



Transportation

Hinshaw represents clients on a national, regional and local level in the transportation, trucking, shipping, cargo, property broker, freight forwarder, third-party logistics (3PL), intermodal, bus, taxi, private fleet, commuter railroad, aviation and airport businesses, including insurers of transportation companies. The firm's attorneys have successfully completed hundreds of jury trials in the transportation field. Several of our trial lawyers are members of esteemed organizations such as the American College of Trial Lawyers and American Board of Trial Advocates.

Our transportation practice lawyers have helped create and continue to support such key industry organizations as the Commercial Transportation Litigation, Aviation and Aviation/Space Committees of the American Bar Association's Tort and Insurance Practice and Litigation Sections, the Defense Research Institute's Trucking Law Committee, Trucking Industry Defense Association, Transportation Lawyers Association, Aviation Insurance Association, Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and National Business Aviation Association.

Frequent contributors to professional and industry journals and conferences on transportation issues, Hinshaw's attorneys have special expertise in the following areas: legal analysis of and drafting dispositive motions involving complex issues such as federal preemption and conflicts of laws; creative ways to manage and settle cases; alternative dispute resolution, mediations and arbitrations; jury selection and trial advocacy; combatting hindsight bias in the evaluation and resolution of disputes; regional and national litigation programs; and recent trends in the regulation of transportation services.

Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Property Damage and Cargo Claims

Hinshaw's leading trial attorneys defend their transportation clients in catastrophic injury, personal injury, wrongful death, and property loss claims and lawsuits on a local, regional and national basis. Their experience includes handling all types of cases, from the multiple party catastrophic case that demands a seasoned trial lawyer with decades of experience to the more routine case involving smaller or moderate exposure that can be handled by a younger lawyer at lower rates. We handle the defense of cargo claims involving the Carmack Amendment and other theories of recovery under state law, often asserting applicable limitations of liability on behalf of motor carrier clients. Hinshaw's attorneys also assist their clients with their own claims in the shipping and warehousing industries.

Our transportation law representation draws on our collective familiarity with the key experts in accident investigation and reconstruction, transportation regulation, biomechanics, human factors, and other areas of expertise. We can

Industry Area Contacts

Dan L. Boho
312-704-3453
dboho@hinshawlaw.com

Philip R. Kujawa
312-704-3558
pkujawa@hinshawlaw.com

Attorneys

Nicholas J. Ajello

Albert C. Angelo

Randy J. Aoyama

Alexandra E. Boland

Steven L. Boldt

Steven R. Bonanno

Christopher "Kipper" Burke

Peter H. Carlson

Brittany N. Christianson

William P. Cunningham

Eric A. Cunningham III

Emma Elizabeth "Bessie" Antin
Daschbach

Patrick P. Devine

Gina M. Diomedi

Bianca J. Feazell

Robert J. Finley

Carlton D. Fisher

Meaghan A. Fontein

Melissa A. Gillinov

Lawrence S. Gosewisch

Richard C. Harris

Arian Hashemi

David T. Hayek



assist our clients in the formation and interpretation of transportation contracts, especially where the issues include indemnification clauses, tenders of defense, insurance coverage, contract law, principal-agency, liability of brokers and shippers, and punitive damages.

Because lawsuits typically involve post-accident judgments about the conduct of drivers or other transportation actors, our knowledge and expertise in preventability issues, safety policies, product issues, and the use of de-biasing techniques to combat hindsight bias are invaluable in making the difference between an adverse result and a successful outcome.

Coordination of Accident Investigation

Hinshaw assists transportation clients in the investigation of catastrophic accidents. The firm's attorneys are highly skilled in assembling requisite teams of engineers, investigators and technicians. As trial attorneys, we have successfully protected the results of investigations from discovery utilizing available privileges and quickly addressing the areas of inquiry necessary to promptly evaluate an exposure following an accident.

Insurance Coverage Disputes

Nationally recognized in the insurance industry, Hinshaw's attorneys possess significant expertise in representing transportation insurers in coverage issues. Typical issues include the priority between insurance contracts issued to a carrier as opposed to an owner/operator of a leased vehicle, the interpretation and construction of the MCS 90 endorsement and related federal regulations. Hinshaw's attorneys routinely negotiate the complicated issues regarding the use of self-insurance and the relationship between the self-insured and the insurance carrier.

