



Brian P. Norton

Counsel | Chicago

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Areas of Practice

Antitrust and Trade Regulation | Litigation/Trial Law

Brian P. Norton is Counsel in the Litigation Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Mr. Norton was a Partner at Freeborn & Peters, which combined with SGR in 2023.

The key to resolving complex business litigation is to understand your client's business objectives and sift through these endless laws to find the one that efficiently achieves that objective. Mr. Norton is a creative and resourceful problem solver who has passionately represented his clients in large, complex business cases for over 35 years.

He has successfully prosecuted and defended cases spanning the breadth of business disputes including claims for breach of contract, fraud, trademark infringement, commercial defamation and disparagement, tortious interference, breach of fiduciary duty, deceptive trade practices, shareholder oppression, business valuation, and conversion. He has successfully represented clients in matters in state and federal courts throughout the U.S., and in investigations involving the U.S. Department of Justice, the European Commission, and the Canadian Director of Investigation and Research. Such representation includes arguing appeals in complex business disputes before the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, the Illinois Supreme Court, the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Mr. Norton earned his B.A., *cum laude*, from Loyola University and his J.D., *cum laude*, from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Memberships

Chicago Bar Association

Representative Experience

- Successfully defending Menard and John Menard against multi-billion dollar claims for breach of contract, unjust enrichment and promissory estoppel.
- Successfully representing Link Snacks, and its Board of Directors, officers, and majority shareholders in three lawsuits involving the termination and buy-out of a former officer and minority shareholder. These suits involved both claims of fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, shareholder oppression, breach of contract, tortious interference with business expectation, and specific performance of a buy-sell agreement, culminating in a six-week jury trial and three bench trials.
- Successfully representing Information Resources, in the prosecution of abuse of dominance proceedings, brought against Nielsen, a competitor, before the Canadian Competition Tribunal and the European Commission. The proceedings before the European Commission resulted in the issuance of a Statement of Objections under the Treaty of Rome for abuse of dominance.

Admissions

Illinois

Wisconsin (Inactive Status)

United States Court of Appeals for the Second, Fourth, Seventh and Tenth Circuits

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

Recognitions

Martindale-Hubbell legal ability/ethical standards rating ("A-V") - Highest possible rating

Illinois Leading Lawyers - 2020 (cited in multiple years)