



Eric J. Muñoz

partner

Eric is a partner in the firm's Litigation Department. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation. He has more than 20 years of experience representing clients in complex legal matters, including breach of contract, IP litigation, insurance coverage, employment disputes, fiduciary duty claims and appellate work. Eric is known for his strategic approach and strong advocacy across industries such as transportation, real estate development and hospitality.

Eric has successfully handled cases in federal and state courts, including a landmark first-in-the-nation preemption ruling in favor of a global transportation logistics provider. He has also played a key role in developing practice areas in transportation and logistics, hotel and hospitality, antitrust compliance and commercial foreclosure.

Prior to joining Porter Wright, Eric was a partner at a commercial litigation boutique in Chicago concentrating his practice in complex business litigation and dispute resolution. Eric also served as a law clerk for Judge Robert W. Pratt of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Commercial and Real Estate Litigation

- Represented the owner of a luxury hotel and private club located in Santa Barbara, California in an insurance coverage action seeking over \$12 million in property damage and business interruption losses against numerous global primary and excess London market insurers arising from unpaid catastrophic fire and flood damage claims
- Represented shareholders in an AAA arbitration in a breach of contract, breach of fiduciary and shareholder oppression case against multi-national real estate holding company involving an unlawful liquidation of the clients' investment in a real estate development project of a 62-acre real estate investment project in Chicago
- Represented hotel ownership and capital partners in a multimillion-dollar breach of contract suit arising from the clients' purchase of a luxury resort in Los Cabos, Mexico

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

University of Iowa College of Law,
J.D., *with distinction*, 1999

Stanford University, B.A., 1992

La Universidad Católica de Chile,
Overseas Studies Program, 1991

SERVICES

Litigation

- Commercial litigation
- Intellectual property litigation
- Hospitality
- Transportation and logistics
- Non-competition and trade secrets litigation

Real Estate

- Commercial leasing
- Hospitality
- Real estate litigation

Business Competition, Advice & Litigation

Business Growth & Operation

- Hospitality

- Represented the buyers of an iconic building on Chicago's "Magnificent Mile" in litigation over allocation of millions of dollars in commercial rental payments under the relevant commercial leases
- Represented a national real estate development company in a lease dispute arising out of a multimillion-dollar redevelopment and condominium renovation plan
- Represented a national manufacturer of electronic equipment used in parimutuel betting facilities against claims for injury and damages arising from the plaintiffs' alleged exposure to asbestos in defendants' products
- Represented the buyer of a high-rise, mix-use commercial and residential building in Chicago in a dispute arising from the parties' purchase and sale agreement, including restoration of ownership rights in and to the relevant intellectual property portfolio
- Represented secured parties and senior bondholders in several multimillion-dollar, high-profile judicial foreclosure actions of commercial properties throughout the Chicagoland area resulting in the delivery of fee simple title to clients
- Represented a California-based development group in the acquisition of a \$62 million shopping center from a debtor entity whose holdings were the subject of both Illinois foreclosure and bankruptcy proceedings
- Represented a large commercial real estate development company in a complex, multiphase fraud and breach of fiduciary duty trial in Chancery Court involving over \$9 million in damage claims

Transportation and Logistics

- Represented a transportation broker in high-stakes personal injury and wrongful death litigation, and obtained landmark first-of-its-kind preemption ruling under the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994
- Represented a transportation freight broker in defense of negligent hiring and vicarious liability claims arising from the engagement of a federally licensed independent contractor motor carrier
- Represented a transportation freight broker in consolidated personal injury lawsuits arising from the engagement of federally licensed independent contractor motor carrier
- Represented a transportation freight broker in a personal injury lawsuit arising from the off-loading of product by a forklift operator at a warehouse distribution center

Business Competition, Advice & Litigation

- Provide antitrust counseling to a trade association in the arc fault and ground fault circuit interrupter industry, including counseling regarding association formation and advocacy before code development and standard setting organizations
- Provide antitrust counseling to various trade associations in the electrical wiring industry, including counseling regarding association formation and advocacy before code development and standard setting organizations

SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Entrepreneurship & Startups

- Hospitality

Labor & Employment

- Hospitality

- Represented a leading packaging company in a patent infringement lawsuit and unfair competition lawsuit related to the use of slider-zipper technology in form, fill and seal processes

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Iowa
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois

PUBLICATIONS

- “GE may bring good things to life, but it does not bring personal jurisdiction in Illinois,” *Illinois Bar Journal*, 2019

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Chicago Bar Association
- Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois
- Defense Research Institute (DRI), Member

COMMUNITY

- Summer Associate Program at Scandaglia Law, Attorney Mentor
- 5k Race Judicata, Participant
- Men’s Club of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Member