



Matthew S. Dowling

PARTNER

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Practice Areas

Commercial Litigation

Labor & Employment Law

Motor Vehicle Negligence

Product Liability

Professional Liability

Torts & Litigation

Education

- University of Illinois
Chicago School of Law,
J.D., 2013
 - Law Review,
Executive Lead
Articles Editor
 - Trial Advocacy
Honors Council
 - Moot Court Honors
Council
 - Dean's List
- Indiana University
Bloomington, B.A., 2010

Admissions

Illinois, 2013

Michigan, 2024

U.S. District Court, Northern
District of Illinois, 2013

A partner in Plunkett Cooney's Chicago office, Matthew S. Dowling is an experienced litigator and trial attorney who defends product liability and wrongful death claims arising from transportation accidents and exposure to toxic substances such as asbestos.

Mr. Dowling is a member of the firm's Torts & Litigation Practice Group, and his practice includes defending an array of companies in various industries ranging from aviation to logistics and trucking to ride-sharing providers. He has successfully represented clients in cases involving catastrophic injuries allegedly caused by specific product failures and negligence actions arising from accidents on premises, as well as related employment claims.

Mr. Dowling's litigation practice includes defending numerous transportation-related claims in federal courts throughout the United States. He also represents a variety of professionals in malpractice claims, including attorneys, real estate agents and brokers, home inspectors, general contractors and architects.

In the field of aviation, Mr. Dowling has significant experience defending airlines in litigation nationwide. These cases involve physical injury, property damage, general insurance disputes and contractual issues, and wrongful death actions resulting from alleged design defects.

Clients retain Mr. Dowling because of his pragmatic and creative approach to providing cost-effective case management and claims resolution. For instance, when talc litigation started in Illinois, he spearheaded the defense of mesothelioma claims against the manufacturers of cosmetic talcum powders. He helped these Fortune

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500 companies navigate the cases and develop defense strategies. In addition, he oversaw the designated litigation team.

Representative Client Work

- Served as first and second chair in several trials involving a contractor in a toxic tort asbestos case, a motor vehicle negligence case and a contaminated talcum powder toxic tort case in Cook County, Illinois
- Handled complex litigation for multi-national corporations, including SEC defense, contractual issues and commercial litigation
- Handled an appeal involving nuanced personal jurisdiction issues in complex product liability litigation for a Fortune 500 corporation involving injuries arising from exploding lithium-ion batteries
- Successfully defended airline client in Cook County, Illinois in a wrongful death action alleging design defects with the autopilot manufactured by the defendant. This accident stems from an aircraft crash in West Virginia, resulting in the pilot's and four passengers' fatalities. After two weeks of trial, the jury returned a complete defense verdict for the client.

Representative Published Cases/Notable Cases

- *Wood v Samsung SDI Co.*, 2024 IL App (4th) 230994
- *Long v Honeywell International, Inc.*, Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois

Publications and Lectures

- "Environmental and Midwest Litigation Update," panel presentation for national insurance company, October 2023

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan
- Chicago Bar Association

Community Involvement

- Friends of Mt. Sinai Children's Hospital (Past Board Member)

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Honors & Recognitions

- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, 2018 - 2025
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*, 2022 - 2025
 - Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants
 - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants
 - Transportation Law