

JEFFREY D. COLMAN, Partner

Jeff Colman is a litigator and a fellow of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. Mr. Colman has focused his 42-year career on complex civil and criminal litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. Mr. Colman has represented more than 40 law firms across the country (as well as individual attorneys) in professional liability matters. He also has represented plaintiffs and defendants in class action litigation, in the defense of environmental, securities, antitrust and civil rights litigation, and in a wide array of civil and criminal matters. Mr. Colman has been extremely active in important pro bono representations and in law reform work.

In professional liability matters, Mr. Colman has represented international, national, regional and local law firms in claims including malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, fraud, conspiracy, contempt and a host of other matters. The subject matters of these representations have included bank failures, corporate receiverships, tax, real estate, environmental, securities, patent, litigation, trusts and estates, Indian gaming, acquisitions and other corporate transactions. Mr. Colman has successfully represented law firms and individual lawyers in disciplinary actions and other sensitive matters. His representations have been before administrative agencies, in the trial courts, and in appellate courts across the country.

Mr. Colman has received numerous awards for his extensive pro bono and public service activities. Among others, in 2012, Mr. Colman received the Justice John Paul Stevens Award, presented by The Chicago Bar Association and Chicago Bar Foundation to lawyers who exemplify Justice Stevens' commitment to integrity and public service; in 2011, he was named a "legend" of the bar by the American Constitution Society; in 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association presented him with an Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service; and in 2008, the John Howard Association of Illinois, a prison reform group, recognized his work defending Guantánamo Bay prisoners with its Leadership Award. Mr. Colman has served as a member (and chair) of the Illinois Supreme Court's Commission on Access to Justice, as a member of the Court's Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases, and as chairman of the Court's Committee on Post-Conviction Review of Death Sentences. He also has served as a member of a host of not-for-profit organizations devoted to providing legal assistance to the poor and disenfranchised in our community.

Mr. Colman has served as lead counsel for a major utility in a number of class action cases alleging environmental contamination. He also represented a major food manufacturer in nationwide class action litigation involving allegedly contaminated meat products, and he has represented Illinois state officials in class action employment litigation and the trustees of a major pension fund in class action litigation brought by beneficiaries of the fund. On the plaintiffs' side, Mr. Colman has represented a class of flight attendants in litigation challenging a major airline's "no-marriage" rule and a class of African American home purchasers in class action housing discrimination litigation.

Mr. Colman served for more than 20 years as a Special Assistant Attorney



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PRACTICE GROUPS

Class Action

Litigation

Professional Responsibility

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School, J.D., 1973

University of Wisconsin, B.A., 1970

ADMISSIONS

California (inactive), 1973

Illinois, 1975

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Supreme Court, 1978

U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, 1980

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit,
1976

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit, 1981

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 1995

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit,
1982

U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit,
1993

U.S. Tax Court, 1989

U.S. District Court, Northern District of
Illinois, 1975

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
(Trial Bar), 1982

U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois,
1992

General for the State of Illinois, representing state officials in a variety of cases, including First Amendment, voting rights, employment discrimination and reverse race discrimination. Mr. Colman also has represented municipal governmental entities and he has served as counsel for Cook County, the City of Chicago, the Chicago Board of Education, and the Chicago Board of Elections.

In the white collar criminal area, Mr. Colman has represented large and small corporations, governmental entities, partnerships and individuals in grand jury investigations, internal corporate investigations and criminal proceedings at both the trial and appellate court levels. In recent years, Mr. Colman has conducted several internal investigations for large corporations, and has represented a corporate executive charged with interstate transportation of stolen trade secrets, the chief executive officer of a corporation which allegedly violated the Anti Embargo Act, several attorneys who allegedly had improper relationships with judges, an options trader and investment advisor who allegedly engaged in securities fraud and a Fortune 100 company involved in a criminal antitrust investigation.

Mr. Colman has participated in more than 60 civil and criminal appeals involving a wide variety of issues in courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, and the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh and Federal Circuits. His recent work includes successful appeals for major law firms involved in malpractice and securities fraud litigation, the successful representation of public officials in civil rights appeals and the successful representation of the Governor of the State of Illinois in litigation challenging a state voting procedure.

Like many of the Firm's attorneys, Mr. Colman has been deeply involved in the representation of the indigent, in community affairs and in efforts to improve the quality of the administration of justice. Mr. Colman has spent years on a team of Jenner & Block lawyers representing prisoners at the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base. Mr. Colman has litigated death penalty cases in Georgia and Illinois, he has represented minorities in voting rights litigation and housing discrimination cases, and he has represented a significant number of indigent defendants in criminal trials and pro bono appeals. Mr. Colman served as President of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Bar Foundation and President of the Board of Directors of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. In the past, Mr. Colman has served as a member of the board of directors of numerous organizations, including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the John Howard Association, and the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities.

