

## Anton R. Valukas

**Partner**

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**Areas of Focus**

Content, Media, and  
Entertainment

Class Action

Government Contracts

Government Controversies  
and Public Policy Litigation

Intellectual Property



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### Overview

**Anton Valukas is a litigator and senior partner at Jenner & Block. A former United States Attorney, and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he focuses on major civil and white collar criminal litigation, representing individuals and corporations in contested proceedings throughout the nation. Fortune 500 companies and public entities seek Anton's counsel on matters ranging from government contracts and health care to class actions, ethics violations and internal corporate investigations. In 2014, he led a highly complex internal investigation for General Motors Company regarding events leading up to certain recalls stemming from faulty ignition switches. In 2009, Anton was appointed as the examiner in the Lehman Brothers Holdings bankruptcy, reputed to be the largest such case in US history. The resulting account, coined by the press as the “Valukas Report,” was universally applauded for its clarity and usefulness in determining what brought about the demise of Lehman Brothers, an event many commentators point to as the precipitating event triggering the economic crisis of 2008.**

*Chambers USA* named Anton one of the leading US litigation lawyers for eight consecutive years, and in 2009, *Chicago Lawyer* named him “Person of the Year.” In 2013, he was recognized by *The National Law Journal* as one of “The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America” and by *Best Lawyers* as “Chicago Bet-the-Company Litigation Lawyer of the Year.” He has also been recognized by *Best Lawyers* for over 25 years. Anton is AV Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell’s highest peer recognition for ethical standards and legal ability. In 2011, *The American Lawyer* magazine recognized him as the “Newsmaker of the Year,” and in January 2012, *AmLaw* named him “Litigator of the Year.” Anton was recognized by the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD)

Directorship as among the 100 “Most Influential People in the Boardroom” (2010-2014).

Anton has been appointed to a number of special investigative roles for the City of Chicago, the Chicago Transit Authority and the Chicago Housing Authority. He also served as chairman of the Governor’s Task Force on Crime and Corrections for the State of Illinois, a two-year effort that led to the passage of major prison reform legislation in 1993. He has been an instructor at the John Marshall School of Law and an adjunct professor of law at Northwestern University School of Law. Anton has published extensively, been a featured speaker at numerous American Bar Association seminars and institutes, and presented to thousands of leading business and legal executives from across the globe on some of the most pressing financial, ethical, and legal challenges facing the United States today.

## **Areas of Focus**

- Content, Media, and Entertainment
- Class Action
- Government Contracts
- Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Investigations, Compliance, and Defense
- Law Firms and Professional Services

## **Representative Matters**

- Anton focuses on major civil and white collar criminal defense litigation. As a civil litigator, he has extensive experience in the areas of mass tort and class actions. He has defended companies ranging from manufacturers to air carriers in consumer products litigation, product defect and consumer fraud class actions, food contamination, mass accident, and toxic exposure and environmental claims.

- As a white-collar criminal defense attorney, Anton has represented clients that have included lawyers, accountants, real estate developers, and corporate executives in high-profile matters. Many of these cases were either resolved before charges were brought or ended in verdicts of acquittal.

- Anton has worked on a wide variety of matters relating to government contracts and issues of fraud and compliance. He represents Fortune 500 companies and public entities with regard to conflicts of interest, ethics violations and internal corporate investigations, as well as in SEC investigations and civil securities fraud lawsuits.

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Anton also has broad and significant experience in the health care area. He has assisted many corporations in developing corporate compliance policies and conducted internal investigations for matters ranging from sale of products to embargoed countries to misrepresentations in new drug applications. He has successfully resolved many matters prior to the filing of charges, and has handled many *qui tam* actions regarding Medicare/Medicaid and PATH fraud allegations, as well as the resulting shareholders derivative suits.

