



DiTommaso Lubin, PC

BUSINESS LITIGATION ATTORNEYS

PETER S. LUBIN

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Admitted to the Illinois Bar, 1983; Admitted to United States District Courts, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Southern District of Illinois, Central District of Illinois, Peoria and Rock Island Divisions, District Court of Maryland, and Western District of Michigan; United States Courts of Appeal for the Second, Third, Fifth, Seventh, Tenth, Eleventh and District of Columbia Circuits; United States Supreme Court.

EDUCATION

University of Chicago Law School
(J.D. 1983)

Dartmouth College
(A.B. 1980)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AV rating in Martindale-Hubbell; Illinois Super Lawyers, 2010-2027; Leading Lawyers Network; American Inns of Court, Markey-Wigmore Chapter (selected by the then Chief Judge of the Seventh Circuit as a founding member); The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers; member of the Trial Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Chicago Council of Lawyers, Committee on Professional Responsibility; Illinois State Bar Association; Chicago Bar Association; DuPage County Bar Association.

AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Commendation from DuPage Legal Assistance Foundation due to First Cy Pres Award provided to the Foundation of over \$260,000 from certain class-actions.

Trial practice skills teacher to students at the University of Chicago Law School Mandel Legal Aid Clinic.

Member of the Visiting Committee of the University of Chicago Law School. 2006-2010.

In 2008, DiTommaso Lubin, P.C. received the first “Law Firm of the Year” awarded by the DuPage County Bar Legal Assistance Foundation for the Firm’s “commitment to the ideals of the legal profession.”

MEDIA COMMENTARY AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Quoted as a defamation authority on the Fox News election-fraud litigation in Law360, “Fox Faces Unusually Steep Odds As Defamation Trial Looms,” April 13, 2023.

Quoted on the First Amendment defenses raised in the \$2.7 billion Smartmatic action against Fox in Courthouse News Service, “Fox Wields 1st Amendment in \$2.7B Election-Fraud Defamation Fight,” February 9, 2021.

Quoted in Law360, “Ex-Clients: Girardi Firm Took Boeing Deals Without Consent,” December 17, 2020, representing Lion Air Flight 610 families and crediting Girardi Keese’s co-counsel Jay Edelson of Edelson PC for stepping in on the families’ behalf.

Quoted twice in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, “Panel affirms Brodsky sanction over ‘egregious’ behavior,” January 23, 2019, on the Seventh Circuit’s affirmance of the \$50,000 sanction entered against opposing counsel.

Quoted twice in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, “Judge nixes bid to dismiss parents’ suit over fentanyl death,” November 8, 2023, as counsel on claims under the Illinois Drug Dealer Liability Act.

Interviewed on the Reditus Laboratories receivership litigation by WGLT, WCBU, NPR Illinois, the Pantagraph, the Peoria Journal Star and 25 News, 2022-2023.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sole, Lead or Co-Lead Attorney:

Closely Held Business Disputes, Corporate Freeze-Outs and Fraud in the Sale of Businesses

DiMucci v. DiMucci, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judges Forman, Flynn and Billik. Arbitration before Judge Casciato. Judge Casciato ordered refund of tens of millions of dollars to jointly owed entities. This was a family partnership and corporate control dispute involving hundreds of millions of dollars in real-estate development assets. Represented 50% owner allegedly frozen out of companies. Involved questions of alleged breach of fiduciary duty and issues involving Florida and Illinois corporate law and issues. Conducted accounting trial before Judge Billik and then arbitration before Judge Casciato. Filed a supervisory order before the Presiding Judge of the Chancery Division regarding the alleged improper additional appearance of Mr. Cherry as co-counsel for defendants. The Court entered a lengthy opinion requiring Mr. Cherry to withdraw his appearance and get permission to refile his appearance. Co-Counsel: Brian Garelli (Garelli & Associates). Opposing Counsel: George Collins and Adrian Vuckovich (Collins & Bargione), Myron Cherry (Myron Cherry & Associates).

Davie and Associates Dermatopathology, P.A. v. Reditus Healthcare, LLC, Aaron Rossi and Reditus Laboratories, LLC, Circuit Court of Tazewell County, Nos. 21 L 19, 20 L 45 and 21 L 483. 2021-2024. Represented the minority member of a COVID-19 testing laboratory in claims that he was frozen out and induced to sell his interest for a fraction of its value while the company was receiving substantial State testing contracts. Obtained the appointment of a receiver over the company. Obtained in camera crime-fraud review of the majority owner's communications with his transactional counsel and litigated a Fifth Amendment privilege hearing. The case settled,

with the plaintiffs receiving the funds remaining in Reditus, a substantial additional payment from Rossi, and the right to recover on legal malpractice claims now being pursued by Reditus. The receiver has since retained the firm to pursue those claims. Covered by WGLT, NPR Illinois, the Pantagraph and the Peoria Journal Star.

Bredemeyer v. Muhammad, Fields, Seller Spike LLC and Jacobs, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Chancery Division, No. 2020 CH 000657, Judge Fullerton. 2020-2022. Represented the fifty percent member of an analytics platform for Amazon sellers in derivative and direct claims for breach of fiduciary duty against the other member. The case settled on confidential terms.

Singh v. Oberoi, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Chancery Division, No. 2025 CH 000177, Judge Craig R. Belford. 2025-2026. Representing a co-managing member of three jointly owned limited liability companies, individually and derivatively, with James V. DiTommaso, in a claimed limited liability company freeze-out. The matter is pending.

Chan and Tuncel v. Soares, Circuit Court of Cook County, 2026. Representing the majority shareholders of an Illinois close corporation, with James V. DiTommaso, in a defamation action arising out of a contest for control of the company. The matter is pending.

Breach of Seller Warranties and Fraud in the Sale of a Business, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division, 2025-2026. Representing the buyer of a medical spa in claims that the sellers allegedly breached the authority and licensure warranties in the asset purchase agreement and allegedly made misrepresentations inducing the purchase. The matter is pending.

Closely Held Corporation Control Dispute, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, 2026. Representing founder-shareholders of an Illinois close corporation in litigation over control and share rights. The matter is pending.

Anywave Communication Technologies, Inc., 2025-2026. Representing a party in a contested dispute over the ownership and control of a closely held technology company. The matter is pending.

Lakhani v. American Powder Coatings, Inc., Circuit Court of Cook County, 2017-2018. Judge James Murphy. Represented minority owner in a closely held corporation. Our client claimed that the majority shareholders had engaged in oppression by refusing to make distributions of substantial profits and were allegedly receiving excessive compensation. We also claimed that the majority was undervaluing the corporation for purposes of buying out our client's interest. The case was resolved on confidential terms. Opposing Counsel: John McGuirk (Hoscheit, McGuirk, McCracken & Cuscaden, P.C.); Michael Trucco (Stamos & Trucco LLP).

Aranas v. Suburban Neurologists S.C., Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judges Allen and Mullen. 2014-2018. Represented Plaintiff Neurologist in a breach of shareholder purchase agreement and non-compete agreement dispute. We obtained summary judgment in favor of our client in the breach of shareholder purchase agreement claims and defeated the Defendant's claim that our client violated the non-compete agreement. We had previously prevailed in injunction proceedings where Defendant had tried to close down our client's new medical practice and then prevailed in the Appellate Court. We then went to trial and obtained a substantial monetary damages verdict for our client at a bench trial regarding the Defendant's breach of the shareholder purchase agreement. Opposing counsel: Norman Lerum.

Anderson et al v. Moy-Gregg, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Chancery Division, Judge Popejoy and Judge Sheen. 2010-2011. Represented corporation and alleged majority owners in a corporate control dispute regarding the intent and meaning of stock gift. Opposing Counsel: Louis Bernstein.

