



## Robert J. Hurtt

**PARTNER**

ST. LOUIS, MO

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### OVERVIEW

## Rob advocates for clients involved in fiduciary litigation or product liability cases.

Rob focuses his litigation practice in two distinct areas: trusts and estates and toxic tort/product liability.

Individuals and businesses facing litigation involving wills, trusts or other probate matters rely on Rob to bring clarity to a process that most find unfamiliar. He has worked as lead counsel and as part of a larger trial team for both beneficiaries and trustees. In addition, he handles other financial and fiduciary disputes for banking clients.

Rob's work also involves managing the defense of entire dockets of toxic tort, product liability and premises liability cases for Fortune 500 manufacturing, chemical and petrochemical companies. He has argued motions in multiple state courts across the country. Whether in court or in a settlement, he finds strategic options for clients that lead to favorable outcomes. He is experienced at drafting and arguing pleadings and motions; deposing and examining witnesses, both at deposition and at trial; and all levels of discovery, including eDiscovery.

### Industries

Manufacturing  
Technology  
Transportation

### Services

Asbestos Litigation  
Class Action Defense  
Commercial Litigation  
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Startups  
Toxic Tort  
Trust, Estate, & Fiduciary Litigation

## Experience

- Served one-year secondment, performing assistant general counsel duties and overseeing all U.S. federal and state court litigation for Fortune 500 company as in-house counsel, including engaging in significant work directly with the company's entire C-suite.
- Obtained jury verdict for beneficiaries in three-week undue influence trial regarding \$35 million estate.
- Represented trustees in complex trust contest for trust with assets exceeding \$80 million. Matter was successfully settled through mediation.
- Drafted and successfully argued motion for summary judgment in toxic tort case for Fortune 50 company.
- Defended banking client on breach of fiduciary duty claims and positioned it for favorable settlement through successful motion practice.
- Won motion for directed verdict for financial client during one-day trial on negligence claims.
- First-chaired weeklong bench trial for beneficiaries seeking recovery for trustee's breaches of fiduciary duty.
- Secured favorable motion to dismiss and summary judgment rulings from federal court that saved manufacturing client millions in potential damages.
- Served as first-chair for jury trial in breach of contract case after getting more dangerous negligence claim dismissed on summary judgment.
- Leveraged counterclaim to obtain federal court voluntary dismissal with prejudice for banking client, less than a week after plaintiff demanded \$500K settlement.

## Recognition

- Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2021-2024; Mass Tort Litigation - Class Actions - Defendants, 2023 and 2024

## Education

- J.D., Saint Louis University School of Law
  - *magna cum laude*
  - *Saint Louis University Law Journal*, Notes and Comments editor
  - Academic Excellence Awards in civil procedure, evidence, healthcare, negotiation, and Brandeis seminar
  - Order of the Woolsack
  - Theodore McMillian Endowed Scholarship
  - Samuel I. Sievers Writing Award
  - Dean's Select Scholarship
- B.J., University of Missouri School of Journalism
  - *magna cum laude*
  - Bob Broeg Sportswriter's Scholarship
  - Kappa Tau Alpha, national honor society

## Admissions

- Missouri
- Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana



2024 Best Lawyers Ones to  
Watch