



Hair Relaxer Lawsuits by Company: Which Maker Is Named First Most Often

Original analysis of 16,688 records from the Federal Judicial Center, October 2022 – June 2026 (filing dates).

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L'Oréal USA is the first-named defendant in 6,462 of the 16,688 federal hair relaxer cases we counted, or 38.7%, more than any other maker; Revlon follows with 3,803 cases (22.8%). The two companies together are named first in 61.5% of the cases. Almost every case caption lists more than one defendant ("et al."), so the count shows which company leads the case caption, not every company sued.

39%

Cases naming L'Oréal USA first, Oct. 2022 to June 2026

23%

Cases naming Revlon first, Oct. 2022 to June 2026

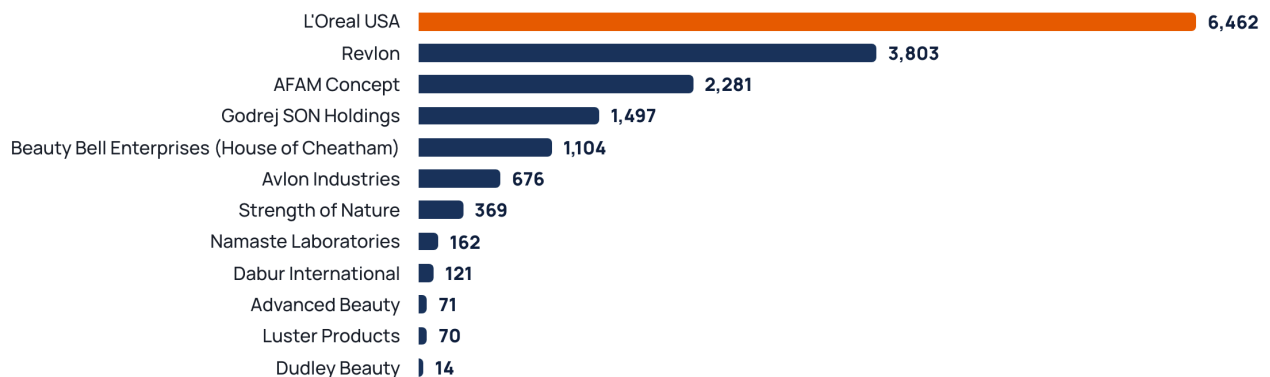
16.7K

Federal hair relaxer cases counted (MDL docket)



Federal hair relaxer cases by first-named defendant, Oct. 2022 to June 2026

Top 12 of 25



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the Federal Judicial Center

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Key findings on hair relaxer lawsuits by company

- L'Oréal USA leads the case captions.** L'Oréal USA is listed first in 6,462 cases (38.7%), ahead of Revlon with 3,803 (22.8%) and AFAM Concept with 2,281 (13.7%).
- Revlon cases came in one wave.** Of the 3,803 cases naming Revlon first, 3,742 (98.4%) were filed in the third quarter of 2023. Among the 8,141 cases filed since January 2024, Revlon is named first in 43.

3. **Since 2024, nearly half name L'Oréal USA first.** Of the cases filed from January 2024 through June 2026, 46.6% name L'Oréal USA first, followed by AFAM Concept (16.1%) and Godrej SON Holdings (14.9%).
4. **Five companies account for most cases.** The five companies named first most often account for 90.8% of all cases. In all, 24 company names appear as first-named defendant, several of them in a single case; the remaining 6 cases list a person, a service list or no name first.
5. **Checked against the JPML.** Our count of cases filed through June 30, 2026 (16,688) is 3.9% above the 16,059 total actions the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation reported for MDL 3060 on July 1, 2026.

How we measured

The data come from the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB) of federal civil cases, in the copy we imported on Oct. 10, 2026, which contains filings through June 30, 2026. The IDB records the district, filing date, how the case came to the court, the nature of suit, the MDL docket number and the first listed defendant for every federal civil case.

We counted every record on the Northern District of Illinois docket (IDB district 52) that the IDB tags with MDL 3060, regardless of filing date, origin or nature of suit (10,926 cases); the few records tagged with the MDL number in other districts were left out because those cases reappear in Chicago after transfer. Because the IDB stopped adding the MDL number to most cases filed from 2025 on, we added 5,762 cases from district 52 filed from Oct. 1, 2022, through June 30, 2026 (IDB field filedate), without MDL number 3060, with a nature-of-suit code from 310 to 368 (the IDB's whole personal injury group, which includes a few hair relaxer cases coded as marine or motor vehicle product liability), with IDB origin code 1, 5, 6 and 13 (original filings, transfers and direct MDL filings), and whose first listed defendant matches one of the company name stems listed below. Company names that appear first in the tagged cases supplied those stems; person names, service lists and blank entries were not used to add cases. The one exception is Horizon Therapeutics, the maker of the thyroid eye disease drug Tepezza, which appears first in a single tagged case; cases naming it first without the hair relaxer MDL number belong to the separate Tepezza litigation in the same court and were not added. Records naming a listed maker first but carrying another nature-of-suit code (mostly the insurance code) were not added (19 cases), nor were cases whose first defendant does not begin with a listed stem, such as a caption reading "Bell Enterprises LLC" or other cosmetics companies that never appear first in a tagged case. The added cases include 132 cases the IDB records with a different MDL number (3121, which belongs to an unrelated health insurance litigation) although they name hair relaxer makers first; 131 of them were filed in the second quarter of 2026. A case is one docket number within one court office (IDB fields office and docket in district 52), with tagged and added records pooled; cases reopened after closing and cases listed in several IDB data years were counted once, with the filing date and first defendant of the record with the earliest filing date, and as tagged if any of its records carries the MDL number (160 duplicate records removed).

