



JAMES M. MEISTER • DIRECTOR

James has more than ten years experience in civil litigation defending corporate clients in complex civil litigation and regulatory matters. He has represented product manufacturers before the US Consumer Products Safety Commission in regulatory matters, and has defended manufacturers in product liability lawsuits in state and federal courts across the country. He is particularly skilled at supervising and managing attorney teams.

While at the U.S. Department of Justice, James represented several US governmental agencies in litigation over construction and product design defects. James also has significant experience before the US Court of International Trade where he investigated and prosecuted claims for violation of federal trade statutes in trade litigation.

While in San Francisco, James has held litigation management responsibilities for attorney teams in complex litigation over antitrust, MDL, and class-action cases. Most recently, he directed several attorney teams in obtaining on-site electronic discovery and created internal company protocols to ensure compliance with pending discovery orders and quality control.

EDUCATION

- University of Nebraska, B.A., 1990;
- Washington University School of Law, J.D. 1994, Assoc. Editor, *Journal of Urban & Contemporary Law*;

LANGUAGES

Spanish

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

- Missouri, 1995
- Nebraska, 1995
- California, 2001

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

RELEVANT REPRESENTATION

- Led Product Recall Team for Consumer Products Manufacturer to implement national market withdrawal of sporting goods product under the US Consumer Product Safety Commission voluntary recall program.
- Created Defense Strategy for Consumer and Industrial Products Manufacturers in federal and state court product liability actions.
- Prepared engineering, industrial, and actuary expert witnesses to analyze product design, defect, safety, and liability issues in multiple litigation and regulatory cases.
- Successfully analyzed and challenged industrial and engineering expert opinions under US Supreme Court framework of *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993).
- Successfully represented U.S. Army in multi-million dollar toxic tort lawsuit alleging air quality from asbestos exposure brought by civilian employees.
- Supervised, developed, and executed litigation strategies in 25+ complex litigation cases for US government, including construction and product design defects

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OF NOTE

James has a remarkable record of service to the federal judiciary. From 1994-1997, James was a federal Law Clerk for Judge Richard E. Webber and Judge Edward L. Philippine in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, and to the federal judges of the US Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. In 2003-2004, James served as Trial Attorney for the US Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., during which time he represented the US Army Corp of Engineers, US Department of Transportation, US Department of Interior, US Postal Service, the US Veteran's Administration, and the US Air Force.

CONTACT

Office: 314.862.7878
Cell: 415.260.4664
Facsimile: 314.862.7882
Email:
james.meister@averture.net

Two CityPlace Drive, Ste.200
Saint Louis, Missouri 63141





LEGAL EXPERIENCE *(continued)*

RELEVANT REPRESENTATION

- Defended corporate client in insurance matter and successfully argued appellate case before the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.
- Led the preparation of an opinion letter describing the federal tax consequences of the private sale of stock by a non-profit in a stock buyback plan and created the framework for a due diligence review to avoid "self-dealing" under 26 U.S.C. §4941 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Successfully obtained Freedom of Information Act requests for substantial amounts of documents held of New York Attorney General over antitrust conspiracy investigation.
- Developed and executed litigation strategies for US federal agencies in both civilian and military branches of government, including the selection and preparation of expert witnesses.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- *Legislative Fellow*, U.S. Senator J. Robert Kerry, Congressional Clinic, Washington, D.C., 1994.
- *Volunteer of the Year*, 2000, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.
- Represented indigent clients in landlord-tenant eviction actions in St. Louis City via Legal Services of Eastern Missouri.

PRODUCT EXPERIENCE

Home Appliances

*Aluminum Baseball
Bats*

Consumer Products

*Industrial
Equipment*