BleuChip International Inc. v. Aulds, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Chancery Division, Judge Popejoy. 2009. Represented corporation and its CEO as plaintiffs in a claim against the corporation's President. Case settled on confidential terms shortly after suit was filed. Opposing Counsel: Bruce Menkes (Mandel, Menkes LLC)

Dr. FM, LLC v. Hoscon Ltd. et al, American Arbitration Association and Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division and Law Division. Judges Mikva and White. 2013-2016. Our client the Plaintiff, an emergency room physician formed a partnership with two other physicians to open an urgent care center. Our client's partners wrongfully removed him from the partnership and denying him the fruits of quarter-million-dollar investment to start the business. Our client's investment included \$80,000 in cash but also \$180,000 in estimated "sweat equity" for providing start-up services. We sought to unwind the transaction and return of his entire investment. We prevailed at an arbitration hearing and obtained a judgment for 100% of our client's claimed damages. The Defendants then tried to contend that the arbitrator's award was improper in state proceedings after retaining new lawyers. We prevailed on those claims as well. We then initiated a judgment enforcement action and collected all of our client's damages plus 9% post-judgment interest. Opposing Counsel: Anish Parikh; John M. O'Driscoll (Tressler LLP).

Minimally Invasive Therapy Specialists, P.C. v. Health and Home Management, Inc., American Arbitration Association and Circuit Court of Cook County, 2017-2018. Represented the plaintiff, a medical services provider what sold diagnostic services to a chain of nursing homes. We sought to collect hundreds of thousands in unpaid invoices. We obtained a judgment in the arbitration for the amount outstanding plus interest and all attorneys' fees and costs. We then registered the judgment in the Circuit Court and began collection proceedings. We recovered the entire judgment plus additional collection costs and attorneys' fees. Opposing Counsel: Brian Stines (Vanek, Larson & Kolb, LLC).

Meade v. VirtualSellers.com, Circuit Court of Cook County Chancery Division, Judge Nowicki. 1999-2000. Represented co-founder of start-up internet company who was allegedly defrauded out of his interest in the company just before it was sold to a publicly traded company. Seeking 1,000,000 shares in publicly traded company worth between 2 and 7.5 million dollars based on then market prices. Settled after an injunction hearing and denials of defendants' motions to dismiss. Terms confidential. Opposing Counsel: Ceasar Tabet (Tabet, DeVito & Rothstein) and Stephen Voris (Burke Warren Mackay & Serritella)

Rubocki, et. al. v. Equity Risk Partners, Inc., Federal Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge Kendall. Alleged breach of employment contract and defense of covenant not to compete claims. Case settled on confidential terms. Opposing Counsel: Steven L. Gillman, Malcolm H. Brooks (Holland & Knight LLP).

Used Frac Tanks, Inc. v. Geneva Equipment LLC and Stevenson, Circuit Court of LaSalle County, No. 2024 CH 00001. 2024-2026. Joint venture profit-sharing, accounting and fraud claims arising out of the sale and operation of an equipment business.

Berg v. CI Investment Co., United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judge Kocoras. 2016. Represented Defendant the largest mutual fund company in Canada. Claims that Defendant engaged in trade secret and copyright infringement of complex trading software seeking over \$2,000,000 in damages. After expedited discovery, partial summary judgment entered in our client's favor as to all infringement claims based on implied license and case dismissed. Opposing Counsel: Michael Childress (Childress, Loucks & Plunkett)

Leslie Hindman and Salvage I v. Beale, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Siebel. 2003. Represented plaintiffs Hindman and Salvage I in alleged breach of fiduciary duty case involving multi-million-dollar damages claims. Case Settled. Terms Confidential. Co-Counsel: Michael Froy (SNR Denton). Opposing Counsel: Larry Karlin and Ben Randall (Katz, Radall, Weinberg & Richmond).

Estate of Hudson, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Probate Division. Judge Popejoy. Complex estate case. Representing guardian of minor child. Dispute over personal and business assets against estate administrator and surviving spouse. Case involved local and overseas proceedings with claims seeking to recover millions of dollars in funds and business assets allegedly owned by the Estate. Case settled with business returned to the Estate and defendant agreeing pay a substantial portion of our client's fees. Opposing Counsel: Douglas Tibble (Brooks Adams & Tarilis) and Richard Cowen (Stahl Cowen)

Commercial, Contract and Employment Litigation

TechnoStructure, Inc. v. Alert Protective Services, LLC, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, No. 2024 CH 09627, Judge D. Renee Jackson. 2024-2026. Obtained summary judgment on April 23, 2026 confirming an arbitration award of \$161,056.21 on a promissory note, the court holding that the defenses were waived for failure to move to vacate within ninety days.

Legal Malpractice and Breach of Fiduciary Duty Action, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division, 2026. Representing a closely held Illinois corporation in claims against a large national law firm and one of its lawyers arising out of advice given during a contest for control of the company. The matter is pending.

Glaser and Sapyta v. Collins, Hamilton and the College of DuPage, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judge Alonso. 2015-2017. Claims for wrongful termination, violation first amendment rights and 1983 as to former Treasurer and Controller of the College of DuPage. Case settled; financial terms confidential. Also, after contested hearings defeated College's attempt to deny Saypta unemployment and prevailed on the appeal of that ruling. Co-Counsel: Shelly Kulwin (Kulwin Masciopinto & Kulwin, LLP). Opposing Counsel: Sidley & Austin; Schiff Hardin & Waite; and Schuyler, Roche & Crisham.

IPC v. Edward Gray Corporation, Circuit Court of Peoria County, Judge McDade. 1988-1989. Construction Contract: local Peoria sub-contractor claimed that Chicago based general contractor entered into a \$3 million sub-contract from a car telephone. Represented general contractor defendant. Court entered summary judgment in defendant's favor on all of plaintiff's claims based on "smoking gun" documents uncovered by defendant in discovery. Opposing counsel: Stephen Gay (Husch & Eppenberger).

Heatherly and Newton v. Rodman & Renshaw, NASD Arbitration and Illinois Appellate Court, First District. 1993-1997. See Heatherly v. Rodman & Renshaw, Inc., 287 Ill. App. 3d 372 (1st Dist. 1997). Represented former Sales Managers of Rodman's Mortgage Backed Securities Department on claims for breach of substantial bonus contracts, and failure to pay finders fees. 2-day hearing. Arbitration award for claimants; claimants awarded all actual damages sought. Heatherly's appeal on statutory attorneys' fees denied with dissent supporting our position. 678 NE2d 591. Opposing Counsel: John Murphy (Baker & McKenzie).

Bark v. Emsco, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judge Kokoras. 1994. Represented plaintiff, doctor who had headed emergency room of large Chicago Hospital in sex discrimination, libel and retaliatory discharge claim seeking over \$1 million in damages and attorneys' fees. Defendants' motion to dismiss denied. Case settled for a confidential sum following several written opinions by the Court adopting plaintiff's positions. See 1994 WL 502786; 1994 WL 280077. Defendants also provided a full written retraction and apology regarding all libelous statements. Opposing Counsel: Donald C. Shine (Nisen & Elliott).

Jane Doe v. John Doe Corp., United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. 1997. Represented plaintiff, assistant to CEO of a subsidiary of a Fortune 500 company. Sexual battery and hostile environment sex discrimination claims against the President of a subsidiary of the Fortune 500 Company that worked at the headquarters. \$100,000 settlement for emotional distress without filing suit after executive admitted the crux of the charges in pre-filing mediation.

Jane Doe v. John Doe Car Dealer, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. 1998. Represented plaintiff, who was top performing salesperson at car dealership in sex discrimination case. Case settled for \$45,000.

Cusack v. Paul Revere Insurance, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Magistrate Judge Guzman. 1995. Represented plaintiff. Paul Revere refused to pay employment disability benefits of over \$200,000. Brought declaratory judgment and bad faith failure to pay insurance claims. Case settled immediately after the complaint was filed: terms confidential. Opposing Counsel: Joseph Hasman (Peterson & Ross).

Shelton v. Will County, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. 1999. Race Discrimination. Client reinstated to his job with full credit towards his pension benefits and received settlement of \$50,000 in back pay for the period he was off the job. Opposing Counsel: Michael Condon (Hervas, Sotos, Condon & Bersani)

Hirst v. Rockwell International, EEOC Charge. 1995-1996. Represented senior executive in breach of contract and sex and age discrimination claims. Rockwell demoted executive based on trumped up conflict of interest charges because her husband worked for a competitor, even though executive/wife had fully disclosed the nature of her husband's relationship each year during the over 10 years that she worked for Rockwell, and Rockwell had always agreed that there was no conflict. Case settled: terms confidential. Co-Counsel: Holly Hirst (Piper DLA).

