**Profile:** A litigator, lead negotiator, and trial lawyer with a business background and substantial experience handling high-stakes, complex litigation.

**Experience:** **Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP** February 2016 to Present  
Chicago, Illinois

Founding partner.

Serve as primary negotiator, National Coordinating Counsel, Jurisdictional Manager, and trial lawyer for clients, including Fortune 50, 100, and 500 Companies. Work closely with in-house counsel to manage budgets and outside counsel. Manage teams of lawyers and support staff at multiple law firms across the country. Responsible for the creation and implementation of defense and indemnity budgets that have exceeded $100 million annually. **Representative engagements:** mass tort, environmental litigation, securities fraud, employment discrimination, product liability, toxic tort, breach of contract, lease disputes, catastrophic personal injury and property damage.

**Schiff Hardin LLP** May 2000 to February 2016  
Chicago, Illinois

Equity Partner 2013 to 2016.  
Non-Equity Partner 2008 to 2012.  
Associate 2001 to 2007.  
Summer Associate/clerk 2000 to 2001.

Focused on general commercial, product liability, mass torts, and toxic tort litigation. Represented clients in the banking, food, automotive, children’s products, insurance, agricultural products, chemical, industrial products, aviation, technology, and glass industries. Tried cases and/or appeared as trial counsel in jurisdictions coast-to-coast such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle, Milwaukee, Madison, So. Illinois, Louisiana, Kansas City, St. Louis, Pittsburg, and Philadelphia. Averaged 2,500 billlable hours, and close to 100,000 airline miles per year.

**U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of Illinois** August 1999 to January 2000  
Chicago, Illinois

Law student judicial externship. Tried “Petty Offense” cases, conducted legal research, drafted motions, attended court hearings, and assisted in trial preparation/plea bargains in criminal and civil cases handled by the USAO.

**W.E. Watt & Associates, Inc.** June 1993 to December 2000  
Bensenville, Illinois

Vice-President of technical sales, service, and marketing for a manufacturers’ representative company servicing the printed circuit board industry. Represented U.S. and foreign-based manufacturers in the Midwest, and across the North America. Managed U.S. sales for companies based across the United States and in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, and China.

**Education:** **The John Marshall Law School** (night program) January 1997 to December 2000  
Chicago, Illinois

Juris Doctor conferred January 2001, *magna cum laude*, *Order of John Marshall*  
G.P.A.: 3.87/4.0   
Class rank: 2  
Member, *The John Marshall Law Review*

**Illinois State University** January 1993 to July 1995  
Normal, Illinois

Bachelor of Science, Public Relations  
Bachelor of Science, Political Science  
Member of Football Team  
Athletic Director’s Honor Roll

**Drake University** August 1991 to December 1992  
Des Moines, Iowa

Focus of study: Public Relations  
Two-year letter winner Drake University Football

**Certification:** **Harvard Law School**  November 2019  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Harvard Program on Negotiation Master Class

**Admissions:** Illinois (2001), New York (2006), Missouri (2011),  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit  
U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin  
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

**Memberships:** Chicago Bar Association

Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel  
 - Toxic Tort & Environmental Law (Vice-Chair)

American Bar Association  
 - Tort Trial and Insurance Section   
 - CLE Board (2018 to present)  
 - Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Committee (Vice-Chair)  
 - Chair of the Committee (for 2018-2019)   
 - Products Liability Committee (Vice-Chair)

DRI (Defense Research Institute)

Illinois State Bar Association   
 - Bench & Bar Section Council Member   
 - Editor of Bench & Bar Newsletter (2017 to present)

**Honors:** Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois (2015).

Settlement Assistance Program Service Award U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois (2015).

Peer Reviewed AV® Preeminent™ Martindale-Hubbell (Since 2014).

Illinois Leading Lawyer, Illinois Leading Lawyers Network (Since 2013).

Illinois Rising Star Thomson Reuters' Illinois Super Lawyers (2008-2012).

40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch Law Bulletin Publishing Company (2009).

**Publications:** “Does allowing employees to work from home put corporations at risk of expanding where they can be properly sued under Illinois’s venue statue? The Illinois Supreme Court weighs in,” (co-author) Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (November 2020, vol. 51, no. 4).

“Civility, Sincerity, and Other Compelling Negotiation Concepts: Tips from an American President,” (author) Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (October 2020, vol. 51, no. 3).

“Illinois Supreme Court Sculpts the Edges of the Collateral Source Rule in Class Action Economic Loss Case,” (author) Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (June 2020, vol. 50, no. 8).

“Timeless Negotiation Insights from President Kennedy's Inaugural Address," (author) American Bar Association, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Newsletter (Spring 2020).

“*Caveat Venditor*: Illinois Supreme Court Clarifies Revocation of Acceptance Rights, Remedies, and Obligations for Buyers and Sellers in Landmark Decision,” (co-author) Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (November 2019, vol. 50, no. 4).

“Shakespeare’s cold wisdom - - Too early seen unknown, and known too late?” Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (September 2017, vol. 48, no.3).

“Rule 502: Something Illinois litigants can learn from federal courts,” (co-author), Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (May 2017, vol. 47, no. 10).

“Proportionality in e-discovery: The Illinois appellate court seeks to find the right fit,” (co-author), Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (April 2017, vol. 47, no. 9).

“People v. Jones: Prejudicial Remarks in a Criminal Trial,” (co-author), Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (December 2016, vol. 47, no. 5).

