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TOP WOMEN LAWYERS



LISA GILFORD

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Practice type: Litigation

Specialty: Class action, products liability

Gilford's world continues to be dominated by the unintended acceleration/recall multidistrict litigation against Toyota Motor Corp. pending in the Central District of California.

As co-lead counsel for Toyota in the economic loss class actions in federal and state court, Gilford succeeded in getting dismissed late last year a complaint by foreign plaintiffs in 14 countries. *In re: Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, 8:10ML 02151 (C.D. Cal.).

"They didn't have any specific facts to show that any of their plaintiffs had been exposed to advertising in the United States, or had been harmed in any way by any Toyota defendants named, or that any vehicles were connected to any of the defendants," Gilford said.

It has been "a long, drawn-out fight," she added.

While the foreign plaintiffs' initial complaint had already been dismissed once, they had been given the chance to amend their claims, Gilford said. After prevailing a second time, she said she doesn't expect them to return.

While Gilford continues to juggle many moving parts in the multidistrict case, she said that she's accustomed to dealing with fending off challenges from many directions.

"The foreign plaintiffs had completely unique issues to proceed on a separate track," she said, "and I'm glad we resolved those in favor of Toyota."

— Pat Broderick