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Teva Wins 1st Paragard IUD Bellwether Trial

By [Kelcey Caulder](#) · [Listen to article](#)

Law360 (February 4, 2026, 6:45 PM EST) -- [Teva Pharmaceuticals](#) won a complete defense verdict Tuesday in the first trial testing claims that the company failed to warn consumers that its Paragard IUD has a defect making it prone to breakage inside patients' uteri.

Following a two-week trial, a federal jury in Atlanta [rejected](#) plaintiff Pauline Rickard's bid to hold the company liable for allegedly failing to tell her about and ignoring the intrauterine contraceptive device's pattern of breakage.

"It is ordered and adjudged that plaintiff take nothing, that the action be dismissed, and that defendants recover their costs of the action as allowed by law," Kevin. P. Weimer, clerk of court for the Northern District of Georgia, said in a [judgment](#) filed Wednesday.

The trial in Rickard's case marks the first time Teva faced a federal jury over thousands of claims that a defect in the device — a small, T-shaped piece of plastic wrapped in copper wire — has a tendency to break apart while inside the body, causing injuries that can negatively impact fertility and require surgical removal.

Teva developed the device but sold it to [The Cooper Cos.](#) Inc. in 2017. Rickard, who received her Paragard device from a Florida doctor in 2012, alleged in her 2021 suit that she required complicated medical interventions to remove it after it broke while still implanted.

The Cooper Cos. was initially a defendant in Rickard's case and remains a defendant on certain claims in the multidistrict litigation, but Rickard dismissed the company in October 2025.

In their verdict, jurors did not find for Rickard on her strict liability failure to warn claim, her negligent failure to warn claim, her strict liability defective design claim, her negligent design claim, her negligent misrepresentation claim or her fraudulent omission claim.

Erin Copeland, an attorney representing Rickard, told Law360 on Wednesday that the result "doesn't change the fact that many women have been hurt by Paragard breaking inside of their bodies."

"Most disturbing is that critical risk information about Paragard — especially in relation to other IUDs — and questionable corporate conduct has long been kept out of the public eye," Copeland said. "Regardless of outcome, with every trial, we're going to keep bringing more of that truth into the light."

Representatives of Teva did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

Based on a ruling from U.S. District Judge Leigh Martin May this year, the bellwether trials of plaintiffs Alisa Robere and Melody Braxton will proceed next, in that order.

Rickard is represented by Erin Copeland of [Fibich Leeborn Copeland & Briggs](#), Fidelma Fitzpatrick of [Motley Rice LLC](#), Nicole C. Berg and Ashley Barriere of [Keller Postman LLC](#) and C. Andrew Childers of [Childers Schlueter & Smith LLC](#).

Teva is represented by Christopher Morris, Pamela Ferrell, Jordan N. Walker, Kyle R. Cummins, Charles A. Byrd and Jin Yoshioka of [Butler Snow LLP](#), Bridget Wholey, Shayna Cook, Nia Vogel and Rami Fakhouri of [Goldman Ismail Tomaselli Brennan & Baum LLP](#) and liaison counsel Allison Ng and Lori Cohen of [Greenberg Traurig LLP](#).

The cases are Rickard v. Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. et al., case number [1:21-cv-03861](#), and In re: Paragard IUD Products Liability Litigation, case number [1:20-md-02974](#), in the [U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia](#).

--Editing by Lief Nielsen.

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