North American Philips v. Filson et al., United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Grady. 1996. Represented defendants, former No. 2 and 3 executives at Philips's most profitable American subsidiary in a case charging those executives, the former president of the subsidiary, and their three wives with forming a travel agency to wrongfully take \$900,000 from Philips. Executives filed counterclaims for libel for Philips falsely

accusing them of selling millions of dollars in defective product, and retaliatory discharge for reporting alleged antitrust violations and price-fixing. Case settled immediately after counter-claims filed: terms confidential. Co-lead Counsel: Matthew Kennelly (Cotsirilos Stephenson Tighe & Streiker). Opposing Counsel: Robin Cohen (Anderson Kill Olick & Oshinsky).

Duncan v. Baxter Healthcare Corp., Circuit Court of Lake County, Judge Hoogasian. 1990. Wrongful termination: plaintiff claimed that she was fired because she filed a workers' compensation claim and sought over \$100,000 in lost wage damages and punitive damages and attorney fees. Represented defendant Baxter. After discovery, plaintiff agreed to dismiss all her claims with prejudice in return for Baxter agreeing not to file a sanctions motion seeking recovery of attorneys' fees from plaintiff and her counsel due to plaintiff's fraudulent damages claims. Opposing counsel: Alan Blum.

Appleby v. Mrs. Illinois Pageant, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division. Judge Hett. 1999. Represented Mrs. Illinois Pageant in suit filed by runner-up to reverse pageant results, and crown her the winner. Plaintiff's lawsuit thrown out on summary judgment. Plaintiff paid a large portion of defendant's attorneys' fees to settle sanctions claim.

Obos v. Cubs, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division. 2003. Represented plaintiff in battery and reckless retention of security guard claims. Case settled. Terms confidential. Motion to add punitive damages detailed 9-year history of abuse by Chicago Cubs security guard who attacked numerous other patrons and used excessive force resulting in repeated lawsuits. This case was featured in an investigative report on Fox News regarding the Cubs' failure to fire this rogue security guard. Opposing counsel: Scott Bentivenga (Bollinger Ruberry & Garvey).

Karth v. McConnell, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division. Judge Goldberg. 2006-2007. Represented defendant in breach of contract, equitable and wage claim dispute involving alleged damages of \$700,000. Breach of contract claim dismissed as violating statute of frauds. Case dismissed with prejudice based on motions to dismiss and for summary judgment. Opposing Counsel: Michael D. Gerhardt (Gerhardt, Gomez, and Haskins).

Biancos v. Eggert, Freeland and CMR Interiors, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Magistrate-Judge Valdez. Representing a real estate owner in his breach of contract case against lessees who performed renovations to the leased premises. Plaintiffs allege that defendants failed to obtain proper building permits and that the renovation does not comply with Chicago building codes. Settlement with certain defendants agreeing to increase rental payments and paying a large share of clients' fees and costs, and other defendants agreeing to pay money damages. Opposing Counsel: Terrance Buehler (Buehler & Williams), Peter Berk (McDonald Hopkins, LLC) and Robert Rosenfeld.

Costello v. Orozen, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Judge Abraham. 2007. Represented construction company defendant in a breach of contract case involving the installation of a practice putting green on the grounds of plaintiff's mansion. Case settled for a small fraction of money sought after we obtained evidence rebutting plaintiff's claims from one of his own experts. Opposing Counsel: Greg Adamo and Ken Vanko (Clingen, Callow & McLean, LLC).

Eastco International Corporation v. Addax Technologies, LLC, Federal Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Magistrate Judge Cole. 2013. Represented Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff in breach of contract action alleging that florescent ballast production units differed from sample units. Plaintiff purported to unilaterally cancel all outstanding contracts with defendant giving rise

to a countersuit for breach of those contracts. Case settled with Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant dropping all claims and agreeing to pay Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff a confidential amount. Opposing Counsel: Peter Carey (Carey & Hartman LLC).

Farmers Insurance v Modory, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Allen. 2016-2018. Farmers filed a declaratory judgment lawsuit against our client claiming it did not have to honor its obligation in his homeowners' insurance policy to pay for his successful defense of a federal libel suit, even though his policy provided for libel insurance. We had already obtained dismissal of the meritless libel suit. We counter sued Farmers. The trial judge ruled in Farmers' favor and did not correctly interpret the policy or follow controlling Illinois law requiring construing the conflicting policy terms that Farmers had inserted into its policy in favor of the insured. We appealed and prevailed in the Appellate Court. The Appellate Court found that Farmers was required to pay for our client's successful defense of the libel suit. See 2019 IL App (1st) 180721-U. Co-counsel: Mark Monroe. Opposing counsel: Danny Worker and Jonathan Goken (Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP).

McCool v. Strata Oil Company, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Bua. 1989. Securities fraud and RICO: purchasers of oil and gas partnerships claim to have been defrauded into purchasing oil and gas partnerships. Represented ten plaintiffs. Case dismissed by trial court without any discovery being permitted. Overturned on appeal; see 972 F.2d 1452. Co-lead counsel: David Roston (Alzheimer & Gray). Opposing counsel: Cary Fleischer (Chuhak & Tecson).

McVicker v. John Doe Corp., Texas Arbitration through American Arbitration Association. 1990-1992. Wrongful termination of and fraudulent inducement to purchase franchises for entire New York City area. Represented former franchisee. At outset of case defendant, a multi-billion-dollar international conglomerate, offered \$10,000 to settle. After extensive discovery and shortly before the start of the hearing, defendants agreed to a settlement whereby they returned the entire purchase price of the franchises of \$300,000 along with an additional \$50,000. Opposing counsel: David Butler (Piper Rudnick).

Edwards v. Amazon.com Services LLC, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, No. 19-cv-03990. 2019-2021. Represented a senior operations manager in claims under Title VII and 42 U.S.C. section 1981 for race discrimination, retaliation and constructive discharge. Settled following mediation on confidential terms.

Defamation, First Amendment and Internet Speech

Doe v. Readey, 2023 IL App (1st) 230867, Illinois Appellate Court, First District, Sixth Division. Assisted in drafting the appellate briefs for the appellee and is now counsel in the matter. The court affirmed the order permitting the plaintiff to proceed under a fictitious name under section 2-401(e) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 735 ILCS 5/2-401(e).

Defamation Defense in a Multi-Defendant Libel Action, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division, 2023-2026. Defending an individual against defamation claims brought in a consolidated action naming numerous defendants who are alleged to have repeated or published statements about the plaintiff. The matter is pending.

John Doe v. John Doe, Circuit Court of Kane County, 2026. Defended an individual against defamation claims arising out of statements made within an online software and game

development community. Filed two motions to dismiss, including a motion to strike under sections 2-603 and 2-606 of the Code of Civil Procedure on the ground that a defamation plaintiff must plead the statements and their context with specificity rather than promise to supply it later. The case settled following that motion practice.

Burmeister v. Gentile, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division. Judge Henry. Represented the Defendant one of Loyola University's largest contributors to the sports program. Loyola's head basketball coach sued Defendant for defamation and tortious interference with contract when he was fired. Case dismissed with prejudice based on the motion to dismiss we filed.

Mercado v. Levy et al, American Arbitration Association. Arbitrator James S. Montana Jr. Represented Defendants, a school and their owners in a lawsuit alleging defamation arising from a partnership and employment suit. We obtained substantial video-taped evidence from multiple witnesses supporting that our clients did not defame the Plaintiff and that all of their statements were supported by various eye witnesses. Case settled.

Nebel v. Modory, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judge Coleman. 2016. Represented Defendant. Defendant posted a flyer regarding a problem employee class in his office with a photoshopped photograph of Plaintiff appended to it. All claims against our client were dismissed under the innocent construction. Opposing Counsel: Jessica Fayerman.