**Some of his representative matters include the following:**

- Led an internal investigation and produced an internal report to the board of directors for General Motors Company (GM) with regard to events leading up to certain recalls stemming from faulty ignition switches. In a 70-day period, a multidisciplinary team collected and searched in excess of 41 million documents and records and conducted more than 350 witness interviews. The firm team coordinated GM's response to several federal agencies and Congress. Anton subsequently testified before Senate and House committees on the report's findings. He also represented GM in a related investigation by the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, culminating in the resolution of the matter through a deferred prosecution agreement.
- Served as the court-appointed examiner in the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy matter, leading an exhaustive investigation into and producing a universally acclaimed 2,200-page report on the causes of the failure of the global financial services firm. In 2010, he was invited to testify before the US House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services regarding the findings in the Examiner's Report, alongside US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Federal Reserve System Chairman Ben Bernanke, and SEC Chairperson Mary Schapiro; in 2011, he testified before the US Senate Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment. The information and insights he shared at these hearings influenced enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act and new SEC and FASB rules, making sweeping changes to America's financial regulatory environment. For his "central role in the credit crisis," *Directorship* named Anton one of the 100 "most influential people in the boardroom" in 2010 and *The American Lawyer Magazine* named him its "#1 Newsmaker of the Year."
- Served as lead counsel for the "old" General Motors in a four-year long Securities Exchange Commission investigation focusing primarily on GM's pension accounting. Investigation concluded with no allegations of fraud or intentional misconduct against the client.
- Served as lead trial counsel for American Airlines in defending and prosecuting \$1 billion in claims arising out of the November 2001 aviation disaster known as *In Re Belle Harbor Aviation Disaster - AA Flight #587*. That litigation concluded with successful settlements in 2008.
- Represented the parent company of American Airlines and AMR Eagle on the liability side in suits arising from the 1994 crash of American Eagle Flight 4184, killing all 68 people on board. All cases settled after jury selection.
- Defended a major food manufacturer in wrongful death and class action cases stemming from an outbreak of listeria traced to the company's meat products (including a criminal case that was settled by the company pleading to a misdemeanor and paying a fine).
- Defended a chemical company in toxic tort wrongful death cases alleging that plant emissions caused cancer in area children.
- Achieved dismissal of a *qui tam* False Claims Act case against Medline Industries in *U.S. ex rel. Mason v. Medline Industries, Inc.*, a suit alleging that Medline made false pricing representations relating to products purchased by

the US Veterans Administration and engaged in various activities constituting kickbacks to health care providers, resulting in their making false claims to Medicare and Medicaid.

- Won dismissal of a *qui tam* False Claims Act lawsuit against Biogen Idec, Inc., the manufacturer of Rituxan, a widely prescribed treatment for some forms of cancer. The complaint alleged that Biogen had illegally marketed Rituxan for off-label use in treating rheumatoid arthritis, prior to the FDA's approval of the drug for that indication in 2006, causing false claims for reimbursement to be submitted by doctors to Medicare and Medicaid.
- Represented Honeywell International Inc. in an arbitration and related litigation over the breach of a petrochemical supply agreement.
- Represented H&R Block, Inc. in a nearly decade-long nationwide class action over Refund Anticipation Loans, achieving a settlement favorable to the client, after a previous settlement arrived at with prior counsel was rejected by the US Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Represented former *Sun-Times* publisher F. David Radler in civil and criminal litigation growing out of accusations of fraud at Hollinger International Inc.

## **Credentials**

### **Admissions**

- Illinois, 1968

### **Education**

- Northwestern University School of Law, JD, dean's list, 1968
- Lawrence University, Doctor of Laws (Honorary), 2012
- Lawrence University, BA, 1965

### **Court Admissions**

- US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 1969
- US District Court, Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
- Illinois Supreme Court, 1968

## **Service / Recognition**

### **Awards**

- American Jewish Committee, Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award, 2005
- *The American Lawyer*: Litigator of the Year, 2011; Lifetime Achievement Award, 2016
- Anti-Defamation League, First Amendment Freedom Award, 2010
- Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Chicago, Distinguished Public Service Award, 1990
- Armed Forces Council of Chicago, Civilian of the Year Award, 1988

