Hollingsworth LLP
Litigation Matters.®

Joe G. Hollingsworth

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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, 8 U.S. Circuit Courts, 7 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 Court for the District of Columbia
United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois
United States District Court for the District of Maryland
United States District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*
  - "Joe Hollingsworth's client service and general level of service, level of sophistication, and commercial vision are 10 out of 10. — Client
  - "Joe has an excellent understanding of current, cutting-edge litigation issues within the firm's practice." — Client
  - "He is one of the nation's leading trial attorneys. He is top in the field of mass torts and high-stakes products liability actions." — Client
  - "Joe Hollingsworth was exceptional." — Client
  - "I don't think there is a lawyer in this country who has the same depth of experience when it comes to mass tort litigation. He brings this to bear in all his cases — a brilliant man." — 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, 2007–2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*, since 2008
- *The National Law Journal*, Top Ten Defense Wins, 2004, 2001, 1998
- AV Preeminent Lawyer by ALM Media and Martindale-Hubbell, 1996–2026

- 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