



## Michael D. Hayes

### PARTNER

THE LINK VIRTUAL

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### OVERVIEW

Businesses, colleges and universities across the nation turn to Mike when they face class actions and other types of high-stakes litigation.

Over the past 30 years, Mike has litigated a wide range of complex legal issues. He is especially recognized for his experience and results in defending class action lawsuits, having for many years been named as an *Illinois Super Lawyer* in the area of class litigation.

Mike represents colleges and universities in many types of cases, including class actions. He successfully defended a law school against class action claims brought by former students concerning disclosure of post-graduation employment statistics. Mike also represents higher education clients in suits brought by faculty members concerning tenure, discharge and medical leave determinations; by students involving suspension, expulsion and other disciplinary issues; and by faculty, staff and students involving assertions of discrimination.

Mike assists product manufacturers in the sporting goods, food and beverage, and other industries in defending class action cases alleging product defect and deceptive advertising brought under state consumer protection statutes and warranty theories. He has represented banks, mortgage lenders, mortgage servicers and finance companies in hundreds of consumer class action lawsuits in state and federal courts across the country. Recently, Mike has litigated, and provided compliance counseling about, federal and state privacy statutes, including the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) and the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act. He has also represented

### Industries

Education  
Healthcare  
Life Sciences

### Services

Class Action Defense  
Higher Education  
Labor & Employment  
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

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businesses in employment-related litigation, including class action and collective action cases involving working conditions and wage and hour issues.

Mike also regularly litigates all types of business-to-business and professional-to-professional commercial litigation claims.

### Experience

- Obtained complete dismissal of class action claims brought against law school by its former students. Dismissal affirmed on appeal.
- Represented colleges and universities in suits involving tenure and discharge determinations, medical leave, student discipline and discrimination issues.
- Served as litigation and compliance counsel on Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act.
- Obtained dismissal of nationwide class action suit alleging false advertising against manufacturer of premium whiskey.
- Defended several sporting goods companies in class actions alleging product defect, deceptive advertising and misrepresentation of product features.
- Acted as national litigation counsel to major mortgage lender for individual and class action suits alleging violations of federal and state consumer protection statutes.
- Defended class action suits against individuals and businesses brought under Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) related to sending of "junk fax" and "junk text" advertisements.
- Defended national food manufacturer in state and federal class litigation concerning product labeling and internet, print and signage advertising.
- Represented professionals, including physicians, dentists, lawyers and accountants, in partnership and shareholder disputes and litigation.
- Represented businesses/policyholders in insurance coverage tenders, disputes and litigation, achieving multimillion-dollar financial recoveries and insurer agreements to defend clients in thousands of existing and future asbestos and other lawsuits.

## Experience

- Successfully represented clients in defense of individual and class action employment suits alleging harassment, wrongful discharge and violation of federal and state wage and hour laws.

## Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, 2024
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, Class Action & Mass Torts, 2013-2020
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent

## Education

- J.D., DePaul University College of Law
- B.A., Bates College

## Admissions

- Illinois
- Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

\*Contact Michael to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the Chicago office.



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