



Matthew Carter

Partner

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Matthew's service as an Illinois Supreme Court law clerk, and his appointments as a Special Assistant Attorney General in Illinois and Deputy Special Prosecutor in Cook County, have provided him with invaluable experience in his complex trial and appellate litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and corporate internal investigation practice.

Matthew represents clients in state and federal courts throughout the country in commercial and criminal trial and appellate litigation. He is known for handling complex, client-critical, high-stakes cases, particularly those involving appeals and critical motions. He has handled and argued several cases before the Supreme Court of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and obtained important, precedent-setting decisions in favor of his clients in both courts.

Matthew has extensive trial experience, including joining major matters just as they approach trial. In October 2022, in a case he joined after the completion of discovery, he helped secure a US\$104.65M jury verdict for Versata Software, Inc. in a breach of contract and trade secret misappropriation case against Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, Michigan. Matthew examined the primary breach of contract witnesses as well as the parties' damages experts. Ultimately, eight jurors unanimously sided with Versata on each of its three breach claims and three of its four trade secret claims. The jury also rejected Ford's breach of contract counterclaim. The win earned the team a first runner-

up spot in *Am Law's* "Litigator of the Week" column. Ford moved for judgment as a matter-of-law post-trial. The district court denied Ford's motion as to liability but overturned the jury's findings on damages. Versata will appeal.

In January 2025, Matthew co-led a team that achieved a significant victory by securing the dismissal of US\$300M in claims against the former board of managers of Verano Holdings LLC, a subsidiary of Verano Holdings Corp., one of the nation's largest publicly traded cannabis companies. This dismissal with prejudice in the Delaware Court of Chancery earned Matthew a mention in *Am Law's* "Litigator of the Week" column.

Matthew also prosecutes and defends companies and individuals in significant defamation matters throughout the country. Sometimes these matters resolve short of active litigation, and sometimes they do not; Matthew has experience in both settings. For example, he was second chair in Fox News Network, LLC's dispute with Dominion Voting Systems in Delaware Superior Court, a highly-publicized matter that resolved in court minutes before opening statements.

Matthew's investigative experience includes conducting national and international corporate internal investigations on behalf of several private clients. He has handled investigations and litigation related to government and regulatory matters, including matters brought by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Attorneys General, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). He has represented clients dealing with Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) charges and compliance requiring investigative work throughout the world, including in Russia and India.

Currently, Matthew is serving, by appointment, a three-year term as a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Illinois Evidence. This 14-member committee is responsible for the monitor, review, and study of Illinois Supreme Court cases that impact evidence law generally and the Illinois Rules of Evidence specifically. Previously, he was appointed to the role of Special Assistant Attorney General to represent the Department of State Police of the State of Illinois. This representation resulted in a court order accomplishing the objective of the State Police—the maintenance of the confidentiality of its Firearm Owners Identification database. Matthew has also served as a Deputy Special Prosecutor in Cook County, Illinois for an investigation that generated significant media interest, which required the interview of 146 witnesses, a review of 300,000 documents, and resulted in the publication of a 162-page report.

Matthew is also serving as a member of the Illinois Judicial Conference (2025-2027), an organization created "to consider the work of the courts, to suggest improvements in the administration of justice, and to make recommendations for the improvement of the courts."

Key Matters

In 2015, Matthew helped convince the Illinois Supreme Court to reverse an appellate decision reinstating a US\$10B verdict, ending one of the largest and most talked about cases in Illinois history. In 2016, he argued and helped his client win a case ensuring that Illinois hospitals are free to make staffing decisions based on the improvement of patient care. In 2020 (in a case Matthew argued in 2019), he helped persuade the Illinois Supreme Court to affirm a new trial because his client's conviction for murder was based on improper and prejudicial expert testimony. Matthew was also part of a team that, in 2020, led the Illinois Supreme Court to make clear that plaintiffs with no injury have no claim. For these last two decisions, Matthew was selected as a runner-up for "Litigator of the Week" by *The American Lawyer*.

In his most significant Seventh Circuit matter, Matthew argued a case that resulted in a unanimous 2017 decision affirming the dismissal of a RICO complaint alleging over US\$400M in damages. For that victory, Law360 named Matthew and his co-counsel "Legal Lions."

At the trial level, Matthew was part of a team representing a global ingredients and ethanol producer in a three-week jury trial in New York state court which resulted in the denial of our opponent's claim for US\$180M in damages and an award to our client of rescission and the return of more than US\$20M in licensing payments. He was also part of

a team representing a pharmaceutical company in a two-week jury trial in Illinois state court that obtained a verdict of more than US\$93M in a contract dispute.

Recent Experience

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

Secured Nearly US\$105M Trial Victory Against Ford Motor Co.

