



DONALD A. TARKINGTON

PARTNER

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Don Tarkington is a senior trial lawyer with over 30 years of experience litigating high-profile matters and resolving disputes for clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to closely held businesses.

Don has built a reputation for understanding and creatively achieving his clients' business objectives through litigation, arbitration or settlement. He has been entrusted by clients in diverse industries to represent them as plaintiffs and defendants in multimillion-dollar matters and in disputes which threaten the existence of their business. He has successfully represented businesses and individuals in disputes concerning breach of contract, intellectual property, real estate, professional liability and closely held businesses.

Don has repeatedly been recognized as one of the top commercial litigators in Illinois by Super Lawyers Magazine and The Leading Lawyers Network. Since 2017, he has been named one of The Best Lawyers in America® by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers Magazine. The publication named Don its Real Estate Litigation "Lawyer of the Year" in Chicago in 2018 and again in 2023. Receiving this designation reflects the high level of respect a lawyer has earned among other leading lawyers in the same community and the same practice area for their ability, professionalism and integrity.

In addition, Don serves as office managing attorney for the firm's Chicago office.

BACKGROUND

Don was previously managing partner at Novack and Macey in Chicago and joined Armstrong Teasdale in 2023.

EDUCATION

- Northwestern University School of Law (J.D., 1983)
 - Miner Moot Court Competition, First Place
 - William Jennings Bryan and Lowden-Wigmore Prize for Excellence in Oral and Written Advocacy
 - National Moot Court Competition Representative
- Indiana University (B.S., 1978)

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Evanston/Skokie (Illinois) Consolidated School District 65 Board of Education

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Litigation
Real Estate
Financial Services and Banking
Class Action Litigation
Ethics and Professional Responsibility
Noncompete and Trade Secrets
Real Estate, Development, Construction
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Intellectual Property Litigation
Complex Commercial Litigation
Legal Malpractice Defense

ADMISSIONS

Illinois
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

(Former Member; Finance Committee, Chair; Referendum Committee, Co-chair)

- Foundation 65 (Founding Member and Past President)
- McGaw YMCA (Former member of Board of Directors)
- McGaw YMCA Children's Center (Former Long-range Planning Committee, Chair)

ACCOLADES

- Illinois Super Lawyers®, Business Litigation (2005-present)
- Illinois Leading Lawyers (2004)
- The Best Lawyers in America®, Real Estate Litigation (2017-present); Commercial Litigation (2023-present); "Lawyer of the Year" for Real Estate Litigation (2018 and 2023)

EXPERIENCE

Class Action and Securities Litigation for Multinational Hedge Fund

Represented an American multinational hedge fund in a national class action and securities litigation.

Commercial Dispute Resolution for One of World's Largest Restaurant Companies

Represented one of the largest restaurant companies in the world, helping it resolve multiple commercial disputes.

National Class Action Litigation for Public and Private Companies

Represented publicly traded and private companies in national class action litigation.

Successful Defense of TV Network, Musicians in Copyright, Trademark Infringement Matters

Defended a major television news network and internationally known musical artists against claims of copyright and trademark infringement.

Trade Secret Protection Across Industry Sectors

Represented manufacturers, service companies and software developers in connection with protecting mission-critical trade secrets.

Leasing, Zoning and Financing Disputes for Real Estate Owners, Developers

Represented owners and developers of real estate in connection with disputes relating to leasing, zoning, financing and ownership.

Defense of Major Financial Institution in Commercial Loan Origination, Sale Case

Defended a large publicly traded financial institution against claims relating to the origination and sale of commercial loans.

Multimillion-Dollar Professional Liability Claims, Partnership Disputes

Defended lawyers and major law firms in connection with multimillion-dollar professional liability claims and partnership disputes.

Representation of Closely Held Business Owners in Operational Disputes

Represented owners of closely held businesses in disputes concerning the operation of their businesses and their rights in the business vis a vis the other owners.

Representation of Trustees in Disputes with Trust Beneficiaries

Defended Trustees in multimillion-dollar disputes with trust beneficiaries and third parties claiming rights in the trusts.

Representation of Clients in Commercial Disputes

Represented numerous businesses in many varied commercial disputes including disputes relating to breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and employment issues.

Representation of Private Equity Funds

Represented a large private equity fund in connection with a dispute concerning alleged financial fraud in connection with the merger of two operating companies.