

## Automotive Industry Group

### Related Industries

Automotive Finance

### Related Practices

Antitrust & Trade Regulation

Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Creditors' Rights

Business Services

Class Action Defense

Discovery Management & E-Discovery

Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation

Financial Services Litigation – Consumer

Labor & Employment

Litigation

Mergers & Acquisitions

Mergers & Acquisitions Annual Survey

National/Regional Coordinating, Trial and/or Discovery Counsel

Privacy and Data Security

Private Equity, Venture Capital & Mezzanine Finance

Product Liability

Product Safety

## Overview

Detroit-born Dykema has been partnering with our automotive industry clients since the first automobiles rolled off the Motor City's assembly lines. With decades of industry experience, Dykema fields one of the most extensive automotive-related legal practices in the United States. The attorneys in our coast-to-coast network of offices lead the way, guiding our international roster of automotive industry clients through the many legal hurdles they face and, ultimately, to business success.

With more than 140 professionals with industry-related experience, Dykema's Automotive Industry Group anticipates legal issues and meets client challenges long before they have grown into full-blown problems. Faced with the unique industry challenges created by the complexity of conducting business in a global marketplace, new and innovative supply chain structures, ever increasing regulatory restrictions, and pressure for "ever-greener" automobiles, our automotive industry clients get a true advantage from having our industry savvy lawyers on their side.

We regularly provide education and training to our clients on emerging legal issues critical to the automotive industry. Our presentations involve leading industry insiders, from both legal and business perspectives, in brainstorming sessions focused on forecasts, trends, and future challenges. Presentations have covered such topics as data privacy and security matters; recall and cost recovery actions, including consumer class actions, current legislative and regulatory issues impacting the automotive industry such as the "whistleblower" rules under the new FAST Act; and the changing applications of technology and mobility. Our Automotive Industry Group provides real value to both our lawyers and our clients by keeping them ahead of the competition.

## Mobility and Advanced Transportation Team

Dykema's nationally recognized Mobility and Advanced Transportation Team understands the growing complexities of advanced automotive technologies. Our lawyers are at the forefront of these emerging technologies, helping clients navigate the legal challenges and opportunities that automated vehicles and advanced mobility services present. [Read more.](#)

## Automotive Antitrust and Trade Regulation

Dykema's antitrust and trade regulation lawyers team with the our automotive industry lawyers and clients to solve the complex issues relating to the regulation of competition and trade. Our broad wealth of experience includes structuring transactions, business relationships, sales practices, and internal processes to avoid antitrust and trade regulation problems. We have also successfully represented clients in regulatory, arbitration, and investigatory proceedings, as well as state and federal court litigation throughout the United States. [Read more.](#)

## **Automotive Corporate and Compliance**

Dykema professionals assist automotive clients in a broad range of corporate and commercial legal matters. Whether counseling clients on acquisitions, divestitures, dealer terminations, joint venture formation or commercial contract negotiation and compliance programs, clients rely on us to accurately gauge automotive trends and assess risk as they consider expanding, retooling, or simply refueling their core business operations. [Read more.](#)

## **Automotive Government Policy and Practice**

Dykema's automotive government policy practice consists of regulatory specialists and government relations professionals who serve our clients on federal and state agency and legislative matters. Our long-standing relationships with federal and state legislators and regulators assure our clients that their voices are heard in a range of forums on the policy matters most critical to their businesses—including import and export issues, legislation and lobbying, and regulation and compliance. [Read more.](#)

## **Automotive Intellectual Property**

Dykema helps its automotive clients survive and thrive in our fast-paced global marketplace using both our in-depth industry and strong technical knowledge. Considered a “go-to law firm” for intellectual property by general counsel, Dykema IP attorneys deliver solutions that safeguard or enforce the intellectual property rights of our automotive industry clients, as well as assisting them in unearthing value in their patent portfolios through valuations and other strategies. [Read more.](#)

## **Automotive Environmental Issues**

Dykema's automotive and environmental lawyers understand the environmental challenges faced by the automotive sector. We work alongside our automotive clients to help them resolve their environmental issues—whether managing waste, decommissioning a plant, responding to an accidental discharge or achieving sustainability goals. [Read more.](#)

