



# Robert W. Trafford

Buzz concentrates his practice in the area of complex business litigation at trial and appellate levels, including matters involving securities fraud, director and officer liability, and other corporate governance matters including internal investigations, attorney and accountant liability, and matters involving trade secrets and consumer class actions. In addition to his litigation practice, Buzz served as the firm's managing partner from 1997 to 2015.

Buzz is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, has been continuously listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup> for over 20 years and serves as a member of its national board of advisors. In 2013 and 2017 he was named "Lawyer of the Year" in Columbus, Ohio by *Best Lawyers*<sup>®</sup> in Litigation- Banking & Finance category, and the *Best Lawyers*<sup>®</sup> 2014 "Lawyer of the Year" in Columbus, Ohio for Litigation - Mergers & Acquisitions. In 2008, he was the first Columbus lawyer named "Lawyer of the Year" for Bet-the-Company Litigation. Buzz has been recognized by clients and peers in *Chambers USA* as one of the leading General Commercial Litigation attorneys in Ohio and is recognized by *Ohio Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>.

## Bar Admissions

Ohio

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Supreme Court of the United States

## Presentations

- "Thinking on Your Feet: The Essential Skill of a Trial Lawyer," American College of Trial Lawyers/Ohio State Bar Association, Nov. 16, 2017
- "Ethics & Professionalism," American College of Trial Lawyers/Ohio State Bar Association, 2014-2017
- "Winning at Trial," American College of Trial Lawyers/Ohio State Bar Association, 2016

## Partner

[rtrafford@porterwright.com](mailto:rtrafford@porterwright.com)

614.227.2149

[www.porterwright.com](http://www.porterwright.com)

41 South High Street

Suites 2800 - 3200

Columbus, OH 43215

## EDUCATION

The Ohio State University College of Law, J.D., 1977

The Ohio State University, B.A., *with distinction*, 1974

## SERVICES

### Litigation

- Appellate and Supreme Court practice
- Arbitration and mediation
- Class actions, mass torts and MDLs
- Commercial litigation
- Intellectual property litigation
- Non-competition and trade secrets litigation
- Probate, trust and guardianship litigation
- Professional liability
- Securities litigation
- Financial services litigation

### Corporate & Internal Investigations

### Securities

- SEC investigation and enforcement
- Securities litigation

- “Internal Investigations: Why? When? Who? How? The Key Issues,” Porter Wright Annual Ethics & Trends in Litigation Seminar, Dec. 9, 2015
- “Issues in Professionalism,” Columbus Bar Foundation, Chester Institute on Professionalism, 2011
- “The Attorney-Client Privilege,” Porter Wright Annual Ethics & Trends in Litigation Seminar, Dec. 1, 2010
- “The Pros and Cons of Litigating Class Actions in State and Federal Courts – A Panel Discussion,” “Analyzing the Implications of *Shady Grove* and *Stolt-Nielsen*,” Porter Wright Ohio Class Action Summit, Oct. 28, 2010
- “Attorney-Client Privilege: Current Issues for Inside and Outside Counsel,” 2010

## Honors | Awards

- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: General Commercial, Ohio
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>, “Top 50 Columbus Super Lawyers,” 2011, 2010, 2006, 2004
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>, “Top 100 Ohio Super Lawyers,” 2009, 2006, 2005, 2004
- *Best Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>, Litigation – Banking & Finance, “Lawyer of the Year,” 2013, 2017
- *Best Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>, Litigation - Mergers & Acquisitions, “Lawyer of the Year,” 2014
- *Best Lawyers*<sup>®</sup>, Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and Financing, Litigation – Mergers & Acquisitions, Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy), and Litigation – Securities

## Community

- Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Chair, Board of Trustees, 2006-2008; Trustee, 1999-2010
- Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Director, Executive Committee, 2003-2013
- Legal Aid Society of Columbus, President, Board of Trustees, 2006; Trustee, 1997-2007
- Ohio Business Roundtable, 1997-2015
- Columbus Council on World Affairs, Honorary Trustee

## SERVICES (CONTINUED)

### Education

### Tax, Estate Planning & Personal Wealth

- Probate, trust and guardianship litigation

### Financial Institutions

- Financial services litigation

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Columbus Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association
- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow
- American Bar Association, *Litigation and Business Law Sections*