

Dommond E. Lonnie

Member

Los Angeles

333 South Grand Avenue
Suite 2100
Los Angeles, CA 90071



T: 213-457-1712 dlonnie@dykema.com

Areas Of Practice

Litigation
Product Liability
Business & Commercial
Class Action Defense
Asbestos & Toxic Tort

Industries

Automotive Industry Group
Electric and Autonomous Vehicles (E/AV) and Advanced Mobility
Automotive, OEM & Supplier Litigation
Automotive Product Liability Litigation

Bar Admissions

California, 1989

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, Central District of California
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Education

University of California, Los Angeles, J.D.
University of California, Los Angeles, B.A.

Dommond E. Lonnie is a seasoned trial attorney who provides aggressive and innovative legal representation and advice for his clients in product liability, class action, commercial and toxic tort litigation. Mr. Lonnie has represented numerous domestic and foreign businesses and has substantial product liability expertise in crashworthiness, airbags/restraints, fires and suspensions/tires/rollovers, airbags/restraints, fires, brakes, and fuel systems cases. An experienced litigator and legal strategist, Mr. Lonnie implements litigation and investigation plans and manages all aspects of litigation and pre-suit claims to successful resolution. He has earned recognition in providing high level client service through timely and effective communication. Mr. Lonnie is recognized as one of the top six lawyers nationwide for automotive litigation by *Legal 500 US 2021*. He is a member of the Products, Class Action & Professional Liability practice group.

Management/Committees

- Executive Board Member

Significant Matters

- *Perry v Kia Motors*. Plaintiff sought \$103.5 million in damages alleging her diffuse axonal traumatic brain injury was caused by a defect in the restraint systems (seat belt pretensioners and airbags) of her vehicle after she was involved in a significant side impact crash that caused the vehicle to rollover. Jury delivered a unanimous defense verdict in 60 minutes after a trial that lasted over two months. Defense verdict – July 2021.
- *Stroud v Kia Motors*. Plaintiffs sought \$87 million dollars in damages alleging wrongful death and paralysis of 6 year old boy following severe automobile crash involving a Kia Optima. Jury delivered defense verdict following 3 week trial in Los Angeles Superior Court. Defense verdict - February 2020.
- *In re Hyundai and Kia Fuel Economy Litigation*, 9th en banc opinion reversing appellate court ruling that denied approval of class action settlement. Opinion filed June 2019.
- *Brands/Leyba v General Motors*. Plaintiffs claimed automobile crash and their injuries were caused by ignition switch defect. Plaintiffs' claims were part of class action lawsuit filed against General Motors. Summary judgment granted in favor of General Motors. Summary Judgment order issued October 2019.

Dommond E. Lonnie (Cont.)

- *Phillips v. Daimler Chrysler Corporation*. Rollover roof crush case in San Bernardino County, involving a 36 year old advertising executive who was rendered quadriplegic during a rollover of her Jeep Grand Cherokee. Plaintiff's counsel asked the jury for one hundred million dollars. Mr. Lonnie served as second chair counsel in this hard fought product liability trial, which included a full week of evidentiary hearings. The jury returned a defense verdict after a 2 1/2 month trial.
- *Vaea v. General Motors*. Wrongful death case involving the rollover of a Pontiac APV minivan. The Vaea family claimed defects existed in a tire and axle/spindle, resulting in the rollover and partial ejection of the decedent. The defense established the axle/spindle and wheel were damaged as a result of the rollover, and that the decedent was not belted. The Jury returned a defense verdict.
- *Trotta & Bang v. General Motors*. This case involved a claim of throttle and brake defects. The plaintiff claimed her Cadillac Deville accelerated out of control during a funeral procession. She also claimed a defective seat belt allowed her to be ejected from the vehicle. Dommond served as second chair trial counsel. The defendants obtained a non-suit judgment.
- *Templeton v. Kia*. Rollover case at highway speed where plaintiff claimed traumatic brain injury. Favorable settlement reached on first day of trial.
- *Parra v. GM*. Defective fuel tank placement and crashworthiness case where plaintiff suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns over 55% of his body (and left leg amputation) following a high speed rear impact into his 1991 Chevy Blazer. Favorable settlement.
- *Huq v. GM*. Seatbelt design case where plaintiff alleged defect caused her chance fracture. Favorable settlement.
- *Morgan v. GM*. Handling/stability, seatbelt, airbag, roof structure case where plaintiff claimed he was rendered a paraplegic after his 2014 Chevrolet Silverado left the highway and rolled over multiple times. Favorable settlement.
- *Jennings v. GM*. Occupation classification system case where plaintiff claimed defects in a 2004 Chevy Silverado caused him to suffer severe traumatic brain damage following multiple crashes into freeway barriers. Favorable settlement.

Seminars & Speeches

The Future is Electric, Defense Research Institute Strictly Automotive seminar,
September 11, 2021

Webinar: *Black Business Matters: From Awareness to Action*, Los Angeles Business Journal
July 29, 2020

Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Litigation—Distracted Driving
September 20, 2016

In-House Strategies For Simplifying Litigation, Panelist
April 16, 2016

Distracted Driving Caused Crashes: The Clash Between Personal Responsibility and Assigning Blame to an Application Provider or Vehicle Manufacturer
April 7, 2016

Publications

"The Future is Electric"
September 21, 2021
The Open Road: Automotive Law Blog

"NHTSA Releases Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking For Automated Driving System Safety"
November 23, 2020
The Open Road: Automotive Law Blog

Dommond E. Lonnie (Cont.)

News

Trio of Dykema Attorneys Set to Moderate Multiple DRI Seminar Sessions Sept. 9-11
September 7, 2021

Jeff Huron and Dommond Lonnie Included in *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Leaders of Influence: Top Litigators & Trial Attorneys" for 2021
July 14, 2021

Dykema Case Recognized as one of California's Top Defense Verdicts for 2020
February 3, 2021

Dommond Lonnie and Michael Wippler Nominated for *Los Angeles Business Journal* "Leaders in Law" Award
October 27, 2020

Dommond Lonnie to Participate in *Los Angeles Business Journal* Black Business Matters Webinar
July 29, 2020

Dykema Recognized for Two of the Top Verdicts in California for 2019
February 19, 2020

Law360 Profiles Dykema's Automotive Industry Group as a "Practice Group of the Year"
February 10, 2020

Dykema Launches New Automotive Law Blog: The Open Road
November 6, 2019

Dykema Recognized for Having One of the Strongest Automotive Practices in the Nation
May 29, 2019

Dommond Lonnie Offers Insight on Autonomous Vehicle Rules in *Law360* Automotive Midyear Report
June 7, 2018

Memberships & Involvement

- Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC), Member
- Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)
- American Bar Association
- National Bar Association
- California State Bar
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute, Product Liability Section
- Southern California Defense Counsel
- Langston Bar Association

Awards & Recognition

- Included in *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Leaders of Influence: Top Litigators & Trial Attorneys" for 2021
- Nominated for and recognized in the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* annual "Leaders in Law" award program, 2020
- Named a Leading Lawyer by *The Legal 500 United States* for Transport: Rail and Road – Litigation and Regulation, 2019-2021
- "Top Appellate Reversals of 2019," *Los Angeles Daily Journal*

Dommond E. Lonnie (Cont.)

- Recipient of an AV[®] Preeminent[™] Rating by *Martindale-Hubbell*