Illinois Supreme Court Remands Case To Cook County Circuit Court

Winston Obtains Dismissal of Déjà Vu Consumer Fraud Class Action

Supreme Court of Illinois Unanimously Affirmed Win for Atlantic Richfield

Winston Proves Hospitals Are Immune From Damages for Dismissal of Medical Staff When Motivated by the Improvement of Patient Care

Supreme Court of Illinois Decision has Implications on Use of Expert Witness

Recognitions

Matthew was recognized in *Benchmark Litigation US* (2017–2025) as a “Future Star” for Appellate, General Commercial Litigation, and White Collar Crime. He was also listed from 2017–2021 on *Benchmark Litigation’s* “40 & Under Hot List,” an accolade that is “meant to honor the achievements of the nation’s most accomplished legal partners of the age of forty or younger.”

In 2020, Matthew was selected twice as a runner-up for “Litigator of the Week” by *Am Law* as a result of two significant wins in the Illinois Supreme Court and he was recognized again as a first runner-up in 2022 for a major trial win in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Matthew was recognized again by *Am Law* in 2025 for a significant motion to dismiss victory in the Delaware Court of Chancery, earning a shout out in their “Litigator of the Week” column.

Matthew was recommended in Corporate Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense by *The Legal 500 US* in 2018–2019 and was listed as a “Key Lawyer” in Appellate: Courts of Appeal/Appellate: Supreme Courts in 2021–2022. He was recognized in the 2023–2025 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation. He was named to the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin’s 2017 Forty Under 40 list of “Up-and-Comers of Law in Illinois,” chosen annually from over a thousand nominations. Additionally, Matthew was selected to the *Super Lawyers* “Illinois Rising Stars” list from 2014–2020.

Activities

Matthew previously served as one of two non-judge members of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Judges Foundation (IJF), an organization established by the Illinois Judges Association to advance public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary, foster awareness, respect, and knowledge of the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice, and facilitate diversity and inclusiveness in the judiciary and legal profession. He also serves on the IJF’s Lawyers’ Auxiliary Committee. Matthew served on Law360’s Illinois Editorial Advisory Board in 2023 and 2024.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Matthew received a J.D., *magna cum laude*, in 2006 from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he was an associate editor of the *University of Illinois Law Review*. He received a B.A. in history and economics from Northwestern University in 2003.

Prior to joining the firm in 2008, Matthew spent two years as a law clerk to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman (retired).

ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

CLERKSHIPS

- Illinois Supreme Court for the Honorable Justice Rita B. Garman
- Illinois Supreme Court for the Honorable Justice Rita B. Garman

Related Insights & News

- “Jurisdiction Should be Addressed at the Threshold of Appeals,” *CBA Record*, Nov./Dec. 2020
- “White Collar Crime,” Guest Lecturer at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, March and August 2019
- “Arbitration Clauses in the Context of Third-Party Beneficiary Claims: An Issue Ripe for Corporate Consideration and Illinois Supreme Court Review,” *Trial Briefs Newsletter* (May 2016, Vol. 61, No. 8)
- “Crafting Helpful *Amicus* Filings in the Supreme Court of Illinois Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 345,” *Trial Briefs Newsletter* (January 2014, Vol. 59, No. 7)
- “The Supervisory Authority of the Supreme Court of Illinois: A Powerful Tool for the Court and Practitioner Alike,” *Trial Briefs Newsletter* (April 2012, Vol. 57, No. 9)
- “Illinois Supreme Court Rule 315(c)(3): An Appellate Trap for the Unwary,” *Trial Briefs Newsletter* (October 2008, Vol. 54, No. 3)

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Team Led by Dan Webb and Matthew Carter Receives Shout Out in Litigator of the Week Column
JANUARY 17, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Matthew Carter Appointed to the Illinois Judicial Conference
JANUARY 2, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

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

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025

AUGUST 15, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Law360 Names Winston Attorneys to 2024 Editorial Advisory Boards

MARCH 21, 2024

IN THE MEDIA

Winston & Strawn Files Lawsuit Against Northwestern on Behalf of Pat Fitzgerald

OCTOBER 10, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in 2024 *Benchmark Litigation*

OCTOBER 6, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Files Lawsuit on Behalf of Former Northwestern University Football Coach Pat Fitzgerald Against Northwestern and University President Michael Schill

OCTOBER 5, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

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

AUGUST 17, 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

Law360 Names Winston Attorneys to 2023 Editorial Advisory Boards

APRIL 10, 2023

NEWS

Matthew Carter Appointed to Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Illinois Evidence

JANUARY 26, 2023

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Appellate & Critical Motions

Antitrust/Competition