Employment Practice and Workers' Compensation Claims

Hinshaw's attorneys represent transportation clients in all aspects of employment law disputes, defending discrimination claims as well as wage and salary disputes. We also represent employers in their workers' compensation cases and provide defense to those transportation employers who are sued as third-party defendants in those states where contribution or indemnity claims are allowed against employers.

Environmental Claims

The firm's transportation and environmental litigators have defended transportation clients in matters alleging damage to property due to violations of environmental laws or regulations. This integrated team of environmental and transportation attorneys also advises clients in the event of hazardous material spills or releases, claims of water and soil contamination, clean-up obligations, and various environmental compliance matters.

J. Ryan Head
Amber S. Hemberger
Kristin A. Hoffman
Daniel Hollis
Jared Horowitz
Min K. Kang
John M. Kelly
James S. Koehler
Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic
Evan M. Kwartka
David H. Levitt
Burke G. Lopez
R. Wardell Loveland
Pablo O. Madriz
Michael G. McQuillen
Ryan E. Michaels
Mallorie D. Milord
Ayesha Z. Mohiuddin
Jonathan J. Morhaim
Michael P. Murphy
Jesse J. Nardy
Amanda B. Nowicki
Olivia Paxinos
Clinton S. Payne
C. Kieffer Petree
Christopher J. Raistrick
Stephanie B. Rivera
James C. Sanders II
Todd M. Saranecki
Mellissa A. Schafer
Kurt C. Schlueter
Esther J. Seitz
Andrew P. Trevino
Abby U. Van Grinsven
Krishna Vasudevan
Matthew Vlasman
David Vogt
Michael G. Vranicar
Matthew J. Walker



Governmental Investigations and Regulatory Issues

Hinshaw assists motor carriers and other transportation clients which maintain their own fleet of motor vehicles in complying with the numerous U.S. Department of Transportation and state regulations. Hinshaw also represents aviation businesses concerning regulatory matters and FAA/NTSB enforcement cases. This practice includes help with and/or investigations of pilot, mechanic, airline, airport, flight school and charter certification matters.

News

[2024 Edition of Chambers USA Recognizes Hinshaw for its Insurance, Aviation, and Financial Services Practices](#)

June 6, 2024

[Hinshaw Boosts West Coast Capabilities With Addition of Two Partners in Los Angeles](#)

April 25, 2024

[Three Hinshaw Partners Selected to Crain's Chicago 2024 Notable Women in Law](#)

February 20, 2024

[Hinshaw Recognized as "Distinguished in Litigation" in BTI Consulting's Litigation Outlook 2024 Survey](#)

November 16, 2023

[101 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2024 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch](#)

August 17, 2023

[2023 Edition of Chambers USA Recognizes Hinshaw for its Transportation, Insurance, and Financial Services Practices](#)

June 1, 2023

[Veteran Construction Litigator Joins Hinshaw in Chicago](#)

October 18, 2022

[Veteran Insurance Partner Joins Hinshaw in Houston](#)

September 29, 2022

[Civil and Commercial Litigator Ira Gonzalez Joins Hinshaw as a Partner in Miami](#)

February 27, 2020

[Art Laplante Profiled in Daily Business Review: a Lawyer Who Shows No Sign of Slowing Down](#)

January 7, 2019

[David Levitt Discusses Truth-in-Leasing Defense Strategies for the Trucking Industry](#)

August 16, 2018

[Terese Drew to Be Elected to American Board of Trial Advocates Board of Delegates](#)

August 26, 2016

[Peter A. Walsh](#)

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Dan Trevino Elected President of the Hispanic Lawyer's Association of Illinois
May 16, 2014

Events

Anne Couyoumjian Presents at Transit General Insurance Company 2017 Conference
October 21, 2017
Nassau, Bahamas

Tomislav Kuzmanovic to Speak at the Transportation Lawyers Association Annual Conference & CTLA Midyear Meeting
April 29, 2016
Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa Destin, Florida