

Joe G. Hollingsworth

Partner

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As a nationally renowned high-stakes litigator and trial advocate, representing some of the most prominent companies in the world and working on some of the largest cases in the country, Joe Hollingsworth brings well-honed critical thinking skills and decades of perspective to his trial practice and challenging complex litigation cases.

In private practice for almost five decades, both inside and outside the courtroom, Joe defends cases involving pharmaceutical and medical device products liability, toxic and environmental torts, and consumer products liability, and prosecutes and defends complex federal claims involving the government. He has been honored three times by *The National Law Journal* for the year's Top Ten Defense Wins.

With a long history of career wins, Joe has:

- 140+ opinions arising from his cases published in federal and state reporters
- Conducted 25+ jury trials
- Served as lead counsel in numerous MDLs, serial litigations, and mass torts
- Appeared for oral argument in the United States Supreme Court, eight U.S. Circuit Courts, seven state supreme courts, many intermediate appellate courts, and before the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
- Appeared in trial courts in over 40 states.

Trying both high-stakes individual cases and cases that form massive serial litigation, some of Joe's notable achievements include:

- Beginning in 1987, serving as national trial counsel in one of the nation's first mass tort litigations involving carcinogenicity claims against the manufacturer of the agricultural chemical Chlordane
- Beginning in 1997, serving as national trial counsel on behalf of the maker of Parlodel in one of the nation's first serial litigations involving pharmaceutical products

- Beginning in 2006, defending Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation and winning defense verdicts in the first and second bellwether cases chosen for trial in the New Jersey Aredia®/Zometa® serial litigation, one of the then longest-standing multidistrict litigations in the country
- Heading up the firm's defense of serial personal injury litigation in Cook County, Illinois circuit court arising from alleged exposure to ethylene oxide emissions from a medical device sterilization company
- Representing an NFL team in complex litigation arising out of its operations, including suits concerning the scope and enforceability of ticketing contracts
- Securing a *Daubert*-based victory for DynCorp International – a contractor to the U.S. State Department assisting with the joint United States-Colombia war-on-drugs initiatives known as "Plan Colombia" that dismissed personal injury, property damage, and medical monitoring claims brought by 3,200 Ecuadoreans due to counternarcotics aerial herbicide spraying operations
- Serving as lead trial counsel for Norfolk Southern in the largest single tort case in South Carolina history and the biggest environmental disaster at that time since the Exxon Valdez oil spill, in which a textile manufacturer sought hundreds of millions of dollars in compensatory damages plus punitive damages for alleged property damage following a train derailment and chlorine release
- Pioneering important developments in the law critical to corporate tort defendants while representing manufacturers and other corporations in the defense of thousands of cases nationwide involving pharmaceuticals and medical devices; prominent examples include five important and widely cited U.S. circuit court *Daubert* decisions — *Rider v. Sandoz*, *Hollander v. Sandoz*, *Glastetter v. Novartis*, *Conde v. Velsicol*, and *Schudel v. GE*. Legal scholars refer to the first three decisions as the "Parlodel Trilogy" and have written that they represent the key to litigating against junk science in the 21st Century
- Representing Glendale Federal Bank, successfully arguing its breach-of-contract case before the United States Supreme Court, in the landmark "Winstar" litigation, *see* 518 U.S. 839 (1996), an oral argument featured in *The American Lawyer*, and a case that concluded with the award of \$387 million to his client Glendale.

Outside of the courtroom, Joe is a highly regarded speaker and educator and has delivered more than 250 speeches. Given his penchant for speaking and educating, he created and launched over thirty years ago the longest running CLE-accredited annual seminar of its kind on complex litigation defense. He also lectures and is consulted by media interests about litigation strategies in complex litigation.

Services

Amicus

Business Interruption & Commercial Disputes

Class Action Defense

Complex Litigation

Defense & Government Contracting

Environmental

Federal Claims

Financial Institutions

Government Investigations, White Collar & Civil Defense
Natural Resource Damages
Pharmaceutical & Medical Device
Products Liability & Toxic Torts
Risk Mitigation & Management
Transportation

Education

Georgetown Law (J.D., 1974)
DePauw University (B.A., 1971, *with distinction*)

Admissions

District of Columbia
United States Supreme Court
United States Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuits
United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
United States District Courts for the District of Columbia, Central District of Illinois, District of Maryland, and Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*
 - "Joe Hollingsworth's client service and general level of service, level of sophistication, commercial awareness, and vision are all very strong. He is the best in class for service! He is outstanding." — Client
 - "He is the best of the best!" — Client
 - "I've worked with hundreds of attorneys over the course of my long career. Joe and his team are at the top." — Client
 - "Joe Hollingsworth is excellent on his feet." — Client
 - "Joe Hollingsworth and Eric Lasker only do litigation and are highly experienced. They become experts of the issues, learning the history and background. They serve you very well in the litigation space." — Client
 - "Joe Hollingsworth is a consummate trial attorney. He's a thorough, smart and a strategic thinker. His particular niche is doing trial work for the pharma industry, and they think very highly of him. He is a top-gun to bet on for company cases." — Third party
 - "He is a superb trial attorney." — Third party
 - "Joe is a very savvy, experienced trial lawyer who is a go-to advisor for his clients." — Third party
- *Super Lawyers*, Civil Litigation Defense, 2007–2025
- *Best Lawyers in America*, 2008–2023
- *The National Law Journal*, Top Ten Defense Wins, 2004, 2001, 1998
- AV Preeminent Lawyer by ALM Media and Martindale-Hubbell, 1996–2025

- AV Preeminent Lawyer – Judicial Edition by ALM Media and Martindale-Hubbell, 2022-2024
- Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow

Memberships

- Atlantic Legal Foundation Board of Directors and Executive Committee
- Atlantic Coast Conference Hockey League (ACCHL) Board of Directors
- National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel (NARTC)
- Georgetown Law Board of Visitors, Former Member