



## Tina Wills

Partner | Chicago

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### Areas of Practice

Litigation/Trial Practice | Energy Law | Environmental/Natural Resources Law

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Tina Wills is a Partner in the Litigation Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Ms. Wills was a Partner at Freeborn & Peters, which combined with SGR in 2023.

Ms. Wills focuses her practice on complex commercial lawsuits, critical motions designed to resolve cases before trial, trials, and appeals. She is known for her attention to detail, cogent legal briefs, and effective oral advocacy. She counsels clients on strategic matters at all stages of litigation, from the initiation of lawsuits through and including proceedings before state and federal appellate courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. She has briefed appeals before four different court of appeals and supreme courts.

Ms. Wills represents corporations, small businesses, and individuals in a wide range of complex commercial matters, including contract disputes, fraud claims, employment disputes, breach of fiduciary duty claims, discrimination claims, pursuing claims against former employees, False Claims Act cases, and environmental mass tort litigation. These cases frequently implicate complex issues of pleading, class and collective action certification, contract interpretation, preemption, standing, and statutory construction. Tina's ability to manage highly complex cases draws from her extensive litigation experience.

Ms. Wills earned her B.A. from Illinois Wesleyan University, cum laude, and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law, magna cum laude; Top 5%. She was a member of the Order of the Coif and a recipient of the CALI Excellence Award in Evidence, Advanced Legal Writing, Trial Advocacy, Securities Fraud, Legal Drafting, Litigation Strategy and Litigation Laboratory.

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## Representative Experience

- Prevailed in action to reform contract terms, successfully barring most of defendant's affirmative defense before trial and using defendant's own expert in client's case-in-chief at trial.
- Defeated False Claims Act complaints against clients at the pleading stage.
- Successfully obtained dismissal of lawsuit against client based on claims of private nuisance at the pleading stage.
- Prevailed in the defense of a corporate client in a matter involving federal preemption and the transportation of hazardous materials at both the trial court and appellate levels.
- Defeated dispositive motions related to client's lawsuit claiming breach of fiduciary duties by former employee.

## Admissions

Illinois

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals for the Third and Seventh Circuits

United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

## Memberships

Appellate Lawyers Association

## Recognitions

*Rising Stars in Law* - Crain's Chicago Business, 2021

*Illinois Super Lawyers* - Rising Stars, 2019

## Publications

- "Salary Forfeiture: A Deterrent with Teeth" *Civil Litigation Flashpoints*, published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, August 2015.
- "News Flash! Cattle Farms Have Flies, and That's No Manure!" *Civil Litigation Flashpoints*, published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, December 2012.
- "Condominium Associations Face New Challenges Collecting Unpaid " August 2012.
- "The Illinois Supreme Court Bolsters Shield Against SLAPP " January, 2011.