

Christopher Tompkins

Partner

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Areas of Focus

Business Litigation

Food and Beverage

International Arbitration



Overview

The relationship between businesses and suppliers can be complicated. Chris Tompkins represents manufacturing, food and beverage, consumer products, and energy companies that rely on large supplier networks and relationships. Clients turn to him for his work on major disputes involving contracts, supply arrangements, and technology issues. Chris is also known for capably resolving supply and warranty disputes under the Uniform Commercial Code.

Prior to litigation, Chris leads counseling of clients regarding their contract disputes; during litigation, he manages strategy and the case team. Chris can help clients anticipate disputes and common issues as economic climates change. He counsels clients on how best to avoid disputes but can also help secure leverage when a dispute is inevitable.

Chris has successfully obtained substantial damage awards on behalf of his clients against suppliers and defended clients against significant claims from their suppliers and customers.

He helps clients seek to recover costs resulting from the failure to supply goods or services, as well as costs incurred to conduct recalls caused by the supply of defective goods. Chris has represented multiple electric utilities in disputes with the Department of Energy to recover costs of continuing to store spent nuclear fuel. He helped recover hundreds of millions of dollars at trial and through settlements.



Focusing on the issues and identifying risks is important. But at the end of the day, clients are most interested in accomplishing their business goals.”

Areas of Focus

- Business Litigation
- Food and Beverage
- International Arbitration

Representative Matters

- Secured a \$1.38 billion arbitration award in the ICC International Court of Arbitration for ArcelorMittal USA against a supplier for breach of a long-term iron ore supply agreement.
- Represented nuclear utilities including Exelon, Energy Northwest, and South Carolina Electric and Gas in claims against the Department of Energy for failure to dispose of spent nuclear fuel resulting in recovery of millions of dollars of damages.
- Successfully pursued claims on behalf of food and beverage and consumer goods companies against suppliers that caused multi-million dollar recalls.
- Defended numerous manufacturers against customers’ warranty claims asserting that the manufacturer supplied defective goods or services.
- Advised and defended a major consulting firm in a case involving allegations of actuarial malpractice in connection with the establishment of a self-funded health insurance program.

Credentials

Admissions

- Illinois, 2000

Education

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, JD, *magna cum laude*, 2000
- The Catholic University of America, BA, *cum laude*, 1997

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 2005
- US Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit, 2010

- US District Court, Central District of Illinois, 2005
- US District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 2000
- US District Court, Western District of Michigan, 2012
- US Court of Federal Claims, 2003

Service / Recognition

Awards

- *AcritasStars*, Independently Rated Lawyers, 2019-2020
- Law Bulletin Publishing Company, Leading Lawyers Network, Emerging Lawyer, Commercial Litigation, 2015-2019
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, Rising Star in Business Litigation, 2009

Community

- Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, Board of Directors, 2017-present

Service to the Bar

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- International Bar Association