

Leah R. Bruno

Office Managing Partner



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Overview

Leah Bruno is the Managing Partner of Dentons' Chicago office. A member of the firm's Litigation and Disputes practice group, Leah has extensive litigation experience in a wide variety of commercial disputes. She has handled the defense of consumer and insurance class actions at both the state and federal levels. Leah has particular experience in false advertising consumer class actions as well as competitor disputes relating to intellectual property matters, including copyright, trademark, false advertising and other related areas. In addition, Leah also litigates First Amendment and reputational issues. Her approach to litigation is both pragmatic and client-focused. She takes the time to understand her clients' objectives before developing a strategy to achieve the best result. Whether that result is a favorable trial verdict or an out-of-court resolution, she has the experience and judgment to navigate her clients to their ultimate goal.

Leah represents clients in pretrial, trial and appellate proceedings. She has also handled numerous false advertising challenges before the National Advertising Division of the Better Business Bureau, as well as proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board of the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Leah has led all aspects of complex discovery matters, engaging in extensive motion practice and coordinating all aspects of broad-ranging nationwide discovery, including e-discovery issues and compliance. Her experience also includes drafting and preparing briefs for all levels of state and federal appellate courts including the US Supreme Court.

Her representative past and present clients include Allstate Insurance Company, DHL, Inc., The Tribune Companies, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., Schwarz Supply Source, Sears Holdings Corp. and Simon Property Group.

Experience

At the trial level Leah has handled a variety of matters, both independently and as part of a coordinated trial team. As a special assistant public defender in Lake County, IL, she independently conducted numerous jury and bench trials. Leah was also a key member of the team that successfully briefed and argued *Vine Street Clinic v. Healthlink, Inc.*, 856 N.E.2d 422 (2006), before the Illinois Supreme Court resulting in significant changes to Illinois' medical and healthcare practices with respect to physician referral fees.

Leah was trial counsel representing S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., in a four-week jury trial in which she obtained a willful

infringement finding from the jury. Most recently, she was lead counsel in a two-week jury trial on behalf of a major distribution company pursuing claims against a vendor who supplied product which failed to meet its required specifications.

Leah also understands that trial can be a costly and even undesirable endeavor for some clients. Accordingly, she has counseled many clients to successful pre-trial settlements through various alternative dispute resolution (ADR) paths including mediation, arbitration and out-of-court negotiations.

Activities and Affiliations

Presentations

- Co-presenter, "Sunk By Your Own Torpedoes!: How Emails and Memos Can Lead to Antitrust and Other Litigation Issues and What You Can Do to Protect Yourself," Dentons CLE Seminar for In-House Counsel, Chicago, IL, May 24, 2017
- Panel moderator and speaker, "It's Complicated: Legal Issues Associated with PR and False Advertising," Women, Influence & Power in Law, Washington, DC, September 23, 2016
- Panel moderator and speaker, "Your Playbook to Managing Multi-Jurisdictional Litigation," Women, Influence & Power in Law, Washington, DC, October 29, 2015
- Panel moderator and speaker, "Like It or Not: The Use of Social Media & Surveys in Advertising Claim Substantiation," NAD Conference, New York, September 29, 2014

Memberships

- Board of Directors, American Civil Liberties Union, Illinois Chapter
- Chicago Bar Association
- Women's Bar Association

Areas of focus

Practices

- Class Action Defense
- Commercial Litigation
- Defamation and Reputation Management
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Trademark and Copyright Litigation

Industry sectors

- Manufacturing
- Media and Entertainment
- Property, Casualty and Liability Insurance

Education

- DePaul University College of Law, 1999, JD, with highest honors; Order of the Coif; Editor of Notes and Comments, *DePaul Law Review*
- Northwestern University, 1996, BA
- Trinity College, University of Oxford, 1995, AS

Admissions and qualifications

- Illinois
- US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- US District Court for the Northern District of Indiana
- US District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
- US Supreme Court