



STEPHEN NOVACK

PARTNER

Chicago, IL
312.419.6900
snovack@atllp.com



During his 50 years of legal practice, Steve has had extensive experience trying cases, before both juries and judges. He has also had extensive experience at the appellate level. He has handled appeals in many circuits of the United States Court of Appeals, the Illinois Supreme and appellate courts. In the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit alone, he has won nine of his last 10 cases.

Steve has handled cases for a wide range of national and Chicago-area business corporations, institutions, partnerships, individuals and some of the wealthiest and most prominent families in the Chicagoland area.

Many well-known law firms have also expressed their confidence in Steve by retaining him to defend them against claims of legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty and securities fraud, as well as in law partnership disputes.

Steve has achieved considerable recognition within the profession. Chambers USA, which ranks Steve in the highest tier – Band 1 – for Illinois Litigation: General Commercial, described him as “a highly regarded litigator who is prominent for representing major companies and law firms.”

Further, Steve participated in an American Bar Association program run in cooperation with judges of the Seventh Circuit and Northern District of Illinois to make improvements to the civil jury system. Steve worked on a proposed change to allow lawyers to make interim statements to the jury, rather than be limited to opening and closing statements. This innovative approach was successfully tested and is used by many judges today.

BACKGROUND

In 1984, Steve co-founded Novack and Macey LLP, one of Chicago’s most prominent commercial and business litigation firms. Steve joined Armstrong Teasdale when the two firms combined in 2023.

EDUCATION

- Northwestern University School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1972)
 - Order of the Coif
 - Northwestern University Law Review (Notes and Comments Editor)
 - National Moot Court Team

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Appellate
Class Action Litigation
Complex Commercial
Litigation
Litigation
Noncompete and Trade
Secrets
Ethics and Professional
Responsibility
Legal Malpractice Defense

ADMISSIONS

Illinois
Trial Bar of the U.S. District
Court, Northern District of
Illinois
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, First
Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Second
Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth
Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth
Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh
Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth
Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth
Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal

- University of Missouri-St. Louis (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1968)

Circuit

ACCOLADES

- Honorary Doctorate, University of Missouri-St. Louis (2023)
- Illinois Super Lawyers® (2005-present), Top 100 Lawyers in Illinois (2007-present)
- Preeminent Attorney, Martindale-Hubbell
- Chambers USA, Litigation: General Commercial, Band 1
- Illinois Leading Lawyer (2003-present)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants, Litigation - Real Estate, Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants (2017-present); Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Real Estate (2022); Lawyer of the Year, Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants (2024)

EXPERIENCE

Obtained Summary Judgment on Consumer Fraud Claim for Mortgage Company

Obtained summary judgment on consumer fraud claim on behalf of mortgage company in dispute with former IT vendor and obtained favorable settlement.

Obtained Early Dismissal in \$50 Million Breach of Fiduciary Duty, Professional Malpractice Suit

In suit seeking over \$50 million damages against receiver and her law firm, obtained early dismissal of claims against law firm and prevented filing of defamation claim under Barton doctrine. Secured summary judgment in favor of receiver on over a dozen claims for breach of fiduciary duty and professional malpractice. Successfully defended all challenged rulings on appeal to the Seventh Circuit.

Successful Defense of Real Estate Developer at Federal Jury Trial and on Appeal

Represented real estate developer in several mechanic's lien suits and federal jury trial alleging breach of contract and violation of Illinois statutes concerning securities, consumer fraud, and condominiums. Obtained early dismissal of securities claim and part of a team that secured jury and bench trial verdicts entirely in client's favor. Successfully defended challenged rulings on appeal to the Seventh Circuit.