

Scott Ahmad

Partner

Chicago

+1 312-558-3197

Scott is an experienced trial lawyer and litigator whose practice focuses on mass tort/product liability cases, financial services litigation, and high-stakes commercial disputes. Scott is extraordinarily responsive to client needs and provides direct, practical, and strategic advice across all of his matters.

Scott has successfully defended clients in mass tort, product liability, and consumer class actions. He is currently co-lead counsel for a manufacturer in opioid litigation pending throughout the United States, and has represented U.S. companies in some of the other largest mass tort and consumer product cases, including products ranging from tobacco, lead paint, testosterone, and herbal dietary supplements.

He also represents financial services clients in complex lawsuits and subpoena matters. He was recently lead trial counsel for a major bank in a high stakes trial in the Northern District of Illinois. He is lead counsel for a financial services firm in a major securities class action relating to the fall of a California-based investment fund. He also regularly defends the firm's financial services clients in consumer class actions and complex commercial lawsuits, prepares managing directors and c-suite executives for civil depositions and regulatory interviews, and provides strategic counseling and advice.

Scott's broad experience and talent have also allowed him to successfully represent clients in high-stakes commercial disputes. He was one of the lead attorneys for a major media company in what was considered one of the most important defamation lawsuits of all time. In addition, as the COVID-19 pandemic began to shut down

businesses in March 2020, Scott was hired by a group of 11 Illinois nursing homes to prevent their food and housekeeping vendor from immediately walking out and leaving the homes without service during the pandemic over a payment dispute. Scott obtained a temporary restraining order—followed by an injunctive order—that required the service provider to perform its contractual obligations as the nursing homes transitioned to a new service provider. The restraining order garnered significant media attention.

Key Matters

Some highlights—by industry—of Scott’s experience include the following:

PHARMACEUTICALS/MEDICAL DEVICES

- Co-lead counsel for manufacturer in all state and federal product liability litigation relating to opioids
- Lead counsel for cardiovascular division of leading medical device company in numerous cases alleging product liability or sales rep negligence
- Represented the world’s leading makers of testosterone replacement therapies in a multi-district litigation (MDL) in the Northern District of Illinois alleging personal injuries
- Represented paint manufacturer in Illinois litigation, culminating in landmark Illinois Supreme Court decision which granted summary judgment for the paint manufacturer
- Member of trial team that secured a US\$84.5M policy-limits verdict in favor of a pharmaceutical company and against certain London-based insurers who attempted to renege on applicable product recall insurance policies covering a recall prescription diet drug

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS, NATURAL PRODUCTS, AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS

- Represented a major manufacturer, as well as some of America’s largest retail chains, in an MDL in the Northern District of Illinois alleging false labeling of dietary supplements
- Defended retailers and suppliers of aloe vera-based gels and sprays in federal class action lawsuits alleging that the products lack the named ingredient
- Successfully defeated class certification in false advertising case involving biotin
- Successfully resolved putative consumer class actions relating to non-dairy milk, bourbon, and mochi ice cream

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Represented financial valuation firm in federal consumer class action and related state court litigation relating to the collapse of the California-based investment firm, Direct Lending
- Represented financial valuation firm and successfully resolved federal consumer class action and related state court litigation relating to the well-publicized collapse of the Oregon-based hedge fund, Aequitas Capital Management
- Prepared dozens of financial service managing directors and executives for civil depositions and investigatory interviews
- Represents a financial service company’s investigation division in a putative class action

NOTABLE HIGH-STAKES COMMERCIAL MATTERS

- Represented Fox News in a highly publicized defamation lawsuit that was considered to be one of the most important defamation cases of all time.

