

John F. Ward Jr.

Partner

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Areas of Focus

Consumer Brands

Class Action

Business Litigation

Antitrust and Competition

Law

Technology



Overview

John is a highly experienced lawyer focused in the area of consumer class actions and complex civil litigation. He has successfully represented clients in federal and state courts across the United States in class actions, significant business and partnership disputes, antitrust cases, and commercial contract litigation. His clients range from *Fortune 500* businesses to ambitious entrepreneurs.

In consumer class action matters, he has prevailed for clients at all stages of litigation – in motions to dismiss, at summary judgment, and at the crucial class certification stage. He has deep experience in the emerging area of mass arbitration. As lead counsel, John has successfully tried federal jury cases to verdict in multimillion-dollar disputes. His appellate experience includes a 7-0 state supreme court victory in a matter of key importance to shareholder relationships and corporate governance. John also advises on enterprise-significant government investigations, including federal agency and state attorneys general investigations.

Through significant pre-dispute client counseling, John's advice helps to avoid emerging disputes with pre-litigation resolution strategies. Clients often rely on his counsel and leadership when conducting internal corporate investigations. In his robust pro bono practice, he often defends indigent defendants in criminal and civil rights cases and trials.

John's track record of success is in large part a function of the contributions and commitment of the high-intensity clients he has long been privileged to represent. He strives to match his clients' commitment and dedication with his own efforts because, in John's view, it is the only worthwhile way to practice law and because it is the key formula for producing winning outcomes.



I am privileged to represent high-intensity clients. When representing them in high-stakes litigation, I strive to match their commitment and dedication. That is the key formula for producing winning outcomes and, to me, the only worthwhile way to practice law.”

Areas of Focus

- Consumer Brands
- Class Action
- Business Litigation
- Antitrust and Competition Law
- Technology
- Mass Torts and Product Liability

Credentials

Admissions

- Illinois, 1991

Education

- University of Michigan Law School, JD, 1990
- University of Michigan, BA, 1987

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, 2003
- US Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 1996
- US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 1991
- US Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 1997
- US District Court, District of Colorado
- US District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 1991
- US District Court, Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
- US District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 2003
- US District Court, Western District of Michigan

- US District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin

Clerkships

- Hon. Terrence T. Evans, US District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, 1990-1991

Service / Recognition

Awards

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The BTI Class Action Leaders, 2026

- Leading Lawyers Network, Commercial Litigation, 2012-2019

Service to the Bar

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association