- *Benchmark Litigation*, Litigation Star (Illinois), 2009-2017; Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America, 2015
- *Best Lawyers*, Chicago Best-of-the-Company Litigation Lawyer of the Year, 2013
- *Best Lawyers in America*, 1983-2021, 2024; Best-of-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Criminal Defense: White Collar
- BTI Consulting Group, Client Service All-Star, 2014, 2015
- *Chambers Global*: One of the world's leading litigation lawyers, 2004; Trial Lawyers (Band 2), 2013
- *Chambers USA*: Leading litigation lawyers, 2003-2015; Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations (Illinois), 2003-2023; Litigation: General Commercial (Illinois), 2014-2023; Litigation: Trial Lawyers (Nationwide), 2015
- Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Distinguished Service Award, 1990
- Chicago Jr. Chamber of Commerce, Named one of Ten Outstanding Young Citizens of Chicago, 1976
- *Chicago Lawyer*, Person of the Year, 2009
- Constitutional Rights Foundation, Citizen of the Year Award, 1987
- *Crain's Chicago Business*, Who's Who in Chicago Business; Who's Who in Law, 2022, 2023
- Department of Justice, Chicago, Special Commendation Award, 1975
- Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago, Richard N. Rovner Award, 2004
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*: Business Litigation, 2005-2023; Top 10 Illinois Super Lawyers, 2010-2011; 2013-2015; 2018; Top 100 Illinois Super Lawyers, 2010-2011; 2013-2019
- Jewish Council On Urban Affairs, Arthur Goldberg Social Justice Award, 2009
- The John Marshall Law School, Freedom Award, 1985
- *Lawdragon Magazine*, 500 Leading Lawyers in America Complex Litigation, White Collar, Investigations, 2010-2013, 2024
- Lawrence University, Distinguished Achievement Award, 1990
- Leading Lawyers Network: Top 10 Leading Lawyers in Illinois in All Areas of Law, 2011; Class Action/Mass Tort Defense Law, 2003-2019; Commercial Litigation, 2003-2019; Criminal Defense Law: White Collar, 2003-2019; Products Liability Defense Law, 2003-2019; Number 5 on the list of Top 10 Business Lawyers in Illinois, 2004-2009; Number 3 on the list of Top 10 Business Litigators in Illinois, 2004-2009; Top 100 Business Lawyers in Illinois, 2004-2009
- Leaders League *Litigation & Competition* Directory, Nationwide Commercial Litigation, 2018
- *Legal 500*, Finance: Corporate Restructuring, 2010
- Legal Media Group, Best of the Best USA 2013, Litigation
- Metropolitan Family Services Legal Aid Bureau, William H. Avery Award for Equal Access to Justice , 2007
- National Association of Corporate Directors Directorship, 100 Most Influential People in the Boardroom, 2010-2014

- *National Law Journal*: Litigation Trailblazer and Pioneer, 2014; 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America, 2013
- Northwestern University Alumni Association, Alumni Merit Award, 1995
- Northwestern University School of Law - Student Funded Public Interest Fellowship Program, Distinguished Alumni Award, 2009
- Palatine High School, Illinois, Distinguished Graduate Award, 1984
- WBBM Radio, Chicago, Man of the Year Award, 1988
- Who's Who Legal: Investigations, 2017; *The International Who's Who of Investigations Lawyers & Forensic Experts*, 2014-present; *The International Who's Who of Business Crime Defence Lawyers*, 2013-present; *The International Who's Who of Commercial Litigators*, 2004, 2010
- Who's Who Legal Illinois: Business Crime, 2007, 2008; Commercial Litigation, 2007, 2008

## **Community**

- Boy Scouts of America, Member, Board of Directors
- Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Member, Board of Directors, 1998-2014
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Member, Board of Directors, 1999-2014
- The Chicago Inn of Court
- City of Chicago Special Counsel, 1991
- The Commercial Club of Chicago
- Economic Club of Chicago, Member, 1990-present
- Executives Club of Chicago, Member, 1996-2014
- Governor's Task Force on Crime and Corrections, Chairman, 1992-93
- Lawrence University, Trustee, 1992-1995
- Metropolitan Fair and Exposition Authority, Director and Treasurer, 1985
- Metropolitan Planning Council of Chicago
- Northwestern University School of Law, Member, Visiting Committee, 1992-1995
- Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Member, Board of Directors, 2004-2009

## **Industry**

- The John Marshall School of Law, Instructor, 1972-1976
- Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, Member, 2006-2012
- Northwestern University School of Law, Adjunct Professor, 1980-1982

## **Service to the Bar**

- Chicago Bar Foundation, Chair, Investing In Justice Campaign, 2007