Company names were standardized by uppercasing the first listed defendant and keeping only the letters A to Z (dropping spaces, digits and punctuation, so "LOREAL USA, INC." becomes LOREALUSAINC); a name belongs to a company if it begins with one of these stems, checked in this order: REVLON = Revlon; LOREAL or LORAL = L'Oreal USA (also L'Oreal Products and L'Oreal S.A.); AFAM = AFAM Concept; BEAUTYBELL, BELLBEAUTY or HOUSEOFCEATHAM = Beauty Bell Enterprises; GODREJ = Godrej SON Holdings; STRENGTHOFNATURE = Strength of Nature; AVLON or AVALONINDUSTRIES = Avlon Industries; DABUR = Dabur International; NAMASTE = Namaste Laboratories; LUSTER = Luster Products (also the misspelling Lusters Products); MCBRIDE = McBride Research Laboratories; RNACORP = RNA Corporation; SOFTSHEEN = SoftSheen-Carson (kept separate from L'Oreal); BRONNER = Bronner Brothers; ADVANCEDBEAUTY = Advanced Beauty; DUDLEY = Dudley Beauty; SALLYBEAUTY = Sally Beauty Supply; ROUXLAB = Roux Laboratories; KERATINHOLDINGS = Keratin Holdings; KERATINCOMPLEX = Keratin Complex; DERMOMIVA = Dermoviva Skin Essentials; SILKELEMENTS = Silk Elements; GIBLLC = GIB LLC (Brazilian Blowout). Names the court truncated to about 23 characters still begin with the stem. House of Cheatham, which now does business as Beauty Bell Enterprises (one case caption reads "BEAUTY BELL ENTERPRISES LLC F"; for formerly known as), is counted under Beauty Bell Enterprises. Cases whose first defendant matches no stem (tagged cases only) are grouped as other or

unidentified. Shares are each company's cases divided by all 16,688 cases counted. To check the method, we compared the number of cases filed before each monthly JPML report date with the JPML's total actions for MDL 3060: 11,871 against 11,613 on Jan. 2, 2025 (2.2% higher) and 16,688 against 16,059 on July 1, 2026 (3.9% higher).

Using only the cases the IDB tags with the MDL number, the order at the top is the same: L'Oréal USA with 3,995 cases (36.6%) ahead of Revlon with 3,694 (33.8%).

Checked against published figures

- Hair relaxer cases (MDL 3060) filed through June 30, 2026, vs. JPML total actions (historical) as of July 1, 2026: published 16,059, our count 16,688 (3.92% apart). [JPML MDL Statistics Report - Distribution of Pending MDL Dockets by Actions Pending](#)
- Hair relaxer cases (MDL 3060) filed through December 31, 2024, vs. JPML total actions (historical) as of January 2, 2025: published 11,613, our count 11,871 (2.22% apart). [JPML MDL Statistics Report - Distribution of Pending MDL Dockets by Actions Pending](#)

Limitations

- The IDB names only the first listed defendant. Almost every case lists more than one defendant, and other makers may be among them, so a company that is rarely listed first may still be a defendant in many cases. The count is not a tally of all lawsuits against each company.
- Cases added without an MDL number were matched by court, case type and defendant name. A few cases may be counted that were never part of the MDL, and cases filed outside Chicago that were not yet transferred are not included.
- Federal courts report cases to the IDB with a delay, and the most recent months are often filled in later. The counts for the second quarter of 2026 may rise once later IDB updates arrive, so the latest quarter should not be read as a slowdown.
- The ranking does not account for company size, market share or sales of hair relaxer products. Filing a lawsuit is an allegation; the counts say nothing about whether any product caused an illness.
- State court cases, which are not part of the federal MDL, are not included.

Data files

- [Hair relaxer lawsuits \(MDL 3060\) by first-named defendant](#) (CSV, 25 rows)
- [Hair relaxer lawsuits \(MDL 3060\) by filing quarter](#) (CSV, 15 rows)
- [Hair relaxer lawsuits \(MDL 3060\) by filing year](#) (CSV, 5 rows)
- [Study case count vs. JPML total actions for MDL 3060, monthly](#) (CSV, 31 rows)

How to cite

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