



## Joseph L. Motto

Partner

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A partner in Winston & Strawn's *Chambers USA*-ranked Securities Litigation Practice, Joe is described by clients as a "very strategic" litigator known for his "great client service," and has been recognized by *Benchmark Litigation US*, *Super Lawyers*, and *The Legal 500 US* for his securities and financial services defense work on behalf of preeminent financial institutions.

Joe is an experienced litigator and trial attorney whose practice is focused on securities litigation, complex commercial disputes, and regulatory defense. Joe has successfully represented public and private companies and their officers and directors in private and regulatory settings, including federal securities class actions, stockholder derivative litigation, and M&A-related litigation. He is long-time counsel to several major manufacturers and private equity-owned businesses, representing them in their most important business disputes. Recent and current engagements include shareholder IPO litigations for multinational issuers, underwriters, and officers and directors in federal and state courts throughout the country; representations of broker-dealers in relation to Securities and Exchange Commission and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority investigations; and trial counsel to several consumer products businesses in high-stakes contractual litigations.

## Key Matters

Notable past representations and successes include:

- Trial counsel to a Morgan Stanley-backed public-private partnership in a major contractual dispute
- Dismissal on a motion to dismiss of Securities Act of 1933 claims against underwriters of secondary public offering of stock by one of North America's leading branded food companies
- Dismissal on a motion to dismiss of a sprawling alleged securities fraud class action against a multinational technology conglomerate
- A complete victory on a motion to dismiss putative class action fraud claims asserted against an underwriting syndicate in relation to an IPO by the nation's largest party supplies company
- Dismissal at summary judgment of class claims asserting securities fraud against a telecommunications equipment company
- Dismissal on a motion to dismiss of multi-billion-dollar *qui tam* claims against an international financial services firm relating to its municipal bond underwriting practices

Joe has also litigated numerous *qui tam* and consumer suits brought pursuant to False Claims Act, consumer fraud, and related statutes in Illinois and across the country. Recent and current engagements include:

- Representing an international financial services firm in putative consumer class action fraud litigation relating to its federally insured mortgage lending and property inspection practices
- Representing the concessionaire of the on-street parking system for the City of Chicago in successfully defeating a putative Illinois Consumer Fraud Act class action on a motion to dismiss
- Successfully representing a major academic health care system against consumer fraud claims
- Defeating an Illinois False Claims Act suit against an international financial services firm, which alleged the defendants obtained billions of dollars in state and municipal bond business by falsely certifying compliance with lending and consumer protection laws
- Securing complete dismissal on behalf of a major academic health care system of a *qui tam* action in federal court alleging that defendants violated the False Claims Act by submitting false claims to Medicare for reimbursement of medically unnecessary procedures
- Defending a national insurance provider against a *qui tam* suit alleging false claims for payment relating to the National Flood Insurance Program in the wake of a hurricane that struck the Gulf Coast

## Recognitions

- Recognized in the 2022–2025 editions of *Benchmark Litigation US* as a “Future Star” for his “great client service,” describing that “[he is] very strategic, and he cares about the outcome.”
  - Recognized by *Benchmark Litigation US* on the “Illinois 40 & Under List” for Securities, 2021–2023
  - Recognized by *Super Lawyers* as an “Illinois Rising Star” for Securities Litigation, 2016–2018
  - Recognized by *The Legal 500 US*, Antitrust: Civil Litigation/Class Actions – Recognized for his work defending putative class actions alleging that certain investment banks illegally restrained trade in the market for interest rate swaps, 2018
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# Activities

Joe maintains an active pro bono practice. In collaboration with Winston Associate Nasir Hussain and the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), Joe was successful in helping a U.S. Army veteran—tricked into becoming a victim of human trafficking—have her record expunged so she can begin a new and better chapter of her life. As a result of this partnership, Joe and Nasir were honored by CAASE for the life-changing impact they had on the client’s life.

Joe also serves as treasurer and is a board member of The Montessori School of Englewood, a non-profit charter school within the Chicago Public School network.

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# Credentials

## EDUCATION

Joe received a J.D. in 2008, with distinction, from the University of Iowa College of Law, where he was note and comment editor of the *Journal of Corporation Law*. He received a B.A. in philosophy and political science from Northwestern University in 2005.

## ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

# Related Insights & News

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## CLIENT ALERT

Securities Litigation Risk in the Evolving DEI Landscape  
APRIL 28, 2025

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## SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors SIFMA C&L Annual Seminar  
MARCH 23, 2025

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Wins Three 2024 Law360 Practice Group of the Year Awards  
JANUARY 20, 2025

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in 2025 *Benchmark Litigation*  
OCTOBER 3, 2024

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in 2024 *Benchmark Litigation*

OCTOBER 6, 2023

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston Partners Named to *Benchmark Litigation's* 2023 40 & Under List

JULY 31, 2023

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## PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Helps Secure Dismissal of Felony Charges for Asylum Seeker Swept Up in Fraud Scheme

JUNE 9, 2023

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## PRO BONO IN ACTION

Appellate Victory Allows Client to Remain in His Home for Now and Fight to Protect It

JUNE 7, 2023

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston Team Recognized in Litigator of the Week

APRIL 14, 2023

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## PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Secures Long-Awaited Asylum for Ugandan Refugee

DECEMBER 29, 2022

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## RECOGNITIONS

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

JULY 29, 2022

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## PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Helps Human Trafficking Victim Expunge Record and Rebuild Life

DECEMBER 14, 2021

# Capabilities

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Litigation/Trials

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Securities, M&A & Corporate Governance Litigation

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Antitrust/Competition

Financial Services Litigation

Financial Services