Chicago Motor Car Corp., et al. v. David Bates, Federal Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge Lee. 2012-2013. Represented Defendant in a lawsuit alleging defamation, false light, tortious interference with contract, false advertising, and cybersquatting. Defendant was being sued as a result of several internet postings and YouTube videos he made criticizing the Plaintiffs. Obtained settlement wherein Defendant withdrew his motion for Rule 11 sanctions and Plaintiffs dismissed all claims against Defendant with prejudice. Opposing Counsel: Serena Pollack (Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP)

John Doe v. Jane Doe, Jane Doe allegedly made numerous posts about John Doe on the internet containing false and misleading information. Represented John Doe in action alleging that Jane Doe's statements in the internet posts constituted defamation per se, cyberbullying, and invasion of privacy.

Ardor Fiduciary Services Ltd et al v. Mona, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division. Judge Mitchell. Represented Defendant. Defendant posted his negative opinion regarding a Chicago area expert witness he had retained on the Rip-Off report. The expert sued him for defamation claiming that he also made false factual statements. Case was dismissed due to lack of personal jurisdiction as Defendant did not direct post at Illinois and was not an Illinois resident. Opposing Counsel: Thomas F. Burke.

Wuttke v. Fitzsimmons, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division. Judge McNamara. Represented real-estate lawyer plaintiff in libel action against lawyer who is also City of Chicago Police Captain, for false and malicious statements made to ARDC and University of Illinois and other parties, which, plaintiff alleges, is part of longstanding pattern and practice by defendant of defaming and attempting to intimidate lawyers and others. Default judgment on liability entered in favor of plaintiff for discovery violations. Case settled with money damages paid to plaintiff. Opposing Counsel: Vincent J. O'Brien.

Williams v. Marder et al, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judge Guzman. 2011. Represented Defendant in a lawsuit claiming defamation, tortious interference with inheritance expectancy and employment and malicious prosecution. Defendant was sued as a result of his alleged efforts to try to protect his father who suffered from dementia and Alzheimer's from alleged abuse and neglect by a nurse who had sought to obtain a \$3 million bequest from the father. Summary judgment entered in Defendant's favor on all counts.

Ofer Mizrahi Diamonds Inc. and Ofer Mizrahi Ltd. v. David Cohen, United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judge Kendall. 2018. Represented Plaintiffs. Our clients some of the largest diamond wholesalers in the world sued another diamond wholesaler for \$16,000,000 allegedly bringing a false lawsuit against them falsely accusing them of fraud and then publishing the allegedly false lawsuit on the internet and issuing a press release. The case was settled for undisclosed financial terms as well as with Defendant providing a full written retraction and apology for making the false claims. Opposing Counsel: Mark Hammervold.

Non-Competition Agreements, Trade Secrets and Restrictive Covenants

Quantum Anesthesia Services PLLC v. Olari and Atlas Anesthesia P.C., Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division. 2025-2026. Defended a physician against non-competition, tortious interference and trade secret claims. The plaintiff took a voluntary nonsuit after we filed a motion to dismiss.

Restrictive Covenant Defense under the Illinois Freedom to Work Act. 2024-present. Pre-suit and litigated defense of executives, physicians and other professionals against non-competition and non-solicitation covenants, opposite Fisher Phillips, Littler Mendelson and Fenwick & West, on the ground that a covenant that fails the Act's consideration and disclosure requirements is void and unlawful rather than merely unenforceable.

Motorola v. Aderhold, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Arnold. 2009-2010. Represented defendant former Motorola vice-president in covenant not to compete and trade secret case. Case settled on confidential terms, before any discovery, after court granted motion to dismiss and ordered re-pleading of trade secret claims. Opposing Counsel Arthur Howe (Schopf & Weiss)

Asch and Associates v. Churilla, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Foreman. 1993-1994. Former employee charged with stealing a customer list to start a rival insurance agency. Represented former employee defendant. Court denied plaintiff's motion for a temporary restraining order. Court later granted summary judgment dismissing plaintiff's claims with prejudice and awarded defendant sanctions (half the attorneys' fees billed to defendant and all of his costs). Defendant later filed claims for malicious prosecution against Asch and his counsel in federal court. That case was settled for \$45,000. Opposing counsel: James D. Montgomery (former Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago).

DevTech v. Rolfes, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Judge Wheaton. 1992. Claim that computer software designer/former employee stole trade secrets and acted in a manner that damaged plaintiff and defendant's joint copyright in certain software. Represented defendant (software designer/former employee). Plaintiff dismissed all claims on the verge of a preliminary injunction trial when judge indicated that she intended to rule in defendant's favor on a motion to exclude key witnesses for plaintiff. Plaintiff agreed to divide equally with defendant all profits from jointly owned software. Opposing counsel: Edward Ruberry (Bolinger Ruberry & Garvey).

John Doe v John Doe Auto Repair Franchise, AAA Arbitration. 2017. Former Franchisee sued for alleged violation of non-compete with fee shifting provision in franchise agreement awarding fees to prevailing party. Former Franchisee had merely leased former franchise premises to a new tenant that competed. Franchisor settled on the eve of the arbitration hearing by dropping claims and paying a port of our client's fees.

Zafco, Inc. d/b/a Salon Buzz v. Juarez, Circuit Court of Cook County, Nos. 2020 CH 5366 and 2021 CH 04963; Illinois Appellate Court, First District, No. 1-21-1487. 2020-2022. Obtained and then defended on appeal an injunction enforcing non-competition and non-solicitation covenants. Affirmed.

Cento LLC and Cento AG v. Poynter, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, No. 20-cv-4121. 2020-2022. Claims under the Defend Trade Secrets Act and the Illinois Trade Secrets Act together with breach of a nondisclosure agreement, libel per se and false light.

Franchise, Dealer Termination, Trademark and Copyright Litigation

Typeface and Font Software Copyright Enforcement. 2014-2019. Represented Berthold Types Ltd. and Berthold Direct Corp. in copyright infringement and license enforcement actions concerning scalable font software against national brands and advertisers, including Berthold v. Volvo AB, No. 17-cv-03735 (N.D. Ill.), Berthold v. Target Corporation, No. 17-cv-07180 (N.D. Ill.), and Berthold Direct Corp. v. Scripps Networks Interactive, No. 2014 L 008346 (Cook County).

Flynn Beverage Inc. v. Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc., United States District Court Central District of Illinois, Rock Island Division, Judge McDade. 1992-1994. Wrongful termination of 27-year liquor distributorship involving statutory and common law franchise claims. Represented Flynn Beverage. Sought over \$2 million in damages and recovery of attorney fees. Seagram's fifty-page motion to dismiss denied. See 815 F. Supp. 1174. Case settled: terms confidential. Opposing counsel: David W. Ichel (Simpson Thacher & Bartlett) and T. Mark McLaughlin (Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw).

Flynn Beverage Inc. v. Jim Beam Brands Inc., Circuit Court of Rock Island County, Judge Conway. 1993-1995. Similar claims to those discussed above except claimed over \$2.5 million in damages. Beam's motion to dismiss denied in a 5-page memorandum opinion. Case settled: terms confidential. Opposing counsel: Kimball R. Anderson and Scott Szala (Winston & Strawn).

Dedicated v. Volkswagen, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Judge Kennelly. 2001. Termination of Volkswagen parts carrier. Represented Dedicated. Volkswagen's motion to dismiss, asserting lack of written evidence of a contract, denied. See 2001 WL 811657. Case settled: terms confidential. Opposing Counsel: Randall Oyler (Barrack Ferrazzano).

Berthold v. FKPT, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Judge Andersen. 1999. Represented plaintiff who terminated its German licensee of trademarked typeface fonts for use in computer software. The fonts were part of a large German font library that was over 140 years old. Claims and counter-claims included claims under German and American law, and international discovery issues. Settlement permitted plaintiff to terminate German licensee and licensee waived all claims to rights in fonts. Opposing Counsel: Caroline Clark (Pennie & Edmonds); Chuck McGirdy (DLA Piper).

Virtual Realty Group v. Virtual Realty Network, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Nordberg, 1995. Represented owner of “Virtual Realty” mark in trademark infringement action. Defendant and its partner Intel had invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising and promoting the “Virtual Realty” mark that did not belong to them. They claimed there was no possibility of consumer confusion between their computerized home loan mortgage brokerage services, and plaintiff’s Internet based real-estate brokerage services. Case settled before injunction hearing. Defendant agreed to immediately discontinue using the mark, and to pay money damages and plaintiff’s attorneys fees. Opposing Counsel: Russell Pelton (Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly).

