



John T. Shapiro

partner

John is a partner in the firm's Litigation Practice Group. He works with clients to solve their most complex business disputes, counseling on litigation, employment and business issues, and providing general corporate advice, nonprofit corporation management and guidance on governance. John views himself as a problem solver and, when given the opportunity, a problem preventer.

John's litigation experience includes handling numerous cases involving a wide array of disputes and proceedings in federal and state courts, in arbitration and mediation, and before administrative agencies, many on an emergency basis. John's litigation matters have involved international and domestic supply chains, breach of contract, fraud, torts, corporate governance, non-compete and non-disclosure agreements, theft of trade secrets, ownership and protection of intellectual property, wages and hour discrimination and other employment-related laws.

In the food and beverage industry, in addition to litigation John represents and advises clients on regulatory compliance, supply chain relationships, contract negotiations and proper construction of contracts, recalls and other business-related issues.

He brings experience serving as a Congressional Investigator and Professional Staff Member on the Subcommittees on Investigations and Human Resources for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Post Office and the Civil Service. There, he focused on uncovering and resolving violations of the Ethics in Government Act. From 1991 through 1993, John also served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable David S. Doty, United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented coalition of public labor against efforts by the State of Illinois and City of Chicago to diminish promised retirement benefits
- Represented plaintiff brokerage firm against former executive in breach of agreement, recovering compensatory damages and attorneys' fees and clarifying governing law in particular jurisdiction
- Represented food company in national food recall, including related dispute with food manufacturer

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota Law
School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1991

Carleton College, B.A., 1985

SERVICES

Litigation

- Arbitration and mediation

Bankruptcy, Workout & Creditors' Rights

- Reorganizations and workouts

Employee Benefits

Labor & Employment

- Employment litigation
- Executive compensation
- Trade secret protection and non-competition

Wireless & Telecommunications

- Represented foreign beverage company in trademark infringement lawsuit brought by well-known international brand competitor
- Represented trust beneficiary in litigation against trustees claiming malfeasance
- Represented technology company against trade secret theft claims
- Represented construction company and its owner in defense of loan default and breach of personal guaranty claims
- Represented client against charge of discrimination, resulting in dismissal of claim

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Minnesota

PRESENTATIONS

- "The Importance of ESG in Food Industry Commercialization," Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network's Innovation Series, May 13, 2021
- "Social Justice Roundtable," National Diversity & Leadership Conference, April 2021
- "How Supply Chain Relationships May Change in the Wake of COVID-19," Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, June 3, 2020
- "Best Practices in Recall & Risk Management," Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network Science & Technology Series, April 2019
- "Essential Negotiation Skills," National Diversity Conference, April 12, 2019
- "Influence Change: Transforming Workplace Culture," The Illinois Women's Conference, March 2019
- "Authentic Leadership – Embracing Imperfection and Fostering Innovation," The Illinois Women's Conference, March 2018
- "Risks, Recalls, and Relationships, Oh My! Food Safety, Supply Relationships and Mitigation Strategies in the Land of FSMA," OSI Quality & Food Protection Fall Meeting, October 2016
- "Minimizing Risk: Considerations for UK Companies," Fundamentals for Success in the U.S. Markets program sponsored by the British Government's UK Trade & Investments, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, October 2015
- "Lurking Relationship Risks: How to Protect Yourself in Business," Institute for Supply Management International Conference, May 2015
- "The Four Corners of the Contract and Beyond," Institute for Supply Management-Columbia Basin, April 2015

PUBLICATIONS

- "Three steps to managing supplier risk and force majeure," *SupplyChainBrain*, July 1, 2020
- "The value of legal expertise," *Inside Supply Management*, August 2016
- "Protect your secret sauce from theft and intentional adulteration," *Food Safety Magazine*, June 7, 2016
- "A tale of food safety woes: this ever happen to you?" *Food Safety Magazine*, April 5, 2016
- "FSMA: The recipe for food safety success," *Food Safety Magazine's eDigest*, October 2015
- "Staying one step ahead of food fraudsters," *Food Safety Magazine's eDigest*, September 2015

HONORS | AWARDS

- Illinois Leading Lawyers, Commercial Litigation and Federal Regulatory Law
- National Diversity Council and the Illinois Diversity Council Leadership Excellence in the Law Award

COMMUNITY

- Inspiration Corporation, General Counsel
- Bigger Table, Board Member and Officer