



George Lombardi

Partner
Co-Chair, Litigation Department

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Co-chair of the firm's Litigation Department and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, George's skills have been widely recognized by a number of the leading legal directories. *The American Lawyer* (2014), named him a "Litigator of the Year," and he is described by *IAM Patent 1000* as a "truly gifted lawyer and one of the finest trial lawyers anywhere in the world."

George routinely serves as lead trial counsel for companies in highly publicized patent cases. For example, his US\$1B jury verdict on behalf of Monsanto in *Monsanto Co. v. E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co.* was recognized as the number three verdict in *The National Law Journal's Top 100 Verdicts of 2012* and was featured as the cover story in the Spring 2013 Am Law Litigation supplement. This verdict also earned him a "Litigator of the Week" mention by the Am Law Litigation Daily and recognition as an "Intellectual Property MVP" for 2012 by Law360. The case involved Monsanto's ground-breaking Roundup Ready® technology, which farmers worldwide use to make their crops herbicide resistant.

He has handled and continues to handle various other patent cases involving telephone and computer technology, medical devices and instruments, and pharmaceuticals. Notably, he has obtained trial wins in matters involving a number of top-selling drugs, including: Zubsolv®, Prozac®, Yasmin®, Baraclude®, Razadyne ER/Razadyne IR®, Temodar®, Amrix®, Amprya®, Sensipar®, and Testim®, among others. Many of his cases have involved first of their

kind wins. For instance, the Baraclude® case was the first ANDA case finding obviousness of a chemical compound patent, and the Prozac® case was called the “Mother of All Patent Challenges” by *Fortune* magazine. He recently obtained a trial victory in a case involving the brand drug Zubsolv®.

Outside of the patent arena, George has secured numerous victories for client Philip Morris (PM) in its ongoing tobacco litigation cases. Most recently he served as first-chair trial counsel and obtained a complete defense jury verdict in the retrial of *Craft v. Philip Morris*, a billion-dollar consumer fraud class action. In connection with his product liability work, *Legal 500 US* described him as “a bet-the-company trial lawyer who is extremely easy to work with and strikes up a great rapport with juries.” Previously, he served as lead trial counsel in *Falise v. Philip Morris*, an eight-week trial that helped stem a wave of suits by asbestos manufacturers against the tobacco industry, and as co-lead trial counsel in *Iron Workers Local Union No. 17 Insurance Fund v. Philip Morris*, which involved a US\$2B RICO claim brought by union trust funds against the tobacco industry and resulted in a jury verdict for the defense. In addition, he was second chair in *State of Washington v. Philip Morris*, the Washington state attorney general action that was being tried to a jury at the time the National State Attorney General Tobacco Settlement was reached in November of 1998.

George’s securities and commodities litigation experience includes the successful defense in a jury trial of a US\$30M RICO claim arising out of a commodities transaction (*Farmland Industries v. Frazier-Parrott Commodities*) and the defense of a four-month securities fraud and RICO jury trial in which the client was dismissed before verdict (*In re American Continental Corporation/Lincoln Savings & Loan Securities Litigation*).

Other significant trials include the successful defense of a sports agent accused of defrauding various universities (*United States v. Bloom*); the successful defense of criminal fraud claims (*United States v. Commito*); and the successful defense in a bench trial of a breach of contract case (*Indianapolis Life v. Dominick’s Finer Foods*).

Recent Experience

Winston Serves as Trial Counsel in Monsanto Roundup Litigation

Rare Noninfringement Jury Verdict for Teva N.A. in Patent Infringement Case for Suboxone® Tablets