ROI v. Translogic, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Norgle. 1988. Attempted Monopolization Claims. See *Return on Investment Systems v. Translogic Corp.*, 702 F. Supp. 677 (N.D. Ill. 1988). Represented defendant Translogic. Motion to dismiss half of plaintiff’s antitrust claims granted. Case settled. See 702 FSupp 677. Co-counsel: Arnold & Porter. Opposing counsel: Paul Slater (Sperling Slater & Spitz).

Berthold v. Linotype, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. 2002. Represented plaintiff. Claim that font software company violated copyright laws in illegally copying software code for its own font software. Case settled. Opposing Counsel: Jim McGurk, Paul Stack and Robert Filpi (Stack & Filpi).

Berthold v. FKPT, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judges Lindberg and Gettleman. 2001. Represented Plaintiff. Obtained default judgment and injunctive relief against German Company for trademark infringement and breach of settlement agreement and then enforced such judgment against third-party German corporations and nationals living and doing business here. Case settled with third parties agreeing to injunctive relief protecting plaintiff’s trademarks and discontinuing sale of infringing products here and in Germany. Opposing Counsel: Robert Filpi and Paul Stack (Stack & Filpi) and Robert Joseph (Dentons).

Berthold v. Volvo, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. Judge Durkin. 2017-2018. Represented Berthold in claims for alleged misappropriation of copyrighted scalable computer font software and alleged violation of a consent decree. Case settled on confidential terms. Opposing counsel: Steven Jedlinski (Holland & Knight LLP); Robert N. Phillips (Reid Smith).

Class Action Defense

Woodsmoke v. Woodsmoke, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Kocoras, 1992.

Woodsmoke v. Woodsmoke, Circuit Court of La Salle County, Judge Denny, 1993.

Condominium association brought in excess of \$10 million claim for alleged construction defects, fraudulent sale of condominiums, embezzlement and RICO violations against developers. Represented developer defendants. Federal claims dismissed with prejudice for lack of standing. State case dismissed for lack of standing. Co-counsel: Michael Siavelis (Johnson & Bell). Opposing counsel: Marshall Dickler.

Consolidated Dartmouth Class Action Litigation, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Curry. 1990-1993. Consumer fraud, RICO, and Truth in Lending Act: low- and middle-income homeowners claimed that money center banks conspired to sell at least half a billion dollars in second mortgages to them at inflated prices. Represented the NBD Banks. In a 32-page opinion, Judge Curry consolidated all the cases to his docket, and then dismissed the class action claims with prejudice. Co-lead defense counsel/Citibank: Craig Varga and John Ledsky (Varga Berger Ledsky & Hayes). Opposing counsel: Lawrence Walner (Walner & Associates), Daniel Edelman and Catherine Combs (Edelman Combs & Lattuner).

Downing v. the NBD Banks and Oxford Credit Co., Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Hofert. Consumer fraud and Truth in Lending Act: same allegations as above involving a smaller and different loan portfolio. 1991-1992. Represented the NBD Banks. Case settled without any pleadings being filed. Another defendant paid the entire settlement amount. The NBD Banks received a complete release of all claims without contributing any settlement monies. Co-lead counsel/Oxford: Arthur Radke (Hefter & Radke). Opposing counsel: Lawrence Walner (Walner & Associates) and Daniel Edelman (Edelman Combs & Lattuner).

EEOC v. Enco, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Norgle. 1987. Race discrimination in hiring practices: EEOC brought a class action alleging over \$5 million in actual damages. Represented defendant, a local Chicago manufacturer. Moved to dismiss based on EEOC's inexcusable delay in waiting to file action. EEOC settled for \$30,000, without taking any discovery, rather than having to explain its inexcusable delay to the Court. Co-Lead counsel: Bennett Epstein (Foley & Lardner).

Sampson v. Western Sierra, Federal Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge Zagel. Represented defendant. 2003-2004. Fair Credit Reporting Act class-action claims against national finance company. Case settled on individual basis on terms favorable to defendant following court granting Western Sierra's motion for summary judgment rendering judgment in Western Sierra's favor dismissing the class-action claims with prejudice. See: 2004 WL 406992. Opposing Counsel: Daniel Edelman and Adam Berger (Edelman Combs & Lattuner).

Hyde v. Aspen Marketing Services, Inc., Federal District Court of Maryland. 2004-2006. Judge Bennett. Settled. Represented defendant, one of the largest marketing companies in the country. Plaintiff sought \$100,000,000 in damages in a Fair Credit Reporting Act putative class action. Opposing Counsel: Scott Borison (Legg Law Firm)

Crandall v. Mobile Management Co., Inc. et al, Circuit Court Lake County Illinois. 2004. Judge Tonigan. Case settled. Represented defendant one of the largest mobile home companies in the Mid-West regarding alleged illegal late fees. Opposing Counsel: Daniel Edelman (Edelman, Combs and Lattuner)

Krey v. Aspen Marketing Services, Inc., Grace v. Aspen Marketing Services, Inc., Connolly v. Aspen Marketing Services, Inc., Federal District Court Northern District of Illinois. 2005-2007. Settled. Judges Kennelly, Coar and Filip. Cases settled. Defended Aspen, a national marketing firm, in Fair Credit Reporting Act Class Actions. Opposing Counsel: Edelman, Combs and Lattuner.

Takova v. S37, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Riley and Judge Mikva. Represented defendant landlords in putative class action claiming violations of Illinois security deposit statutes. Case settled on an individual non-class basis following motion to dismiss for mootness. Opposing Counsel: Aaron Krolik and Mark Silverman.

Klimo v. S37, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Hall. Represented defendant landlords in putative class action claiming violations of Illinois and Mt. Prospect security deposit statutes. Case settled on an individual non-class basis following granting of S37's partial summary judgment motion. Opposing Counsel: Mark Silverman.

Music v. Beta Electric, et al., Circuit Court of Cook County. 2014-2016. Judge Patrick Sherlock. Represented defendant company and its owner against putative overtime wage class action. Defeated class action by successfully picking off putative class representative. Case settled on an individual basis. Opposing Counsel: Ernest T. Rossiello (Ernest T. Rossiello & Associates).

Class Action - Court-Appointed Lead or Co-Lead Counsel

Beezley v. Fenix Parts, Inc., United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, No. 17-cv-07896, Judge Norgle. 2017-2021. Counsel for the plaintiff class in a Securities Act of 1933 class action arising out of the company's initial public offering, with Levi & Korsinsky and Glancy Prongay & Murray. The case settled for \$3.3 million, approved in 2020.

Stamos v. Prime Cable of Chicago, Circuit Court Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Schiller. 1999. Lead counsel in class-action against cable company for return of millions of dollars in excessive late fees. Case settled with a substantial reduction in late fees and refunds worth millions of dollars paid to the class. Opposing counsel: John George (Daley & George); Kevin M. Forde (Kevin M. Forde, Ltd.) Richard Patch (Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass).

Marszalek v. Mutimedia, Circuit Court of Kane County, Judge Nottolini. Lead counsel in same type of class-action as **Stamos** against a different cable company. 1998. Case settled with a substantial reduction in late fees and refunds worth millions of dollars paid to the class after class certified in contested proceedings. Opposing counsel: Jack Crowe (Winston & Strawn); Richard Patch (Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass).

Beckman v. Triax, Circuit Court of Kane County. 2000. Lead counsel in same type of class-action as **Stamos** against **Triax**. Case settled with a substantial reduction in late fees and refunds worth millions of dollars paid to the class. Opposing counsel: Jack Crowe (Winston & Strawn); Richard Patch (Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass).

Chmils v. TCI, Circuit Court of Cook Count, Judge Jaffe. 1999. Lead counsel in same type of class action as **Stamos** against TCI. Statewide class action with over a million class members certified in contested proceedings. Directed verdict for defendants following 17-day trial. When appeal was pending, case settled as part of nationwide settlement where we were lead counsel. Late fees in Illinois and across the country reduced substantially as a result of settlement.