## **Automotive Supplier and Supply Chain Issues**

By understanding the pressures exerted on every link in the supply chain—from increases in material and transportation costs to problems with single source inventory suppliers, accommodating volume swings and technological impacts on product architecture—Dykema attorneys help develop timely and cost-effective solutions for the full spectrum of supply chain management, supplier dispute, and troubled supplier issues. [Read more.](#)

## **Automotive, OEM and Supplier Business Services**

Dykema provides automotive industry, OEM and supplier clients—public and private—with a full range of business services. By combining our intimate knowledge of the industry with our sharp legal focus, we help clients reduce risk, create opportunity, and partake in innovative and strategic business structures and relationships. [Read more.](#)

## **Automotive, OEM and Supplier Litigation**

Ranked among the top seven firms nationwide in transportation litigation and top three firms nationwide in automotive product liability by *The Legal 500 US 2019*, Dykema is a firm of choice in automotive sector-related disputes. Dykema lawyers represent the Firm's automotive industry clients in state and federal courts nationwide, in bench and jury trials and on appeals of right and discretionary appeals to even the highest courts of the land, and in every conceivable alternative dispute resolution forum. For decades our litigators have represented automotive manufacturers and suppliers in a broad range of significant, high-profile cases, class actions and all manner of commercial disputes. We have appeared on behalf of automotive clients before the U.S. Department of Transportation and other federal and state departments and agencies, to advocate for our clients' causes for over 95 years. [Read more.](#)

## Automotive Product Liability

As a nationwide leader in automotive product liability and product recall litigation, we understand the complex competing considerations involved in product design and development, testing, integration, and manufacturing, and we know how to win cases by explaining difficult scientific principles to judges and juries. We have defended thousands of product liability claims for a wide range of automotive products, systems and components including wheels, tires, brakes, suspension systems, airbags, seat belts, fuel systems, vehicle control and stability systems, roof structures, window glass, transmissions, seats, seat heaters, electrical switches and systems, and an entire spectrum of crashworthiness claims. We defend and try personal injury, wrongful death cases, property damage claims, and product recall and related product defect litigation—including class actions—across the country. Read more.

## Publications

"How does autonomous vehicle technology impact automaker liability?"

September 12, 2019

*Automotive World*

"Effectiveness of Contractual Receivership Clauses for Operating Companies"

August 26, 2019

*Business Law Today*

"Five Simple Rules for In-House Counsel to Avoid the Most Hidden Insolvency Risks in Commercial Transactions"

January 10, 2019

*Business Law Today*

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

February 2018

*Manufacturing Today*

"Service and Software-based Revenue Streams to Sculpt Legal Activities"

September 1, 2017

*Automotive World*

"Who Will Own the Rights to Autonomous Cars?"

July 26, 2017

*Legaltech News*

"Changes In Transportation Are Poised To Transform Commercial Real Estate"

July 24, 2017

*Commercial Investment Real Estate*

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

February 20, 2017

*Crain's Automotive News*

"International Distribution Relationships: Commercial and Legal Perspectives"

February 18, 2017

*Texas CEO Magazine*

"Understanding the autonomous vehicle industry is a complex dance"

July 10, 2016

*Crain's Detroit Business*

"The myth of the collision-free automobile"

July 7, 2016

*Automotive World*

"Supply Agreements: A contractual approach to supplier risk management"

June 26, 2015

*Supply & Demand Chain Executive*

Automotive Industry Group (Cont.)

"Why forthcoming EU data regulations will affect global auto industry players"

May 2015

*Automotive World*

"Current Law and Potential Legal Issues Pertaining to Automated, Autonomous and Connected Vehicles"

2015

*Santa Clara High Technology Law Journal*

Before Self-Driving Cars: Four Tech Challenges the Auto Industry Faces Today

January 16, 2015

"What Massachusetts Court's Ruling on Tesla Means for Automakers, Dealers"

October 23, 2014

*WardsAuto*

"Automobile Data Recording Is Not An Invasion Of Privacy"

June 19, 2014

*Law360*

"NHTSA's Drive for Automated Vehicle Safety"

June 6, 2013

*Law360*

"Decision in Genesis Healthcare Leaves Key Question Unanswered"

