



James G. Argionis

Member

Chicago

jargionis@cozen.com | (312) 474-7904

Practice Areas

- Commercial Litigation
- Privacy Litigation – Emerging Trends
- Real Estate Litigation
- Trade Secrets, Restrictive Covenants, and Computer Abuse

Education

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, J.D., 1995
- Loyola University of Chicago, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1992

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court – Northern District of Illinois Trial Bar
- U.S. District Court -- Central District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court -- Colorado

Affiliations

- Hellenic Bar Association
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Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

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LexisNexis, Law360 - Columnist

Awards & Honors

- Illinois Super Lawyers Rising Star
- "Community Star" Award from the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce
- Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen Award, 2022 Recipient

Jim has extensive experience and an impressive record of success as a business trial lawyer. He has handled high-profile litigation, provided legal counseling, conducted investigations, and overseen matters related to contractual, regulatory, employment, and internal compliance issues. Jim has worked on a wide range of complex multi-party business and commercial litigation trials, arbitrations, appeals, and investigations. His experience includes both litigating a broad range of disputes and counseling on mitigating potential areas of risk including those related to contracts, business torts, shareholder disputes, directors' and officers' liability, employment matters, fraud, defamation, privacy, compliance, cybersecurity, intellectual property, partnerships, joint ventures, and real estate related disputes, including leases and purchase agreements. Jim also handles corporate investigations and provides his clients with general business counseling on a variety of topics. He has considerable experience prosecuting and defending temporary restraining orders/injunctions and other equitable relief matters.

Jim regularly represents clients ranging from sole proprietors and practitioners to large corporate entities and institutions, both in pursuing claims and in defending and trying or arbitrating lawsuits in various complex commercial litigation matters. He has experience representing technology based companies, manufacturers, retailers, hospitals, medical professionals, insurance producers, law and accounting firms and individual lawyers and accountants, against claims and potential claims and with respect to subpoenas for depositions and records, administrative proceedings, criminal matters, and risk management issues. Jim's successful representations have involved winning cases through dispositive motions and at trial or through arbitration when necessary. He also has experience defending multiple Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) class action clients in various business segments including the manufacturing, software, health care, temporary staffing, technology, and service industries. He also represents BIPA defendants in "mass arbitration" actions where he leads complex litigation/arbitration strategies. In addition to BIPA class actions, Jim has handled class actions asserting false claims act and consumer protection claims.

Jim is admitted to practice in the state of Illinois, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, including the Trial Bar, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and the U.S. District Court, District of Colorado and has been involved in federal and state court litigation around the country. Jim authors a regular column for Law360 and LexisNexis, where he shares insights on current Commercial Litigation issues.

Jim's numerous successful representations have earned him recognition, for three consecutive years (2009, 2010, 2011), as an Illinois Super Lawyers Rising Star, an honor conferred upon less than 2.5 percent of the top Illinois lawyers.

Jim has served, by gubernatorial appointment and Illinois State Senate confirmation, as chairman of the Illinois Department of Employment Security Advisory Board. He has served in that capacity for four different administrations. Jim is a member of Loyola University Chicago's College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Advisory Council. He also serves at a local high school as an assistant mock trial coach and has served, by mayoral appointment and City Council confirmation through two different administrations, as chair of the city of Park Ridge's Planning and Zoning Commission and as chair of its O'Hare Airport Commission. He has been elected to several terms as a Chicago Public School System Local School

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Council representative, and has volunteered in the Chicago Public School System, District 64 School System, the Chicago Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois, and the Park Ridge Police Parent Patrol.

Jim received his bachelor's degree, *summa cum laude*, from the Honors Department, in economics from Loyola University of Chicago in 1992 and served as a student representative on the Loyola University Board of Trustees. He received his law degree from Loyola University of Chicago Law School in 1995 where he served as law review executive editor and as an assistant Legal Writing/Moot Court instructor. Jim is fluent in Greek.

Experience

Won a motion to dismiss in a case brought under the Illinois False Claims Act in which plaintiffs alleged that the client violated the law by causing authorized retailers of certain phone devices to fail to collect and pay to the State Department of Revenue an Illinois-specific sales tax on a charge for setting up the devices at the time of purchase.

Successfully tried a federal court case that resulted in a verdict in favor of our client, an international commercial real estate owner and landlord, against the claims of one of its major tenants in a prominent downtown Chicago commercial space, regarding allocation of millions of dollars of expenses relating to the tenant's lease and use of the property.

Served as part of the trial team that defended a multimillion dollar claim in federal court alleging violations of copyright law against an author and producer of a popular book and movie. The case was tried before a jury that returned a verdict in our client's favor.

Prevailed in a FINRA arbitration on behalf of a banking industry client facing a competitor's claim that the client had a pattern or practice of hiring the competitor's former employees and causing them to breach non-solicitation agreements. The arbitration panel not only rejected the claimant's requests for a nationwide permanent injunction and monetary relief, but also entered an award of attorney's fees and costs in our client's favor.

