



STEPHEN J. SIEGEL

PARTNER

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Steve Siegel guides companies and individuals in resolving complex business, investment, real estate and employment disputes. He serves as lead counsel in bet-the-company cases for publicly and privately held businesses, as well as bet-the-career disputes for CEOs, entrepreneurs and other executives. He has a particular depth of experience in business control disputes and business divorces, breach of contractual and fiduciary duty cases, defense of antitrust actions, and consumer fraud claims.

In a typical engagement, Steve serves clients as their vigorous advocate, as well as being a trusted counselor and strategist. To achieve client goals, Steve leverages a broad skill set, including at trial, in litigation, arbitration and mediation, and through direct advocacy and negotiation.

Steve has been recognized repeatedly by peers for the quality of his representation and professional reputation. For the past four years, Best Lawyers Magazine has named Steve among the "Best Lawyers in America" for Commercial Litigation. Since 2016, he has been named by Super Lawyers Magazine as an Illinois "Super Lawyer." Martindale-Hubbell ranks Steve as a Prominent Attorney, its highest Peer Review Rating, with a 5.0 out of 5 ranking. And since 2005, Steve has been selected by his peers and an independent panel as an Illinois "Leading Lawyer." Steve also spent 13 years in various leadership roles for the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association.

In the civic and charitable arena, Steve has long served in leadership roles for J Street and previously the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, frequently provides pro bono legal services, and actively supports Legal Aid Chicago. He has been active in voter protection efforts in Michigan and elsewhere, and has participated in a wide range of other community activities.

BACKGROUND

Steve joined Armstrong Teasdale in April 2023. He was previously a lawyer at Novack and Macey in Chicago, and before that, for one of the five largest firms in the U.S. He has past experience as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Morey L. Sear (E.D. La.) and a legislative assistant to then-U.S. Rep. Harry M. Reid (who later served as U.S. Senate Majority Leader) (D-Nev.).

EDUCATION

- University of Michigan Law School (J.D., *cum laude*, 1990)

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Antitrust and Trade Practices
Class Action Litigation
Complex Commercial Litigation
Employment and Labor Litigation
Noncompete and Trade Secrets
Energy and Utilities
Real Estate, Development, Construction

ADMISSIONS

Illinois
U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
Trial Bar of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

- Middlebury College (B.A., *cum laude*, 1984)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association, Litigation Section (including 13 years in Section leadership)
- Chicago Council of Lawyers (past Board member)

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- J Street
- A Just Harvest
- Voter protection
- Jewish Council on Urban Affairs

ACCOLADES

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation (2018-present)
- Illinois Super Lawyers® (2016-present)
- Illinois Leading Lawyers, Commercial Litigation and Energy Law (2005-present)
- Martindale-Hubbell, Prominent Attorney

EXPERIENCE

Dismissal with Prejudice of Claims Against School Board Chair

On our motion, we secured a dismissal with prejudice for the board chair of a private school on claims of consumer fraud and infliction of emotional distress. The multi-party suit arose out of alleged acts and omissions at the school related to claimed cyberbullying and a former student's tragic death by suicide.

Favorable Settlement in Pro Bono Section 1983 Litigation

Secured favorable settlement in Section 1983 litigation for a pro bono client subjected to at least 17 stops or arrests by Chicago police, which involved excessive force, unlawful search and seizure, and/or false arrest -- but none of which resulted in a conviction. The City settled for the maximum amount allowed without a vote by the Chicago City Council.

Vindicated CEO Terminated For "Cause" and Denied All Compensation

Successfully represented former CEO of publicly traded international business in dispute arising from the company's termination of our client "for cause" and denial of all incentives and other compensation due to the client.

Successful Objection to Massive Class Counsel Fee Request

On mega-settlement of antitrust action, obtained a judgment order reducing class counsel's fee award by eight-figures -- notwithstanding our client's prior written agreement to the higher amount class counsel requested in fees.

Summary Judgment on Challenge to Association Bylaws

Prevailed on summary judgment for directors of a leading national professional

association on a challenge to a bylaws amendment brought in a derivative action by association members who were also leaders of a rival professional association that opposed the amendment.

Dismissals Lead to Favorable Settlement

Obtained the dismissal with prejudice of multiple claims brought by one financial institution against another arising out of a data breach led by fraudsters, facilitating a favorable settlement of the sole remaining claim.

