

Karl R. Barnickol

Partner | Litigation & Disputes

OVERVIEW

Karl takes pride in providing practical litigation advice tailored to meet client-specific goals and counseling clients on best practices for business growth and litigation avoidance. His litigation practice focuses on defending complex mass tort and class action cases, including products and publisher liability matters, securities fraud and shareholder derivative litigation, and price-fixing and unfair competition claims. In particular, Karl has significant experience representing health care, technology, manufacturing, logistics, and content and media companies in complex cases. Karl also represents individual employees, officers, and directors in civil litigation or regulatory matters arising from their employment. He has achieved successful outcomes for clients in state and federal courts nationwide, both at the trial and appellate levels, including:

- Negotiating voluntary dismissals and settlements to end hundreds of mass tort claims challenging drug information relating to Reglan, Accutane, Zoloft, Prozac, and Januvia;
- Obtaining dismissal of three amended securities fraud complaints and four parallel derivative complaints filed against a company and its senior executives;
- Successfully negotiating a class action settlement in a \$1.6 billion health care fraud class action and defending the settlement against objections from class members in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit; and
- Obtaining a favorable allocation of costs on behalf of an oil company facing environmental claims following a four-week bench trial.



kbarnickol@nge.com

D. (312) 269-8047

F. (312) 980-0878

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis
School of Law (J.D., 1997)

Georgetown University (A.B., 1994)
cum laude

ADMISSIONS

Illinois

Missouri

Pennsylvania



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Outside the courtroom, Karl helps businesses profit by identifying opportunities for cost reduction and revenue growth in relationships with business partners and customers. He negotiates and drafts agreements, including technology licenses, sponsorships, concessions and subscriptions. He also develops marketing and sales training materials, internal policy documents, and customer disclosures that drive continuous process improvement and mitigate litigation risk. Karl has helped health care technology companies, retailers, and professional sports franchises substantially reduce the incidence and scope of litigation challenging their business practices.

RECOGNITIONS

- *Benchmark Litigation*, "Future Star" 2025
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, recommended in "Securities Litigation" from 2008-2021 and "Corporate Law" since 2013
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, recommended in "Class Action & Mass Torts" since 2016

NEWS & INSIGHTS

January 30, 2025 Publication

Top Twelve Trends to Monitor in the Hospitality Industry in 2025

December 23, 2024 In The Media

Karl Barnickol Quoted in *Law360* Article "Biggest Illinois Decisions Of 2024"

October 7, 2024 Firm News

Jonathan Quinn and Karl Barnickol Recognized in *Benchmark Litigation 2025*

August 15, 2024 Firm News

60 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2025 *Best Lawyers In America*

August 17, 2023 Firm News

55 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2024 *Best Lawyers In America*

August 18, 2022 Firm News

60 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2023 *Best Lawyers*

August 18, 2021 Firm News

52 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2022 *Best Lawyers*

August 19, 2020 Firm News

46 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2021 *Best Lawyers*

February 3, 2020 Firm News

Illinois Super Lawyers 2020 Recognizes 39 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys



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August 15, 2019 Firm News

45 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2020 Best Lawyers

August 15, 2018 Firm News

45 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2019 Best Lawyers

August 7, 2018 Publication

Civil Appeals: State and Federal

July 9, 2018 Firm News

46 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2016 Best Lawyers

July 9, 2018 Firm News

41 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Listed in 2016 Illinois Super Lawyers

July 9, 2018 Firm News

45 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2017 Best Lawyers

July 6, 2018 Firm News

44 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2018 Best Lawyers