Awards

- Albert E. Jenner Pro Bono Award - 2012
- American Constitution Society, Chicago Chapter
Chicago Legal Legend - 2011
- *Benchmark Litigation*
Litigation Star (Illinois) - 2009, 2017

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois, 2001

Illinois Supreme Court, 1975

U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, 1992

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, 1973

Supreme Court of California, 1973

- *Best Lawyers in America* - 2005-2020
Commercial Litigation
Criminal Defense: White Collar
- *Chambers USA*
Litigation: General Commercial (Illinois) - 2008-2014
- Chicago Bar Association/Chicago Bar Foundation
Justice John Paul Stevens Award - 2012
- Chicago Inn of Court
Donald Hubert Public Service Award - 2008
- City of Chicago, Office of Municipal Investigations
Recognition of Outstanding Service - 1986
- Illinois Capital Resource Center
Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award - 1990
- Illinois Public Defenders Association
Award of Excellence - 1996
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*
General Litigation - 2005-2010
Professional Liability: Defense - 2011-2019
- John Howard Association of Illinois
Leadership Award - 2008
- Juvenile Justice Initiative
2014 Leadership Award
- Leading Lawyers Network
Civil Appellate Law, 2004-2014
Civil Rights/Constitutional Law, 2004-2014
Commercial Litigation, 2004-2014
Criminal Defense Law: White Collar, 2004-2014
Professional Malpractice Defense Law: Including Legal/Technical/Financial, 2004-2014
- Mayor Richard M. Daley and the Chicago City Council
Commendation for Public Service - 2008
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Legal Services Award - 1997
Award of Appreciation - 1990
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Presidential Commendation - 1997
- National Legal Aid and Defenders Association
Arthur von Briessen Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions to the Provision of Legal Assistance to the Poor - 1996
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service - 2009

Community

- Committee for Honest Elections
Member, Board of Directors -1984-1988
- Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
Board of Directors, 1999-Present
- Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice
Chairman, 2012-2014
Member, 2012-Present
- John Howard Association
Member, Board of Directors -1989-Present
- Leadership Council on Metropolitan Open Communities
Member, Board of Directors -1996-1997
- MacArthur Justice Center
Member, Board of Advisors -1995-1997, 1999-2013
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Member, Board of Directors -1984-1988, 1992-1996
- Uptown People's Law Center
Board of Directors -1982-1990

Educational

- Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern University School of Law Board of Advisors, 1996-2013
- Georgetown Law School
Member, Board of Advisors, Corporate Counsel Institute -1999-2004

Service To The Bar

- American College of Trial Lawyers
Fellow
- Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice
Member 2012-Present
Chairman 2012-2013
- Chicago Bar Foundation
Member, Board of Directors -1995-Present
President - 2003-2005
- Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Post-Conviction Review of Death Sentences
Member and Chairman -1987-1990
- Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases
Member and Secretary-Treasurer -1976-1980

Publications

- Co-Author, "Class Actions," Chapter in *Illinois Causes of Action*, Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 2016
- Co-Author, "Redistricting and Reapportionment," *Election Law 2016*, October 2016
- "Regrets, I've Had a Few," American Bar Association's *Litigation*, Winter 2015
- Co-Editor, *Illinois Causes of Action: Estate, Business & Nonpersonal Injury Actions*, 2014 Edition, 2014
- "From Death Row to Rehabilitation and Redemption," American Bar Association's *Litigation*, Summer 2013
- Co-Author, "America's Disgraceful Treatment of GITMO Detainees," Chicago Tribune, April 21, 2013
- "Redistrict and Reapportionment," *Election Law*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 2012
- Co-Author, "Class Action," *Illinois Causes of Action: Estate, Business & Non-Personal Injury Actions*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Education Treatise, 2011
- Co-Author, "Redistrict and Reapportionment Chapter Supplement," *Illinois Election Law Handbook*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 2009
- Co-Author, "Class Action," *Illinois Causes of Action - Elements, Forms, & Winning Tips: Estate, Business & Non-Personal Injury Actions*, Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 2008
- Co-Author, "Redistricting and Reapportionment," *Election Law*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 2002
- "Crimes and Misdemeanors," *Food Processing Magazine*, September 2002
- *Insurance Counselor*, Summer 2002
- "After the Recall," *Food Processing Magazine*, August 2002
- "A Model for Food Manufacturers in Crisis," *Food Processing Magazine*, Spring 2002
- "The Players in Foodborne Illness Recalls," *Food Processing Magazine*, Fall 2001
- "A Course of Action for Food Processors Facing Recalls," *Food Processing Magazine*, Summer 2001
- "Making the Recall Decision," *Food Processing Magazine*, Spring 2001
- "Redistricting and Reapportionment," *Election Law*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 1991, 2002, 2007

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, New Lawyer Admission Ceremony, November 05, 2015
- "Joseph Smith Reenactment Trial and Panel Discussion," Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Committee and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, October 14, 2013
- Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing 2013 Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony, October 09, 2013
- "Personal Liberty from Joseph Smith to Guantánamo", April 04, 2013
- Moderator, "Working Together to Prevent Wrongful Convictions in Illinois," Chicago Lawyer Chapter of the American Constitution Society and Justice Council of the Center on Wrongful Convictions, Chicago, IL, May 08, 2012
- "Guantánamo and the Rule of Law: Past, Present and Future," Federal Bar Association, Chicago Chapter, Chicago, IL, July 07, 2009

- "Civil Rights in the 21st Century," Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Champaign, IL, January 18, 2008
- "Representing Guantánamo Prisoners: My Experiences at Guantánamo Bay," University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, IL, January 18, 2008
- American Constitution Society Guest Speaker, "Representing the Unseen: Lawyering on Behalf of Detainees at Guantánamo Bay," William and Mary School of Law, Williamsburg, VA, October 10, 2007
- ABA Bar Leadership Institute, Chicago, IL, March 06, 2003