

Automotive Government Policy & Practice

Related Industries

Automotive Industry Group

Related Practices

Antitrust & Trade Regulation

Overview

Dykema's Automotive Government Policy practice consists of regulatory specialists and government relations professionals serving our clients on federal and state agency and legislative matters. Our partnerships with our automotive clients—from global automotive giants and industry consortia, to small industry suppliers—enable us to represent them with authority, knowledge and tact. Our long-standing relationships with federal and state legislators and regulators assure that our clients' voices are heard in a range of forums.

Import and Export Issues

Our knowledge of the global automotive industry informs our representation of clients in a range of import and export-related issues such as negotiating and drafting international sales, distributorship and licensing agreements; handling customs, international trade, treaty and immigration issues; and advising clients on international antitrust matters.

Legislation and Lobbying

By maintaining productive relationships with federal and state lawmakers and regulators, we are able to advance our automotive industry clients' interests by:

- Lobbying Congress and the Executive Branch on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reauthorizations.
- Advocating for revision of NHTSA, CPSC and CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards.
- Defending industry interests at the state and federal levels against restrictions on specific vehicles such as motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles.
- Counseling automotive clients in appearances before congressional oversight and other committees examining federal agency rules and regulations.
- Helping automotive clients secure legislative and agency funding for research and development projects involving new technologies.
- Monitoring pending legislation from our government policy centers in Washington, D.C. and Lansing, Michigan.

Regulation and Compliance

Experienced in providing compliance representation on a range of issues, we advise numerous vehicle manufacturers, suppliers and collaborations on a full spectrum of regulatory issues, including reporting and recalls, investigations, civil penalty proceedings, safety-standard compliance, interpretation requests, rulemakings, voluntary standards, labels and warnings. Matters we handle are as varied as passenger vehicle safety standards, commercial truck equipment requirements, hazardous material transportation requirements, and vehicle accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act. We also closely monitor legislative

developments that may impact federal agency enforcement agendas.

Our deep understanding of the automotive industry enhances our ability to help clients navigate complex compliance issues related to emerging safety and other technologies, such as advanced safety communications and crash avoidance systems and emissions-reducing technologies.

Experience Matters

Representative engagements include:

- Representing a global vehicle manufacturer consortium on legal and policy issues in connection with a multi-million dollar cooperative R&D agreement with a federal agency.
- Working with a coalition of suppliers, safety organizations, trucking companies and industry associations to promote legislation that establishes a tax incentive for the purchase of specific safety technologies for heavy trucks.
- Securing nearly \$3 million for a study to analyze data about the magnitude of heavy vehicle rollovers and to determine a benefit-to-cost ratio for different types of technology to address the problem.
- Representing a motor vehicle manufacturer in a penalty investigation by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) into the timeliness of the company's reporting and recalls.
- Drafting a comprehensive set of owner manual warnings and instructions for a manufacturer of vehicles for disabled persons and advising the client with respect to safety access requirements for vehicles under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Publications

"Adapting the Law to Autonomous Vehicles"

October 19, 2021

Bloomberg Law

"Successful Manufacturing Contracting—It's More than Standard Terms and Conditions"

February 2018

Manufacturing Today

"Feds Don't Need New Powers Over Self-Driving Cars"

February 20, 2017

Crain's Automotive News

"State of the Automotive Industry"

October 17, 2012

Dykema Publication

"The Buzz On Electric Vehicle Safety"

February 14, 2012

Law360

"The Legal Implications of the Disaster in Japan"

July 3, 2011

Autobeat Insider Perspectives

"Speed Bumps Ahead"

May 20, 2011

The Deal Magazine

"Regulation of the 'Connected Vehicle'—Issues and Models"

March 14, 2011

Product Safety & Liability Reporter, BNA

Speaking Engagements

Supply Chain Challenges in the Automotive Industry, ACG Detroit

May 26, 2021

New PVC Regulations and the Implications on Customer/Supplier Pricing, Motor Vehicle Metals and Resins Conference

Legislation and Regulation of Highly-Automated Vehicles, Vehicle-to-Vehicle Warning Systems and Real-World Roll-Out
January 30, 2018

Regulatory Developments - Connected Vehicles, 7th Summit on the Future of The Connected Vehicle, Ann Arbor, Michigan

October 6, 2016

Doing Business in Korea and With Korean Companies in the U.S.

April 30, 2013

Automotive Industry Outlook 2013

December 12, 2012

Autobeat Insider Conference: Getting it Right

September 20, 2012

Automotive Institute: Retail Auto Distribution Today

May 17, 2012

Automotive Institute: Legislative and Regulatory Issues Currently Impacting the Automotive Industry

April 18, 2012

Blockbuster Developments in Class Action Litigation, Co-Panelist, 22nd ABA Conference on Automotive Product Liability Litigation, Phoenix, Arizona

March 28-30, 2012

Bridging the Divide: Plaintiff and Defense Counsel Mediation Summit, Panel Co-Moderator and Co-Chair of Conference, 22nd ABA Conference on Automotive Product Liability Litigation, Phoenix, Arizona

March 28-30, 2012

Managing Risk in a Rapidly Growing Market: How the Automotive Industry is Preparing for Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Liability Claims, 2012 Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Products Liability Litigation, ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Section

March 28-30, 2012

Automotive Institute: Opportunity, Risk and Liability Social Channels

October 19, 2011

Autobeat Insider Conference

June 23, 2011