Opposing counsel: Richard Werder (Jones Day Reavis & Pogue) and Paul E. Freehling (Seyfarth Shaw).

Out of State Cable Late Fee Class-Actions. 2001-2004. Same type of class-action as **Stamos**. Participating as lead or co-counsel in over 20 such cases against various cable companies including TCI/AT&T, Cox, Time-Warner, Comcast, Charter/Marcus and Jones Cable. I was in charge of coordinating all the different cases across the country, and my partner took the lead role in the national settlement negotiations with TCI/AT&T and Charter/Marcus. Two TCI cases in Washington DC and Maryland where we assisted lead counsel Philip Friedman (who is our co-lead counsel in all the cable late fee cases) were tried to multi-million-dollar verdicts in plaintiffs' favor with injunctive relief barring the illegal fees. The first Maryland case went up to the Court of Appeals (Maryland's highest court) where the judgment in the class's favor of over \$6,000,000 and injunctive relief reducing the \$5 late fee to 10 cents was affirmed. **Burch v. United Cable Television of Baltimore Ltd.**, 732 A2d 887 (Md 1999). The judgment in the Washington DC case was also affirmed on appeal. **District Cablevision Ltd. Partnership v. Bassin**, 2003 WL 21664513 (DC). Since the victories in Maryland and Washington DC, loss in Illinois at the trial level, and appellate victories and losses in other states including victories in Louisiana, Texas and Minnesota (**TCI Cablevision of Dallas, Inc. v. Owens**, 8 SW3d 837 (Tex 2000) and a loss in Mississippi following class certification (**Hill v. Galaxy**, 184 F.R.D. 82, and 176 F. Supp. 2d 636 (ND Miss 1999 and 2001), we entered in two separate national settlements involving over 10 million cable customers with AT&T and Charter/Marcus, which have resulted in permanent reduction of cable late fees throughout the country, and vouchers paid for overcharges resulting in millions of dollars in savings and voucher payments to the classes. We also reached state wide class-action settlements against Cox Cable in Nevada and Arizona, and a state-wide class-action settlement with TCI in California. We settled the class-action pending against Time Warner in Indiana, following our victory in the Indiana Supreme Court on the voluntary payment issue. **Time-Warner v. Whiteman**, 802 NE2d 886 (Ind Sup Ct. 2004). In December 2003, following the ruling in **Dua v. Comcast Cable of Maryland, Inc.**, 805 A2d 1061 (Md 2002), and the trial court granting the class's motion for partial summary judgment and on the eve of trial, Comcast entered into a class-wide settlement of **Maisonette v. Comcast** an identical case to **Dua** with a larger number of class members. Comcast agreed to refund 97% of the class's money damages, including prejudgment interest, for a total payment of 13.589 million dollars to the class fund. Co-counsel included: Philip Friedman and Michael Hyman (Much Shelist Freed Denenberg Ament & Rubinstein). Opposing Counsel on the above cases included: Jones Day Reavis & Pogue, LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, White & Case, Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass, and Sullivan & Cromwell.

Oakbrook Terrace Hotel Overcharge Class Actions, Circuit Court of DuPage County. 2000-2004. Claims against all Oakbrook Terrace Hotels (Hilton, Marriott, La Quinta, Comfort, Wyndham and Starwood) for including non-tax ordinary vendor charges in the tax line item of customer bills. Class certified in **Comfort** and **Hilton** cases following contested hearings, and appointed lead class counsel in that case; appellate court rejected Hilton's statutory occupancy tax defense in an interlocutory appeal to the 2nd District Appellate Court. 788 NE2d 789. Comfort, Wyndham, Marriott, Starwood and La Quinta cases settled on a class-wide basis with between 60% and 70% of damages paid into the settlement fund. Summary judgment was entered in the class's favor in the Hilton case and was affirmed on appeal with the class receiving all of its damages and Hilton being ordered to pay all of class counsel's fees as additional damages. Opposing counsel: Howard Foster (Johnson & Bell); Dennis Powers and Sonya Naar (DLA Piper); Mark Blocker (Sidley Austin, Brown & Wood); Ira Helfgot; Peter Ordower.

Extended Warranty Class Actions. 1995-2001. Represented plaintiffs in approximately 25 class-actions in state and federal court in Illinois against car dealers, finance companies and car manufacturers regarding alleged misrepresentations in financing documents. All 25 cases have settled following a favorable ruling we received from the 2nd District Appellate Court. See 683 NE2d 1194.

Leiner v. Century, Circuit Court of Dupage County. Lead counsel in certified national class-action against maker of child car seats regarding alleged consumer fraud in misrepresenting the safety of the car seats. Settled following certification of nationwide class in contested proceedings.

Erickson v. Ameritech, Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Flynn. 2004. Consumer fraud claims for failure to disclose that voice mail includes phone charges in addition to the monthly fee. Case settled on class-wide basis with refunds available to all class members along with injunctive relief barring the deceptive practices. Appointed co-lead counsel after spear heading efforts with the Citizens Utility Board to have a class-wide settlement (providing unsatisfactory relief) rejected by the Court. Crain's Chicago Business listed the new settlement we helped achieve as the 3rd highest settlement/verdict in Illinois in 2004. Co-Counsel Robert Kelter (General Counsel Citizens Utility Board) Opposing Counsel: Leslie Smith (Kirkland & Ellis).

Johnson v. US Bank, Circuit Court of Dupage County. Judge Popejoy. 2004. Consumer fraud and Illinois statutory claims relating to repossessing cars without providing statutorily mandated disclosures. Case settled with 541 class members receiving the right to collect a \$400 refund, and to have their substantial deficiency balances with US Bank averaging approximately \$6,600 each written off.

Ramsell v. Infinity Broadcasting, Circuit Court of Dupage County. Judge Webster. 2002-2004. Consumer Fraud and breach of contract claims relating to Infinity refusing to provide a refund to concert goers after it cancelled a Doobie Brothers's concert. Defense summary judgment motions denied. Class certified in contested proceedings. We were appointed lead class counsel. Case settled with full cash refunds to class members. Opposing Counsel: Peter John and Summer Heil (Williams Montgomery & John)

Dale v. Daimler Chrysler Corporation, Circuit Court of Boone County, Missouri. Judge Roper. Consumer Fraud and breach of warranty claims relating to defective window motors in Durangos for a five-year period. Chrysler's motion for summary judgment denied. State-wide class certified. We were appointed lead class counsel. Chrysler's appeal of class certification rejected by Missouri appeals court. 2006 WL 1792414. Opposing Counsel: John W. Rogers (Bryan Cave)

Walsh v. Suisse Bancorp. Inc., Circuit Court of DuPage County. Judge Elsner. 2005-2007. Represented plaintiff class in consumer fraud action concerning improper liening of workers' compensation claims by loan and finance company. Case settled for removal of liens and reductions in the amounts due on the loans. Cy pres monies for uncollected class claims paid to Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Chicago Law School.

Boundas v. Abercrombie & Fitch, Federal Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge Feinerman. Represented plaintiffs that received a \$25 purchase reward card that did not contain an expiration date but which defendant claimed should have contained an expiration date and will no longer honor. Class certified and request for appeal of class certification denied by the 7th Circuit. 2011 WL 1676053. Opposing Counsel: Brian J. Murray (Jones Day).

Daniels v. Hollister Co., Superior Court of New Jersey. Same fact pattern as Abercrombie case above but against sister corporation of Abercrombie, Hollister. Superior Court certified a nationwide class. Defendant appealed class certification arguing that the class was not ascertainable. Plaintiff argued that New Jersey law does not require level of ascertainability argued by defendant and that class was sufficiently ascertainable. Appellate court agreed with plaintiff's arguments and rejected defendant's arguments. 113 A.3d 796 (N.J. App. 2015). Opposing Counsel: Brian J. Murray (Jones Day) and Richard A. Grossman (Grossman, Heavey & Halpin).

Jane Doe v Modeling School, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division. Represented plaintiff putative class representative/student who took a modeling and acting course. Plaintiff alleged violations of the Illinois vocational schools and consumer fraud acts involving alleged misrepresentations concealing that the course would not lead to work in the field. Case settled on a class wide basis with class members being able to claim a partial refund on their tuition.

