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Attorney—Arbitrator—Mediator



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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Windy City Trial Group, Inc., Chicago, IL. President. May 2013—Present.

Litigation, Mediation and Arbitration: Contract, Business Torts, Copyright, Trademark and Trade Secrets. Represent small to mid-sized businesses sued in federal or state court in Chicago and Phoenix. Panel Arbitrator, Cook County (IL) (Muni) Mandatory Arbitration Program (2014—Present); Certified Mediator, Cook County (IL) Law Division Program (2021—Present); Certified Arbitrator—Law Division Mandatory Arbitration Program (2021—Present); Arbitrator—Chicago Mediation Service (2021—Present).

Key Cases

- Summary Judgment in favor of the client. *Newport Condominium Assoc. v. Blackhall Corp. 401(k) PSP and Wu*, 15-CH-17426 (Cir. Ct. Cook County 2019); upheld on appeal, 2021 IL App (1st) 200847-U.
- Summary Judgment in favor of the client. *Lakewood Condominium One. v. Blackhall Corp. 401(k) PSP and Vande Werken*, 15-CH-07253 (Cir. Ct. Cook County 2019).
- Voluntary dismissal by Plaintiff against the client. *Coach v. Bee Sales*, 16-cv-10066 (N.D. Ill. 2018)
- Settlement favorable to the client. *Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana v. Winning Charities, Inc., et.al.*, 13-cv-1430 (N.D. Ill. 2015).
- Dismissal in favor of the client. *Staffing Network Holdings v. Toner Plastics*, 16-L-3255 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, 2015); affirmed on appeal, 2017 IL App (1st) 163091-U.

Tressler LLP (via 2010 merger with Sullivan & Associates), Chicago, IL. Sept. 2007—April 2013. Senior Counsel. Litigation of contract and breach of fiduciary duty claims, trade secrets misappropriation, trademark and copyright infringement claims.

Key Cases

- Appeal in favor of the client. *Viemont v. Dison*, 407 Ill. App. 3d 1197 (4th Dist. 2011).
- Judgment in favor of the client. *Loyalty Valet v. VPS of Illinois*, 10-CH-21438 (Cir. Ct. Cook County Ill. 2012).
- Settlement favorable to the client. *Kraft Chemical v. Graham Chemical*, 06-CH-11484 (Cir. Ct. Cook County Ill. 2009).

Dennis Esford, Attorney at Law, Chicago, IL. May 2004—August 2007. Toxic tort, copyright, patent infringement, contract disputes, and securities fraud.

Key Cases

- Legal team representing BP America in a Multi District Litigation (MDL) of 70 MTBE ground water contamination cases consolidated in the Southern District of New York. Interviewed and identified relevant document custodians at BP facilities in Chicago, Cleveland, Paulsboro (NJ) and Galveston (TX). Assisted Kirkland counsel in preparation of BP America's 30(b)(6) witnesses. *In Re: MTBE Litigation*, 00-cv-01898 (SDNY 2000).
- Designed, planned and led e-Discovery document team in support of expert report at patent valuation firm Ocean Tomo re: patented video microchips for cellular telephones. Prepared a Summary of Factual Findings for the retained expert. *STMicroelectronics v. Motorola*, 307 F. Supp. 2d 845 (E.D. Tex. 2004).

Fishman, Fishman & Saltzberg, P.C., Sept. 1999—April 2004. Personal Injury firm, Law Clerk. Legal research in support of the prevailing Plaintiff client in *Sarkissian v. Chicago Board of Ed.*, 201 Ill. 2d 95 (2002).

ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, 2021
- Arizona, 2020
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 2004; Trial Bar, 2012
- U.S. Supreme Court, 2008
- Illinois, 2004

PRO BONO

- Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, Finance Chair (2016—2021).
- Illinois State Bar Association, IP Section Counsel Member (2012—2017).
- *National Association of Boards of Pharmacy v. Shehata*, 20-cv-00399 (N.D. Ill.). Copyright Infringement.
- *Lockhart v. Cook County Jail*, 14-cv-881 (N.D. Ill.). Prisoner Representation.
- LaGrange Park Caucus, President (2006—2008); Secretary (2004—2005).
- Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Legal Textbooks Reader (2001—2004).

PRIOR WORK HISTORY

Summary

Engineering, sales and management positions at GM, Square D, United Technologies, Nationwide Insurance, Machinery Systems, Inc., Bodine Electric Company (1982—1999).

- Published author of 23 cutting and machine tool technology articles for international publications *Cutting Tool Engineering* and *Machine Shop Guide* (1995—2003).
- Certified Machine Tool Sales Engineer (1995-1999).

- Apply Lean Manufacturing Principles to increase plant productivity (1982—1999).

Cutting Tool Engineering, Northbrook, IL. May 1998—August 1999. Senior Editor. Conduct interviews, draft monthly cover story, review third-party contributions for technical accuracy.

Machinery Systems, Inc., Schaumburg, IL. May 1994—April 1998. Service Manager and Certified Machine Tool Sales Engineer (CMTSE) for Mazak CNC Machine Tool Distributor.

- *Division Service Manager*, 1997—1998. Managed a team of eight CNC Repair technicians across a service region encompassing Wisconsin, Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Turned the Service Division from yearly net losses to a profit center.
- *Sales Engineer (CMTSE)*, 1994-1997. Identify technical needs and sell Mazak CNC solutions to job shops and manufacturers in southern Chicagoland and northwest Indiana.

Nationwide Insurance, Bartlett, IL. May 1992—April 1994. Open and manage a start-up agency supervising a team of 5-7 staff members.

Bodine Electric Company, Chicago, IL. May 1988—April 1992. Manufacturing Engineer charged with plant productivity improvements via lean manufacturing techniques. Slashed setup times in the CNC machining departments by 50%; slashed setup times in the screw machine department to near 80%.

United Technologies Automotive, Columbus, MS. May 1983—April 1988. Industrial Engineer Plant layout of high volume assembly lines manufacturing fractional horsepower window lift and door-lock motors for the GM, Ford and Chrysler. Designed and managed the \$1.2M renovation of the company regional office headquarters on time and on budget.

Square D Company, Middletown, OH. May 1981—April 1983. Industrial Engineer responsible for motion and time study for the assembly of electrical medium voltage switchgear. Designed and implemented office layout improvements to the accounting, engineering and sales office areas.

EDUCATION

Law Division Mandatory Arbitration Training. Chicago Bar Association (2021).

40-Hour Mediation Training. Illinois State Bar Association (2020).

Cook County Mandatory Arbitration Training. Cook County Circuit Court (2014).

Chicago-Kent College of Law, JD, Intellectual Property Certificate (2003).

Dean's List (two semesters)

CALI Awards: Trial Advocacy I, Intellectual Property Litigation.

Intellectual Property Externship: Welsh & Katz (now Husch Blackwell) Chicago, IL (2002).

University of Alabama, MBA courses in Marketing, Accounting and Economics (1986—87).

University of Dayton, Bachelor, Industrial Engineering Technology (1981).

Summer Intern: GM Inland Division, 1978: Foreman and Engineer Rotations.