



JOHN F. COWLING

PARTNER

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An accomplished litigator, John Cowling counsels organizations through a range of strategic business decisions. He practices primarily in the areas of general litigation, products liability, environmental litigation and information technology law.

For companies of all sizes, John handles matters concerning software contract issues, breach of contract, property disputes, products liability, OSHA penalty actions and commercial tort claims.

For more than five years, John worked on the welding fumes products liability litigation and did extensive work for a welding products manufacturer as national products liability counsel.

In the environmental area, John litigates claims related to federal and state environmental statutes such as CERCLA, RCRA and the Clean Air Act. He defends civil enforcements and penalty actions and deals with insurance coverage issues.

John advises clients on information technology issues including retention policies, contracts, privacy, and the management of electronically stored information (ESI). John is a frequent speaker on E-discovery issues.

Additionally, John is the president of Lawgical Choice, a company that provides legal technology services to law firms and legal departments. He has employed computers and litigation technology in his practice for many years.

EDUCATION

- Washington University School of Law (J.D., 1980)
- University of Vermont (B.S., 1977)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The Missouri Bar
- St. Louis Lawyers Association

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Lawgical Choice, a legal technology services company (President)
- Independence Center (Board Member and Executive Committee Member)

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

E-Discovery
Environmental
Litigation
Privacy and Data Security
Noncompete and Trade
Secrets
Product Liability
Technology

ADMISSIONS

Missouri
U.S. District Court, Eastern
District of Missouri
U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C.
District Court of Appeals
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth
Circuit
U.S. District Court, Southern
District of Illinois
U.S. District Court, District of
Columbia
U.S. District Court, Northern
District of Ohio
U.S. District Court, Eastern
District of Missouri- Appellate

ACCOLADES

- *Martindale-Hubbell* and *American Lawyer Media (ALM)* Top Rated Lawyer, Commercial Litigation (2012)
- *AV® Preeminent Rating, Martindale-Hubbell, Top Rated Lawyers®*, Energy, Environmental and Natural Resources Law (2012-present)
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*; Information Technology Law, Electronic Discovery and Information Management Law (2010-present)
- *Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers®* (2005, 2011, 2013-present)
- *AV® Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell*

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Armstrong Teasdale, John was employed by the Missouri Public Counsel's Office, a state agency charged with representing utility ratepayers before the Missouri Public Service Commission. He also worked as a law clerk for Judge William L. Hungate of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

EXPERIENCE

Assisted Multiple Clients in Missouri Medical Marijuana Application, Licensure Process

Assisted multiple clients in drafting and submitting numerous applications for medical marijuana facility licenses to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Sale of Superfund Site

Counseled a mining company through the rare sale of a federal Superfund site, an 1,800-acre former cobalt mine. This included securing a collateralized walk-away indemnity for the client, handling the real estate components and assisting with the relationship with another responsible party for the cleanup during the transaction.

Multimillion-Dollar Environmental Litigation for Fortune 150 Company

Representation of Fortune 150 petroleum and pipeline corporation in third-party multimillion-dollar environmental litigation arising out of operation of petroleum refinery in Illinois. Claims involve assessment of damages and assignment of third-party liability under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and Illinois Contribution Act.

Dismissal of Environmental Claims Against Energy Client

Obtained dismissal of environmental claims against a client in the energy industry. Because the lawsuit in question was filed after the client filed its Chapter 11 reorganization plan, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court granted the client's motion to enforce the release and injunction provisions in the confirmed plan. As a result, the court dismissed the causes of action with prejudice.

Counsel to Unsecured Creditors Committee for Provider of Computer Services

Served as counsel to the unsecured creditors committee for a provider of computer services in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

Favorable Resolution in Wage Dispute

Represented wireless infrastructure contractor in wage dispute brought by former

employee. Handled all phases of pretrial litigation, including motion practice and depositions of key witnesses. Obtained favorable resolution, saving the client hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Reduced Penalties for Dairy Farm in Fatalities Following OSHA SVEP Placement

Defended dairy farm in two separate fatality cases that resulted in repeat OSHA citations and placement on OSHA SVEP. At conclusion of negotiation, company was removed from SVEP and penalties were cut by 75 percent.

Successful Licensure for Client in Illinois Medical Marijuana Industry

Assisted our client in preparing detailed applications for licenses to grow and dispense medical marijuana in an intensely competitive process under Illinois's 2014 Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act. Over 370 applications were filed in Illinois for just 81 licenses. Our client won a license to operate a medical marijuana dispensary in suburban Chicago.

No Prosecution for Client in Multiple Fatality Case Referred to the U.S. Attorney

Defended a company in a multiple fatality case that resulted in an OSHA referral to the U.S. Attorney for prosecution. After meeting with the U.S. Attorney, no prosecution resulted.

No Willful Violations in Case Involving Availability of Rescue Boat

Defended company in OSHA evidentiary hearing involving facility and availability of rescue boat. The Administrative Law Judge determined violation was not willful.