Jane Doe et al v. Trade School, Circuit Court of DuPage County, Chancery Division. Class Certified in contested proceedings. We represented a class of students who took a medical sonography course for claimed violations of the Illinois vocational schools and consumer fraud acts involving alleged misrepresentations concealing that the course would not lead to work in the field. The Class prevailed in motions to appeal class certification to the Appellate Court and Illinois Supreme Court. Case settled on a class wide basis with class members receiving a substantial tuition refund.

Jane Doe et al v. Electronics Retailer, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division. Represented Plaintiffs who received a \$500 gas and grocery card that retailer allegedly would not honor. Class certified. Case settled on a class-wide basis with approximately 7,000 class members being able to claim up to \$1000 depending on the number of claimants who participate in the settlement.

Junk Fax Class Actions, Circuit Courts of Cook, McHenry and DuPage Counties. Representing plaintiffs in a number of class actions involving alleged violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Cases include ***Dembo v. McAssey Corporation***, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge McGann. Case settled for \$1.4 million to the class. Each class member had a right to claim \$225.

Walczak v Onyx Acceptance Corporation, Circuit Court of Lake County, Chancery Division, Judge Hoffman. Class Certified. Class certification order affirmed by the Appellate Court. 365 Ill. App. 3d 664. Represented class with co-counsel in claims involving alleged violations of Illinois automobile repossession laws. Case settled with each of the over 7,600 class members able to claim up to \$2000, forgiveness of automobile debt totaling \$11.5 million and credit repair for each class member worth \$1500 per class member. Opposing Counsel: Joshua Threadcraft and Rik Tozzi (Burr & Forman)

Booking Fee Class Actions, Federal Court for the Northern District of Illinois. We prosecuted a number of class actions against various Chicago area towns for charging arrested persons with a booking fee and then not providing for hearing to contest the right to charge the fee. Two of the cases settled on a class wide basis. We obtained class certification and defeated motions to dismiss in some of these cases. We appealed dismissal of one case to the 7th Circuit and ultimately were granted an *en banc* rehearing by the entire 7th Circuit which resulted in a tie vote.

Ademoye v Austin Highland Development, Circuit Court of Dupage County. 2016-2018. Judge Popejoy. Represented Plaintiff class for claimed violations of Illinois Security deposit statute involving a substantial number of unit owners. Case settled with Defendant making available hundreds of thousands of dollars in refunds of security deposit monies withheld. Opposing counsel Rathje Woodward LLC.

Consumer Fraud

Outside General Counsel to Automobile Dealerships. Serves as principal outside counsel to an automobile dealership, advising on consumer fraud and warranty claims, retail installment contract and advertising compliance, Illinois Attorney General consumer fraud inquiries, customer disputes, employment and vendor matters, and the litigation that follows. James V. DiTommaso serves as principal outside counsel to four additional dealerships.

Automobile Dealer Representation - Both Sides of the Case. 1995-present. For three decades the firm has litigated automobile cases from both chairs. On the buyer's side its lawyers prosecuted several hundred consumer fraud, odometer, rebuilt-wreck, warranty and retail installment contract cases against dealers, manufacturers, service contract companies and finance companies in state and federal court and in arbitration, won contested class certification, and argued the appeals construing the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act and the vehicle repossession statutes. For at least thirty years the firm has also defended dealers in these same cases. That is the reason dealers retain the firm: it knows exactly how the plaintiff's case is built, what the deal jacket, the reconditioning file and the service writer's notes will be made to show, and where the claim breaks, because it spent decades building those cases. Representative matters follow.

Bryant v. Black Dog Speed Shop, Inc., American Arbitration Association, No. 01-23-0005-4293, Arbitrator H. Vincent Draa. 2023-2025. Tried to an evidentiary hearing with co-counsel James V. DiTommaso on claims under the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 ILCS 505, arising out of the purchase of a 2003 Porsche 911 Carrera. The arbitrator found for our client and ordered rescission of the transaction: return of the vehicle against a refund of the full \$32,775.24 purchase price, together with \$10,000 for stress and aggravation, out-of-pocket costs, prejudgment interest, and \$139,555.95 in attorney's fees plus costs, the arbitrator finding our hourly rates reasonable. Total award \$187,881.46.

John Doe v. Large National Automobile Dealership Group, American Arbitration Association. 2019-2020. Represented the buyer of a certified used vehicle in claims under the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, 815 ILCS 505, arising out of an undisclosed prior accident and unrepaired frame damage. The arbitrator found for our client following an evidentiary hearing. The matter resolved on confidential terms.

Kim v. Carter's Inc., 598 F.3d 362 (7th Cir. 2010). Argued the appeal for the plaintiff class in a consumer fraud action over comparative price tags, opposite Ropes & Gray.

IWOI, LLC v. Monaco Coach Corp., 581 F. Supp. 2d 994 (N.D. Ill. 2008). Represented the purchaser of a luxury motor coach in consumer fraud and warranty claims against the manufacturer.

Twyman v S & M Autobrokers, Inc., United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Kendall. 2016-2018. Represented Plaintiff who claimed that Defendant

sold him a used luxury Infinity that sports utility vehicle that was a rebuilt wreck. Case settled on confidential terms. Opposing counsel Brodsky was sanctioned by the Court \$50,000 payable to the Clerk of Court and ordered to undergo anger management classes for making defamatory attacks on our expert and Plaintiff's counsel. Opposing Counsel: Joel Brodsky; Ryan Brown (Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP); James J. Roche & Associates.

Browns v. Corvette Collection, Circuit Court Will County, Judge Kinney. 2006-2007. Client purchased what was advertised as a "collector's numbers' matching" 1965 Corvette for an investment. Car in fact was not a "collector's" car and its numbers were not matching. Case settled. Client returned car and received full refund of \$30,000 purchase price plus \$10,000 in damages for lost investment opportunity and aggravation. All of our attorneys' fees and costs were paid by the defendant. Opposing Counsel: Douglas Ziech.

Polovyy v. Midway Autohaus, American Arbitration Association, Arbitrator Christine McTigue. 2014-2015. Obtained arbitration award for clients in excess of \$51,000.00. Represented buyers against dealership that sold buyers a Mercedes-Benz SUV without disclosing that vehicle had significant amount of water damage as a result of being in a flood previously in violation the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act. Arbitrator ruled in favor of buyers.

Little v. Ford, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge Zagel. 2015-2016. Represented purchaser of certified used vehicle in suit against manufacturer alleging that manufacturer had certified vehicle that had previously been in an accident and did not meet the criteria for certification. Obtained settlement of a confidential amount prior to trial. Opposing counsel: Edward Fu (Donohue Brown Mathewson & Smyth).

Butera v. General Motors et al, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Judge Coar. 2005-2006. Client purchased a certified used Cadillac Escalade SUV for \$45,000 which turned out to be a rebuilt wreck with hidden frame damage. Case settled with General Motors and Dealer paying client \$25,000 for loss in value to car and excess interest payments (which was \$4,000 in excess of the loss amount determined by our expert). The remainder of the amount paid to our client was for his time and energy spent to rectify situation. Defendants also paid all of our attorneys' fees and costs so that client received all his damages since our fees and costs were paid by the defendants. Opposing Counsel: Toby Schisler (Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP); John P. Palumbo (Langhenry, Gillen & Lundquist)

Frrokajs v. Charlie Trotters, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Shadur. 2012-2013. Represented wine purchased who paid over \$46,000 for an allegedly counterfeit magnum size bottle of Domaine Romanee-Conti Burgundy wine. The case settled the same year we filed it on confidential terms after the Court denied the motion to dismiss for lack of federal jurisdiction. Opposing Counsel: Kaplan Papadakis & Gournis.

Cohen v Ofer Mizrahi Diamonds Inc. et al, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Synder. 2018. Represented Defendants some of the largest diamond wholesalers in the world who were falsely accused of a \$1.5 million fraud by another wholesaler. After we filed a motion for sanctions demonstrating that the claims were baseless and a \$16,000,000 defamation suit against Plaintiff in federal court the case settled less than a year after suit was filed. Defendant was required to provide a full retraction and apology. Opposing Counsel: Mark Hammervold.

