

## Steven J. Yatvin

### Partner

Steve litigates and tries commercial disputes in a broad range of industries, including automotive, product distribution, manufacturing, real estate, and construction. Steve has achieved positive results in all of these contexts through both negotiated resolution and, when necessary, implementing successful litigation and trial strategies.

In the automotive industry, Steve's practice includes advising clients regarding dealer network initiatives, such as allocation programs and margin programs, and other issues arising out of the web of laws governing the manufacturer-dealer relationship. Steve's knowledge and advice has helped his clients successfully advance their dealer network goals, even when faced with efforts by dealers to challenge them.

In addition to business litigation, Steve is the partner in charge of recruiting for the firm and participates in the firm's pro bono initiative. Recently, Steve successfully represented a man from Guatemala seeking asylum in the United States.

Steve's community involvement includes membership on the board of the Greater Chicago/Upper Midwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League.

### Representative Matters

- Successfully argued appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit on behalf of an auto manufacturer alleged to have wrongfully terminated a dealer agreement.
- Obtained a jury verdict on all counts for an auto manufacturer in a lawsuit by a dealer seeking millions in damages in connection with alleged cost overruns on a facility project.
- Won an arbitration award for a client alleged to have breached payment obligation on subordinated notes.
- Won summary judgment for an auto manufacturer in a damages action brought by a dealer who refused to provide a relocation plan after Hurricane Katrina.



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### Practices

- Automotive Group
- Litigation

### Education

- University of Illinois College of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1999
- Indiana University, B.A., 1995

### Bar & Court Admissions

- State of Illinois
- U.S. District Court - Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court - Central District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals - 1st Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals - 5th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals - 7th Circuit

- Obtained summary judgment for defendant alleged to have violated a non-compete and accused of destroying electronic documents.
- Successfully argued appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit involving a dealer challenging the scope of an arbitration agreement.
- Negotiated a settlement for a subcontractor in an action arising out of project in which the subcontractor experienced millions of dollars in unexpected costs.
- Defended Fair Credit Reporting Act class action seeking millions in statutory damages.
- Represented a real estate investment trust (REIT) in a contract dispute in which the parties disagreed over the amount of land actually conveyed in their sale agreement.
- Represented auto manufacturers in lawsuits by dealers alleging price discrimination in connection with incentive programs.
- Represented auto manufacturers in several add-point, relocation, and termination protests.

## **Professional Activities and Honors**

- University of Illinois Law Review, Executive Administrative Editor, 1998-1999