

Member, Federal Bar Council

Member, National Bar
Association

Member, Metropolitan Black Bar
Association

Member, New York Bar
Foundation Fellow

Member, Defense Research
Institute (DRI)

Member, Board of Governors,
National Bar Association

settled during appeal process.

- *Darryl Scott Stinski*, as co-trial counsel, in a pro bono post-conviction death penalty proceeding tried before a judge inside of a maximum security Georgia state prison; still pending. *Stinski v. State of Georgia*
- Secondment Participant in Trial Rotation Program, New York City Law Department, Tort Division—served as trial counsel for Bronx Tort Division for 9/3/13-1/10/14.
- *Pfizer*, as co-trial counsel, in the Rezulin (diabetes drug) Litigation in mass tort litigation including MDL in SDNY, class actions in US and Canada, and state coordinated proceedings, as well as individual actions. Served as co-trial counsel in Mississippi and Alabama state cases and National Coordinator of Experts.
- *Sodexo, Inc.*, as co-trial counsel, in a promotion discrimination class action brought on behalf of more than 2,400 African-American mid-level manager plaintiffs; resolved favorably in \$80 million settlement with injunctive relief.

Recognition

- *The American Lawyer*
"Trailblazers"—Northeast (2021)
- *City & State NY*
Law Power 100 List (2021)
- *National Law Journal*
"Trailblazer"—Litigation (2020)
- *Who's Who Legal*
Product Liability Defense (New York) (2012-2018)
Life Sciences: Product Liability (New York) (2014, 2016, 2018)
- *Crain's New York*
Leading Women Lawyers in New York City (2018)
- *The Network Journal*
Influential Black Women in Business Honoree (2016)
- *Council of Urban Professionals*
Catalyst Honoree—Change Agent in Law Award (2015)
- *New York Law Journal*
Lifetime Achievement Award (2014)