“The Second District avoids causing new ripples in the common Law ‘test the waters’ doctrine,” (co-author), Illinois State Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter (September 2016, vol. 47, no. 2).

Product Liability and Mass Torts Blog (www.productliabilityandmasstortsblog.com) creator and principal author or more than 40 blog posts.

“Recent Developments in Toxic Tort and Environmental Law,” TORT TRIAL & INSURANCE PRACTICE LAW JOURNAL, Winter 2015, ABA Publishing (co-author).

FROM THE TRENCHES: STRATEGIES AND TIPS FROM 21 OF THE NATION’S TOP TRIAL LAWYERS, ABA Publishing, 2015 (author of Chapter 3 “Brevity”).

“The Cytological Diagnosis of Mesothelioma: A Cautionary Note for Lawyers in Asbestos Litigation,” (co-author) Law 360 Expert Analysis (March 7, 2014).

“Recent Developments in Toxic Tort and Environmental Law,” TORT TRIAL & INSURANCE PRACTICE LAW JOURNAL, Fall 2013, ABA Publishing (co-author).

“Navigating the Nanotechnology Frontier: Getting Smart about Getting Small,” Tort Source (Spring 2013).

“Rx for Liability: Advocating the Elimination of the Pharmacist’s No Duty to Warn Rule,” 33 John Marshall Law Review 425 (Winter 2000).

**Presentations:** “Negotiation strategies, style, and scars: Lessons learned from hostage negotiators to Harvard professors and life in the legal trenches,” (presenter) In-house and client training seminars (Fall & Winter 2020).

“Social Inflation, Punitive Damages, and U.S. Litigation Trends: Where are claims and verdicts headed?,” (co-panelist) Lloyd’s Market Association (June 8, 2020 & September 30, 2020).

“COVID-19: Facts, Myths and Hypotheses with Dr. Michele Carbone,” (moderator) American Bar Association, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section, ABA TIPS/Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Committee (May 14, 2020).

“What you don’t know might cost you: How to be a few steps ahead with negotiating and mediating disputes,” (co-panelist) The Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel 2020 Winter Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ (March 6, 2020).

“DNA in the Courtroom,” (co-presenter) Perrin Conferences, Beverly Hill, CA (March 11, 2019).

“Premises Liability: Where Are the Claims Headed?," (co-panelist) Perrin Conferences Cutting-Edge Issues in Asbestos Litigation, Beverly Hills, CA (March 8, 2018).

“Practice Pointer: Persuading Jurors, What Works and What Doesn’t,” (co-presenter), ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Toxic Torts & Environmental Law Committee’s 26th Annual Spring CLE Meeting, Phoenix, Ariz. (April 8, 2017).

Program Chair of the American Bar Association’s, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Toxic Torts & Environmental Law Committee’s 25th Annual Spring CLE Meeting, Phoenix, Ariz. (April 8-9, 2016).

“On Point: Predicting the Next Mass Torts and Pattern Litigation,” (co-presenter), Lloyd’s of London Old Library, London, England (October 20, 2015) discussed the state of mass tort litigation and its future. The topics included nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, e-cigarettes, wearable technology, and fracking.

“Apportioning Liability in Jurisdictions with Fault Allocation: Products, Product Types, Product Uses, Product Identification Witnesses, Deposition Strategies, Trigger of Coverage Issues, and Beyond,” (co-presenter), American Conference Institute, Chicago, Ill. (June 24, 2015).

“Take Home Exposures in Asbestos Cases: How Jurisdictions Differ in Their Approach, Discussion of Recent Rulings, Examining the Credibility of the Defense that Asbestos Exposure is Idiopathic or Occurs from Nature,” (co-presenter), American Conference Institute, Chicago, Ill. (June 23, 2015).

“How Liability is Impacted When Bystanders and Premise Owners are Brought Into the Litigation,” (co-presenter), American Conference Institute, Chicago, Ill. (June 23, 2015).

“Avoiding Ethical Pitfalls When Preparing Clients and Experts to Testify at Trial,” ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Toxic Torts & Environmental Law Committee’s 24th Annual Spring CLE Meeting, Phoenix, Ariz. (April 10, 2015).

“Effectiveness and Ethical Considerations in Depositions,” (co-presenter), Perrin Conferences, Beverly Hills, Ca. (March 17, 2015).

“Evaluating the Need for Daubert Hearings Challenging Expert Opinions and Methodologies in Light of Barabin,” (co-presenter), American Conference Institute, Chicago, Ill. (June 26, 2014).

“Hot Topics in Food Litigation,” (moderator) Hot Topics in Toxic Torts and Environmental Law, ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Toxic Torts & Environmental Law Committee’s 23rd Annual Spring CLE Meeting, Phoenix, Ariz. (April 5, 2014).

“Cook County, Illinois Asbestos Litigation: Docket and Procedures,” (co-presenter) Midwest Asbestos Litigation Conference, St. Louis, Mo. (Sept. 21, 2012).

“The Illinois Rules of Evidence - Perspectives from Plaintiff and Defense Counsel,” HarrisMartin Publishing Midwest Litigation Conference, St. Louis, Mo. (Sept. 23, 2011).

“Examination of Corporate Representative,” (co-presenter) HarrisMartin Conference: Trial of a Mesothelioma Case from Jury Selection to Verdict, Chicago, Ill. (June 23, 2009).

“Do the Right Thing: Ethical Challenges in Asbestos Litigation,” (co-presenter) Andrews Asbestos Litigation Conference 2009, New Orleans, La. (April 30, 2009).