Recognitions

George was recognized in the 2016–2024 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] for Intellectual Property Litigation, Patent Litigation, Patent Law, and Product Liability Litigation-Defendants. He was also selected as the 2021 and 2022 “Lawyer of the Year” for Patent Litigation. He was named to the 2023 list of “Notable Litigators and Trial Lawyers” by *Crain’s Chicago Business*. He has received a “Band 1” ranking by *Chambers USA*, which noted his ability to “set forth incredibly passionate arguments that appear indisputable” and his “incredible presence in court.” He was recognized in the 2010–2023 editions of *Chambers USA* and in the 2021–2023 editions of *Chambers Global* which named him a “top-notch lawyer” and “quality litigator.” He was recognized in *Benchmark Litigation’s* list of “Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America” from 2017–2024. George was also recognized in *Benchmark Litigation US* (2012–2024) as an “Illinois Litigation Star” and “National Practice Area Star” for Intellectual Property and Product Liability, and he received the “Intellectual Property Attorney of the Year” award in 2017. *The Legal 500 U.S.* called attention to his “lead trial counsel capabilities on high-profile cases” and recognized him to the “Hall of Fame” and as a “Leading Trial Lawyer” in the areas of Patent litigation; International Litigation; General Commercial Disputes; and Product Liability, Mass Tort and Class Action Defense: Consumer Products (Including Tobacco). In 2021, he was named to *WIPR Leaders* for Patents, Pharmaceuticals, and Technology. He was recognized in *IAM Patent 1000* directories from 2011–2023 which noted that he “knocks it out the park when it comes to distilling down complexity to present a clear, compelling case” and was recognized in the 2021 edition of *IAM Global Leaders*.

He has been named an “IP Star” by *Managing Intellectual Property* from 2013–2020 and was awarded the “Outstanding Litigator (Illinois)” award in 2017. He was recognized by *LMG Life Sciences* for Hatch-Waxman patent litigation from 2012–2019 and 2021–2022, and recognized by Law360 as an “Intellectual Property MVP” in December 2012. George has also been recognized as an Illinois “SuperLawyer” for numerous years. In addition, he was named in The Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America (2012–2016, 2022–2023) for patent litigation and in the 2021 edition of Lawdragon 500’s “The Legends” list. He was recommended as a “Global Leader” for Life Sciences-Patent Litigation and Product Liability Defense in the 2022 edition of *Who’s Who Legal*. He was selected as a 2019 NLJ Winning Litigator in recognition of his significant victories in high-stakes matters for his clients and was listed in the *Guide to the World’s Leading Experts in Patent Law Practitioners* in 2013. In both 2013 and 2014, George was recognized at the Inaugural U.S. Benchmark Annual Awards as “Litigator of the Year – Midwest.”

George’s US\$1 billion jury verdict on behalf of Monsanto in *Monsanto Co. v. E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co.* was recognized as the number three verdict in *The National Law Journal’s Top 100 Verdicts of 2012*, and was featured as the cover story in the Spring 2013 Am Law Litigation supplement. This verdict also earned him a “Litigator of the Week” mention by the Am Law Litigation Daily, and recognition as an “Intellectual Property MVP” for 2012 by Law360.

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

Activities

George is a former member of the firm’s Executive Committee.

Credentials

EDUCATION

George received a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Michigan Law School in 1984, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and the *Michigan Law Review*. He received an A.B., *cum laude*, from Dartmouth

College in 1980.

ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

Related Insights & News

PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Names New Litigation and Transactions Department Co-Chairs

FEBRUARY 26, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston and Yuanda China Law Offices Recognized in *Chambers Global 2024*

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in 2024 *Benchmark Litigation*

OCTOBER 6, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Partners Named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 2024 Top 100 Trial Lawyers

OCTOBER 6, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

George Lombardi Named Among 2023 Law360 Life Sciences MVPs

OCTOBER 1, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Three Winston Teams Featured in Litigator of the Week Column

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Partners Recognized in 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024

AUGUST 17, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Recognized in 2023 *IAM Patent 1000* Rankings

JUNE 26, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

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

JUNE 7, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Chambers USA 2023*

JUNE 6, 2023

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Hosts the First ACTL Corporate Litigation Counsel Trial Advocacy Program

MAY 11-12, 2023

Capabilities

Intellectual Property

Litigation/Trials

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Patent Litigation

Technology Antitrust

Financial Services

Health Care

Medical Devices

Technology, Media & Telecommunications