- Represented a group of 11 Illinois nursing homes in high-stakes contractual dispute with food and housekeeping vendor
- Represented a major digital service provider of interactive streaming music in the “Phonorecords III” royalty rate-setting proceeding before the Copyright Royalty Board at the Library of Congress
- Represented a Fortune 500 technology services company in a contract dispute relating to a US\$450M, multi-year services contract
- Represented Yahoo! in contract litigation relating to the 2014 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament Billion-Dollar Bracket Challenge
- Represented—and current represents—shareholders and owners in disputes relating to corporate governance
- Represented a large coffee manufacturer and retailer in a dispute with the company’s former CEO after a US\$100M merger
- Represented a hotel in a complex dispute and preliminary injunction proceeding between the hotel and its management company
- Represented an international molasses manufacturer in a damages trial in the District of Delaware relating to a merger between two large molasses manufacturers

PRO BONO

- Represented two immigrants seeking citizenship
- Represented inmates in federal lawsuits alleging that they received inadequate dental and other treatment, and negotiated a favorable settlements for the inmates.
- Has twice taken engagements for the Lawyers for the Creative Arts organization, and assisted several of the organization’s members in enforcing rights associated with creative works such as film scripts and art pieces
- Prior to joining the firm, performed hundreds of hours of clinical work with the Appellate Division of the Wayne County Public Defender’s Office and the National Wildlife Federation

Recent Experience

Secured Settlement for Fox on Brink of Trial in High-Profile Defamation Litigation Brought by US Dominion Voting Systems

Supreme Court of Illinois Unanimously Affirmed Win for Atlantic Richfield

Winston Represents Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA in Opiate MDL and State Court Cases

Recognitions

Scott is recognized as a “Key Lawyer” by *The Legal 500 US* in Dispute Resolution: Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action – Defense: Consumer Products (2022), Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (2022–2023), and Healthcare: Lifesciences (2021). He was named to *Benchmark Litigation US’s* “40 & Under List” (2020 and 2022) and recognized as a “Future Star” in 2024.

In 2015, Winston & Strawn was named the “Chicago Litigation Department of the Year” for general litigation by *The National Law Journal*.

Activities

Scott is Director of the Western Golf Association, which awards four-year, full tuition, and housing scholarships to golf caddies across the country. He also serves on the firm's associate evaluation, assignments, and complex commercial litigation committees.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Scott received a J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Michigan Law School in 2009, where he received the Scholarly Writing Award for excellent research and writing and served as an executive editor for the *Michigan Journal of Race & Law*. He received a B.S. in marketing from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University in 2004, where he was a Chick Evans Caddie Scholar. While an Evans Scholar, Scott caddied for Hall-of-Fame PGA Tour pro Phil Mickelson in the 2003 Western Open Pro-Am at Cog Hill.

ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

Related Insights & News

- “Mass Tort Trials 2023: Updates and Important Developments,” Winston & Strawn Product & Mass Torts Summit, June 14, 2023
- “Strategies for Addressing Plaintiff Evolving Tactics in MDLs: Public Nuisance and Beyond,” Winston & Strawn Product & Mass Torts Summit, June 7, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in 2024 *Benchmark Litigation*

OCTOBER 6, 2023

SEMINAR/CLE

Winston & Strawn's Product & Mass Torts Summit 2023

JUNE 14, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2023

JUNE 7, 2023

CLIENT SUCCESS

Winston Acts as Lead Trial Counsel for Fox News and Fox Corp. in US Dominion Voting Systems Defamation Cases, Settling Matter on Brink of Trial

APRIL 18, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Partners Named to 2022 *Benchmark Litigation* “40 & Under” List

JULY 29, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2022

JUNE 8, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2021

JUNE 10, 2021

WEBINAR

Product & Mass Tort Summit 2021

MAY 25–26, 2021

BLOG

Zantac MDL Narrowed by Two Preemption-Based Dismissal Orders

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Named to *Benchmark Litigation* “40 & Under Hot List” 2020

JULY 31, 2020

NEWS

Winston Helps Atlantic Richfield Company Achieve a Major Victory in the Supreme Court of Illinois—Plaintiffs Don’t Have a Claim Without an Injury

MAY 22, 2020

PRO BONO IN ACTION

Chicago Staffs Annual Clinic to Assist Immigrant Crime Victims

OCTOBER 31, 2019

Capabilities

