



JOHN GEKAS

PARTNER

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John Gekas is a trusted advisor and trial lawyer helping companies resolve business disputes that threaten their finances, operations, and position in the marketplace.

John's clients range from Fortune 500 corporations to privately-held entities in numerous industries, including transportation, technology, and financial services. The disputes that John has helped his clients resolve involve a wide spectrum of substantive areas, such as breach of contract, trade secrets and restrictive covenants, real estate, shareholder disputes, fiduciary and director liability, fraud, and others. Prior to joining the firm, John founded his own litigation boutique, Gekas Law LLP, and before that, was a litigator in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

John capitalizes on the breadth and diversity of this experience by designing legal strategy for each client's unique situation and business objectives. When negotiations fail, John emphasizes an aggressive approach in preparing each case for trial. He does so by prioritizing an objective evaluation of the evidence and the facts of each case.

In addition to his legal practice, John is the immediate past president of the board of directors for HOW, an organization dedicated to permanent solutions for poverty and homelessness.

SERVICES

Class Actions
Litigation

EXPERIENCE

A sample of the matters that John has helped clients successfully resolve include:

- Lead trial counsel for defendant pharmaceutical company in breach of contract and unjust enrichment claims regarding the manufacture of generic pharmaceutical products in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.
- Trial counsel for a wholly-owned subsidiary of a Fortune 50 company in arbitration before the National Futures Association.
- Summary judgment for the Defendant in litigation asserting violations of

the First Amendment, federal antitrust laws, and litigation in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

- Breach of contract litigation against a coal mining company over corrosion damage and the return condition of 240 rail cars in the Circuit Court of Cook County.
- Breach of contract litigation involving the administration of employee benefit claims in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.
- Emergency TRO proceedings against the former partners of a start-up company accused of breach of fiduciary duty, Lanham Act violations, and Computer Fraud & Abuse Act litigation.
- Post-trial recovery of judgment for investment partnership in supplemental proceedings in the Circuit Court of Cook County and the First District Appellate Court of Illinois.
- Lead trial counsel for plaintiff real estate developer in breach of contract action and jury trial in the Circuit Court of McHenry County, Illinois.
- Lead counsel for plaintiff airline in procuring preliminary injunction against former consultant for trademark infringement and cybersquatting.
- Lead counsel for defendant financial services firm in parallel lawsuits for trademark infringement and theft of trade secrets in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Circuit Court of Cook County, respectively.
- Lead counsel for defendant biofuel company in successful reversal of temporary restraining order involving land use rights relating to the largest dry-mill ethanol facility in the United States.

HONORS

Named a "Future Star" in Illinois by *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021

Received the Excellence in Pro Bono Service Award, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 2015

Named to the Illinois Rising Star list by *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2010-2016

Received the Kirkland & Ellis LLP Pro Bono Service Award

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Immediate Past President, How, Inc.

Federal Bar Association, Federal Litigation Division

Illinois State Bar Association

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Virginia, 2003

University of Chicago (Certificate of Liberal Arts), 2011

B.A., University of Michigan, 2000

BAR ADMISSION

Illinois

New York

FIRM MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

Diversity & Inclusion Committee