Successfully Defended Health Care Consultants and Health Care Attorney in Multiple Civil, Bankruptcy and Investigative Proceedings

Successfully defended a health care consulting firm and a health care attorney in multiple civil, bankruptcy and investigative proceedings relating to disputed process and handling fees paid to physicians by testing laboratories.

Favorably Settled Claims by and Against a Revenue Cycle Management Company

Obtained a favorable settlement of claims brought by and against a revenue cycle management company arising from the early termination of its multi-year collection contract with a large regional physician group.

Judgment for Commercial Real Estate Owner, Voiding Rejected Purchase Contract

Obtained a judgment order for a commercial real estate owner that held a property sales contract void under an attorney modification clause and dismissed the buyer-plaintiff's claim with prejudice.

Litigation Success Leads to Negotiated Victory for a National Hotel Operator

After substituting in as counsel for a commercial tenant in an eviction action, amended to add claims that the landlord and its affiliate had breached the lease's territorial-exclusivity covenant and sought discovery on the affiliate's profits from the forbidden competition with our client. After the court ordered our opponents to provide the discovery, the landlord relented and entered into a 50-year lease that ceded operational control of the property to our client, reversing the landlord's longstanding opposition to such terms.

Obtained Landmark Appellate Ruling Defeating ERISA-Preemption Defenses to Fraud and Tort Claims

Represented a medical device provider in payment claims against a leading insurer that resulted in a landmark ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, sustaining our client's fraud and tort claims against ERISA-preemption defenses

Appellate Victory Affirming Court-Ordered Removal of Illegal Billboard

The Illinois Appellate Court affirmed a summary judgment order we obtained, compelling the removal of an illegal billboard that stalled completion of a shopping center development.

Appeal Affirms Dismissal of Class Action at the Outset

Prevailed for our national client on a putative class action at the outset, executing a strategy to moot the named plaintiff's claims before the expense of class certification and merits proceedings even began. The dismissal with prejudice of plaintiff's claim was affirmed on appeal.

Arbitration Award in Favor of a Retail Gas Supplier

Obtained an arbitration award for a retail gas supplier awarding it every dollar it sought in damages, attorney's fees and arbitration expenses on its claim to enforce two

unsigned contract amendments.

\$18 Million Settlement of Arbitration for Coal Purchaser

Obtained an \$18 million settlement, reached during arbitration, for a coal purchaser arising from a producer's failure to deliver low-priced coal as market prices rose.

Arbitration Award in Favor of a Retail Power Seller

Won an arbitration award in favor of a retail power seller denying a commercial customer's claim for purported overcharges and awarding our client all of its arbitration expenses.

Investors Awarded \$18.9 Million in Securities Fraud and Mismanagement Dispute

Arbitrators awarded our investor-client \$18.9 million on claims of mismanagement and securities fraud against the founder/manager of two closely held investment vehicles.

Arbitration Award and Federal Court Judgment Free Energy Company to Sell Overseas Assets

Obtained both an arbitration award and a federal court judgment in favor of subsidiaries of a publicly held energy company, restraining frivolous multimillion-dollar litigation in Guatemala, which freed our client to sell its assets in that country.

Favorable Settlements for Customers Victimized by Broker Ponzi Scheme

Secured favorable settlements for multiple former clients of a broker who misappropriated over \$100 million from several dozen customers, while misrepresenting that their accounts had grown to approximately \$275 million in value.

Complete Victory for Defendant/Counterclaimant at Trial, Affirmed on Appeal

Defeated all claims against a building owner at trial and obtained a seven-figure judgment on the owner's counterclaim against the contractor and its principals, including on veil-piercing theories and an award of attorney's fees. The victory was affirmed on appeal.

Injunction Permits Sale of Merger Stock

Obtained an injunction for a client charged with fraud by the public company to whom she had sold her energy consulting business, which permitted her to sell millions of dollars of restricted stock she received in the disputed merger, a victory that was followed by a seven-figure settlement payment reported in the company's next SEC filing.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

December 2019

Effectively Using Letters of Intent in Real Estate Negotiations

Illinois Real Estate Journal

October 2012

The Stock Issuer's Dilemma: How Duties to Shareholders Limit an Issuer's Options in Employee Disputes

Business Law Today

Spring 2008

Recovering Attorney Fees for Litigation Work Performed by In-House Counsel

In-House Litigator