Aviation Disaster Litigation

In re Lion Air Flight 610 Crash, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. 2019-2021. Represented Indonesian families who lost relatives in the October 2018 crash of Lion Air Flight 610 in claims against The Boeing Company, with co-counsel Terrence Buehler, and settled every case the firm handled. The families had discharged their prior counsel, Girardi Keese, before executing any Boeing release, so none of their settlement funds were ever transferred to that firm.

Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 Crash Litigation, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Served as co-counsel for the family of a victim of the March 2019 crash of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 in claims against The Boeing Company.

Legal Malpractice Litigation

Rykaczewski v. Cesario & Walker, Circuit Court of DuPage County. 1999. Attorney malpractice claim. Represented plaintiffs, litigants whose trial attorney allegedly improperly hired their expert witness for trial on a contingency fee despite ethical rule prohibiting such an arrangement. The trial court ruled that the expert witness could not testify thus causing the litigants to lose their case. Malpractice case against litigant's attorney settled for \$375,000 following non-binding mediation. Opposing Attorney: Jeffrey Zehe (Clausen Miller).

Markel v. Weiss, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division, Judge Gillis. 1996. Attorney malpractice claim. Represented plaintiff, the buyer of a business who lost over \$300,000 due to his attorney's alleged failure to follow the form book in the sale of a business transaction. After deposing the attorney defendant, defendant requested a non-binding mediation with former Judge Brian Crowe acting as mediator. Case settled for \$200,000 which represented nearly all that remained in the attorney malpractice insurance policy. Opposing Counsel: Thomas Browne (Hinshaw & Culbertson).

Ettswold v. Economy Ins. and Orner & Wasserman, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division, Judge Gillis. 1996. Insurance bad faith and legal malpractice claims arising from \$350,000 judgment entered against Ettswold in a car accident case. The judgment entered against Ettswold was \$250,000 in excess of her insurance policy limits. One month after filing suit on Ettswold's behalf, her insurance company, Economy settled by paying the plaintiff in the car accident case \$190,000 to release all his claims against Ettswold for the \$250,000 in excess of her insurance policy limits. As part of the settlement, Economy also agreed to pay all of Ettswold's attorneys' fees. Opposing counsel: Norton Wasserman (Orner & Wasserman) and Jack Martin (Touhy & Martin).

Ardebili v. Taha, et al, Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division, Judge Mason. 2007-2008. Representing business purchaser plaintiff in Legal Malpractice, Consumer Fraud, Rescission, Negligent Misrepresentation, Breach of Contract and Common Law Fraud claims stemming from the attempted purchase of a business. Case settled financial terms confidential. Opposing Counsel: Nicholas Albuquerk (Law Offices of J. Nicholas Albuquerk), Sana'a Hussien (Cohen & Hussien) and Amy Ezeldin.

Assisted my former partner Francis J. McConnell:

White Collar Criminal and Civil Securities Litigation

United States v. Lytle, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Shadur. 1984-1988. Criminal: federal wire fraud and misapplication of bank funds. Represented defendant Lytle with John Powers Crowley and Matthew Kennelly. Government attorneys were Joseph Duffy, Ted Helwig and Mark Rotert. Five-week jury trial. Hung jury. Lytle subsequently pled guilty to a single count of misapplication of bank funds.

Continental Illinois National Bank Securities Litigation, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judges Grady and Shadur. 1982-1989. Securities and negligence: class derivative action alleging misrepresentation in financial reporting in purchase of Penn Square oil and gas participation loans (underlying litigation); suit by D&O Carriers to deny coverage based on alleged dishonesty of Lytle. Represented defendant Lytle, former head of Continental's Mid-Continent Division. Cases settled. Opposing counsel: Lowell Sachnoff (Sachnoff & Weaver) for FDIC; Keck Mahin & Kate for D&O Carriers.

United States v. Mark P. Fontana and Dieter Mueller, United States District Court Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Judge Evans. 1985. Criminal: claim of federal wire fraud and misapplication of bank funds relating to international banking transactions, and sale of airplanes in various countries. Represented defendant Fontana. Three-week jury trial. Principal defendant found guilty. Fontana found not guilty.

Class Action and Antitrust Litigation

Will v. Comprehensive Accounting Corp., United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Plunkett. 1983-1985. Antitrust tying and breach of franchise contracts. Claim that franchisor improperly forced 13 of its accounting practice franchisees to purchase unwanted and overpriced data processing services. Represented all 13 franchisees. Six-week jury trial. Not guilty on antitrust tying count. Six plaintiffs won, and six plaintiffs lost on breach of contract claims. See 776 F.2d 665. Opposing counsel: Edward Foote and Duane Kelly (Winston & Strawn).

Fontana Aviation v. Cessna Aircraft, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Bua. 1983-1984. Antitrust: claimed that Cessna acted in restraint of trade when it destroyed a custom avionics dealership. Represented plaintiff. Three-week jury trial. Not guilty. See 617 F.2d 478. Opposing counsel: Alan Becker (Kirkland & Ellis).

Corrugated Container Antitrust Litigation, United States District Court Houston, Texas, Judge Singleton. 1983-1985. Antitrust: price fixing conspiracy. Represented opt-out corporate plaintiffs, Pillsbury, Green Giant, U.S. Gypsum and Dean Foods Company. Settled as to all defendants except CCA. Pillsbury earned half its corporate profits for one year from the settlements. Settlement amounts: Pillsbury (\$8.5 million); U.S. Gypsum (\$1 million); Dean (\$850,000). Twelve-week jury trial as to CCA. Jury found price fixing conspiracy, but no damages. See 756 F.2d 411. Opposing counsel: CCA-Sanford Litvak (former head of the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice and former General Counsel of the Walt Disney Company).

Pillsbury v. Conboy, United States Supreme Court. 1983. Constitutional Law/Fifth Amendment Privilege: Whether prior grant of immunity extends to a civil deposition? See 459 U.S. 248.

Represented Pillsbury. Supreme Court upheld assertion of privilege. Opposing counsel: Michael Coffield (Coffield Ungaretti & Harris).

Dean Foods Company v. Clinton, State Court Arkansas. 1984. State Constitutional Law/Interference with Property Rights: Whether Arkansas minimum milk pricing statute was an unconstitutional infringement on property rights? Represented Dean Foods Company. Court found statute unconstitutional. Attorney General's office did not appeal court's finding.

Assisted Lead Counsel:

Antitrust Class-Action Litigation

Vinegar Antitrust Litigation, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, Judge Roszowski. 1989-1992. Antitrust price fixing case. Represented plaintiff class. Settlement achieved prior to trial worth at least \$6 million to the class. Lead Counsel: Perry Goldberg (Alzheimer & Gray). Opposing counsel: Howery & Simon; Whitman & Ransom; Jones Day Reavis & Pogue; and Caldwellader Wickersham & Taft.

Glass Containers Antitrust Litigation, United States District Court Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Will. 1989-1982. Antitrust price fixing case. Represented plaintiff class. Settlement achieved prior to trial worth at least \$70 million to the class. Lead counsel: Gig Specks (Alzheimer & Gray). Opposing counsel: SNR Denton; Kirkland & Ellis; Brown & Bain; Sidley Austin, Brown & Wood.

NCAA Rules Violation Hearing

NCAA v. Iowa State, NCAA Disciplinary Board. 1986. Represented Iowa State as special counsel in six-month investigation of numerous and serious alleged recruitment violations involving the football and basketball programs. Purpose of investigation, in the case of the football program, was to find further violations so that the University could strengthen its settlement position with the NCAA by showing its commitment to enforcing the NCAA's rules. Purpose of the investigation, in the case of the basketball program, was to refute the NCAA's meritless charges. Defended the University at two-day NCAA disciplinary hearing. Basketball program found not guilty. Football program found guilty, but only put on probation because the University self-disclosed significant new evidence uncovered in our investigation, and thus demonstrated its commitment to the NCAA's rules. Lead counsel: Michael Slive (later became Commissioner of Southeastern Conference). Opposing counsel: David Burst (Chief Investigator for the NCAA)