April 18, 2013

*IADC Class Action and Multi-Party Litigation Committee Listserv*

"State of the Automotive Industry"

October 17, 2012

*Dykema Publication*

"Nicastro and its Progeny: Did the U.S. Supreme Court Usher in a New Liability Landscape 25 Years After Asahi?" (Co-author)

June 18, 2012

*Bloomberg's Product Safety & Liability Reporter*, 40 PLSR 5834

Article on *Mazza v. Honda Motor Co.* Decision

March 2012

*International Association of Defense Counsel, Class Action and Multi-Party Litigation Committee Newsletter*

"The Buzz On Electric Vehicle Safety"

February 14, 2012

*Law360*

"Warranty Cost Sharing: The Framework for Negotiations"

November 2011

*OESA Comparative Analysis of OEM Warranty Programs*, Original Equipment Supplier Association

"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

Absolute Liability and *Res Ipsa Loquitur*: Dangerous Legal Concepts Potentially Stifling Autonomous Vehicle Innovation  
August 20, 2019

Critical Considerations: Autonomous Vehicle Product Liability and Potential Legal Risks  
January 15, 2019

The Convergence of Automotive, Product, Class Action, and Consumer Litigation  
October 16, 2018

*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

*And Now the Law: Product Liability, Cybersecurity, Privacy, Ethics, Insurance, and Regulatory Compliance*, Autonomous Vehicle Safety Regulation World Congress  
October 24, 2017

*Legal Challenges: Product Liability, Cybersecurity, Privacy, Ethics, Insurance, and Regulatory Compliance*, moderator,  
Autonomous Vehicle Safety Regulation World Congress  
October 24, 2017

*Product liability: bump in the road or big pothole?*, Autonomous Vehicle Safety Regulation World Congress  
October 24, 2017

*Autonomous Vehicle Regulation, Legislation and Technology*, Texas Auto Roundup, Texas Auto Writers Association, Austin, Texas  
May 8, 2017

Technology and the Law: Update on Vehicle-to-Vehicle Regulation and Michigan Autonomous Vehicle Legislation  
January 24, 2017

Technology and the Law: Accelerating the Next Revolution in Roadway Safety  
October 18, 2016

*Regulatory Developments - Connected Vehicles*, 7th Summit on the Future of The Connected Vehicle, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
October 6, 2016

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

*The Transformation of Transportation*, Michigan State Law Review Symposium, East Lansing, Michigan  
April 7-8, 2016

Technology and the Law: Autonomous Vehicles  
April 12, 2016

*Emerging Issues in Legal Liability for Connected Vehicles*, 6th Summit on the Future of the Connected Vehicle  
October 27, 2015

*Automotive: Managing the Ups and Downs of the Business Cycle*, Crain's Detroit Business General & In-House Counsel Summit  
June 10, 2015

*Recalls and Class Actions*, ACI Automotive Product Liability Litigation Conference  
June 3, 2015

*Avoiding Expectation Bias in Fire Investigations*, 2014 Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Products Liability Litigation, ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Section  
March 24, 2014

*Trying a Products Liability Case for the Supplier Without the OEM Present*, 2014 Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Products Liability Litigation, ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Section

Automotive Industry Group (Cont.)

March 24, 2014

*The "Connected" Vehicle - Regulatory and Liability Issues*, Specialty Equipment Market Association  
November 7, 2013

Transfer Pricing for Automotive Companies: Practical Strategies for Managing Global Tax Risks  
May 15, 2013

Doing Business in Korea and With Korean Companies in the U.S.  
April 30, 2013

*Are Capacity Constraints Paralyzing Your Supply Chain?*, Automotive News Power Training, Panelist on Webinar  
April 16, 2013

*Class Action Developments: What Automotive Product Liability Defense Lawyers Need to Know*, DRI Product Liability Conference  
April 4, 2013

*Rule 68 Offers to "Pick Off" the Named Plaintiff: Legal Update, Tactics and Best Practice*, Webinar, International Association of Defense Counsel  
December 2012

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

*Auto Industry Panel*, ABI New York City Bankruptcy Conference, New York, NY (Panel member)  
June 16, 2009