Served as part of the team of attorneys representing an association of approximately 3,500 retirees, in pursuit of their bankruptcy claims in one of the largest bankruptcies of its kind. The representation included proceedings before the bankruptcy and district courts, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Our representation resulted in a substantial extension of pension and insurance benefits for our clients.

Successfully defended our clients, an investment company and its board of directors, by obtaining summary judgment on all claims filed in a chancery court shareholder derivative action brought by minority shareholders of the company challenging certain stock options.

Successfully defended high-profile temporary restraining order companion cases filed by a public interest group against our client relating to a public-private construction project on public property, obtaining dismissal for our client and reimbursement of attorneys' fees.

Won summary judgment on behalf of both a landlord and a tenant of a large commercial property in the Chicago suburbs who were sued by an individual alleging significant damages for personal injuries sustained when she encountered alleged hazardous conditions along a pathway between a public roadway and the clients' fence line. After we gave the plaintiff notice of our intent to file a motion for summary judgment, the plaintiff filed a motion to voluntarily dismiss the case. To prevent our client from being hauled back into court should the plaintiff re-file her case within a year (as would have been her right), we filed our motion as planned and convinced the judge that the plaintiff's motion for voluntary

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dismissal was merely an attempt to avoid a ruling on the merits. After allowing the motion for summary judgment, the court dismissed all claims against our client with prejudice.

Represented a school district board and administrators in a lawsuit filed in federal court, obtaining dismissal with prejudice of complaints arising out of a student's special education asserted under the American with Disabilities Act and the Civil Rights Act and successfully defended the dismissal in the Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

Obtained dismissal with prejudice of a high-profile case filed against a group of investors who secured zoning approval for the construction and operation of a firearms safety training and firing range in suburban Chicagoland, described as the "Apple store of the firearms industry." An advocacy group sued in an effort to stop the project, arguing that the zoning approval unconstitutionally violated the rights of neighboring property and business owners. The years-long trial and appellate court litigation centered on issues relating to the Second Amendment, the Illinois Constitution, zoning challenge standing, and separation of powers between the judiciary and the municipality that approved the zoning ordinance.

Successfully moved to dismiss a defamation claim filed against our clients in the wake of a wrongful death action. We then won summary judgment on a malicious prosecution claim stemming from the same case. This result was affirmed on appeal.

Counsel and advise a national business technology services provider with respect to non-compete issues.

Counsel and advise a regional cell phone tower construction and engineering company with respect to non-compete issues.

Counseled and advised a health care provider with respect to its restrictive covenant agreements.

Counseled and advised a regional moving and storage company with respect to its restrictive covenant agreements.

Represented a software company in prosecuting claims of misappropriation of trade secrets against a competitor and former employee.

Represented a health care industry service provider with respect to litigation filed by a competitor relating to a new employee's restrictive covenant obligations, and successfully kept the client from being named as a party to the contentious litigation.

Successfully prosecuted trade secret and restrictive covenant claims on behalf of a service industry mobile testing company against its former employee and competitor.

Successfully defended an accountant against a temporary restraining order filed by a former employer.

Successfully defended a beverage company with respect to non-compete and trade secret claims brought against it by a competitor.

Represented a national insurance brokerage firm and individual insurance producers in both defending and prosecuting restrictive covenant, trade secret, and unfair competition claims.

Successfully defended a specialized food industry company against trade secret and other claims centered on restrictive covenant provisions sought to be enforced against a new employee by a former employer.

Advised and counseled numerous physicians and physician groups with respect to restrictive covenant issues.

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Successfully defended a high-level insurance producer from against a temporary restraining order relating to a restrictive covenant, and subsequently obtained complete dismissal of all claims through motion practice.

Represented a specialized industry manufacturing company in a federal lawsuit bringing trade secret claims against a former employee who started a competing company.

Counseled a regional staffing agency through its response to an antitrust investigation by the Illinois AG's Office.

Successfully represented a national insurance brokerage firm and program manager in litigation arising out of a nation-wide insurance fraud scheme that implicated multi-millions of insurance premiums and several insurers and brokers.

Successfully defended insurance producers from trade secret and unfair competition claims.

Represented and counseled a major Chicago area academic medical center and various of its physicians with respect to depositions, trial testimony and subpoenas for records in medical negligence and other tort litigation.

Represented a dental professional corporation with 25 offices throughout the State of Illinois with respect to all aspects of its practice, including the defense of claims and potential claims involving malpractice, employment, contract, regulatory and risk management issues.

Represented a Chicago-based physicians group which operated three Chicago area emergency rooms with respect to all aspects of its operations, including the defense of claims and potential claims involving malpractice, employment, contract, regulatory and risk management issues.

Represented a manufacturer in a product liability case involving alleged defects in electronic motors and as part of the defense of that case, prosecuted the manufacturer's claims against a third-party defendant, a supplier of motor parts.

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