

People



## Shawn M. Taylor

Partner, Litigation

Chicago  
T: +1 312 634 5721

shawn.taylor@akerman.com  
vCard

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Shawn Taylor is a litigator and trial attorney who represents companies, private equity firms, and individuals on matters both big and small. His practice focuses on complex commercial and securities litigation and class action defense. He represents clients in federal and state courts, regulatory actions, arbitration and mediation, and appeals.

As a former high school teacher, Shawn believes that teaching, learning, and persuasion are the core components of effective advocacy. He uses these skills in his practice to provide informed and practical advice to clients, to question lay and expert witnesses, to gain a comprehensive understanding of complex information and then convey it in a way that helps judges and juries, and to craft logical arguments that advance the interests of his clients.

### Notable Work

**Patent Infringement:** Represented a global pharmaceutical company and served as second chair trial counsel in successfully defending against claims of patent infringement relating to a generic version of a glaucoma treatment that generated over \$500 million in annual sales.

**Breach of Contract:** Served as trial counsel for a software systems integrator in a jury trial on contract claims against the State of Missouri. After a five week trial, the jury awarded his client over \$37 million in damages and rejected the entirety of the State's affirmative defenses and counterclaims.

**Financial Services and Securities:** Represented a registered investment advisor, trustee, and custodian in settling over 50 claims relating to a \$175 million investment fraud that was perpetrated by a counterparty of the investment advisor. The claims were made by customers of the investment advisor and over 40 Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) that were customers of the trustee. The available assets, including insurance, were less than 8 percent of the

### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
Commercial Disputes  
Class Action Defense  
Financial Institutions Commercial Litigation  
Intellectual Property Litigation  
Financial Services

### Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, 2009, cum laude  
M.Ed., University of Florida, 2001  
B.A., University of Florida, 2000, with honors

### Admissions

#### Bars

Illinois

#### Courts

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

### Related Content

Akerman Prevails in Missouri Appellate Court, Affirming \$22 Million Trial Verdict in Software Dispute  
January 23, 2025

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February 11, 2019

Akerman Promotes 21 Lawyers to Partnership  
December 13, 2018

losses. After a lengthy mediation process, a settlement was achieved without insolvency proceedings or other litigation that allowed the trustee to maintain the majority of its ESOP customer relationships and also resolved an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Regulatory and Enforcement:** Represented clients in settling investigations or proceedings brought by federal agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Labor. Served as trial counsel in defending an investment advisor and its principles in a jury trial on claims brought by the SEC.

**FDCPA:** Represented multiple defendants, including a debt buyer and individual defendants, in securing the dismissal of a class action complaint asserting numerous claims under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA). In granting the motion to dismiss, the district court agreed with his argument that a materiality standard should apply to the asserted FDCPA claims.

**Administrative Review Actions:** Represented pro bono clients in challenging administrative agency decisions in the circuit court, which included briefing and arguing a motion for reconsideration, in which the court adopted his argument in full and reversed its previous ruling, and securing the reversal of state administrative agency decisions based on the manifest weight of the evidence standard.

## Published Work and Lectures

- Co-Author, “No Rubber Stamp: Preparing for Heightened Scrutiny of Settlement Agreements with Government Entities,” *Investigations Quarterly*, Winter 2011

## Affiliations

- The National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, Member
- The Chicago Bar Association, Member

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Crain’s Chicago Business*, Named a 2020 Notable LGBTQ Executives + Businesses Championing Diversity and Inclusion
- The Florida Moot Court Team, 2007, received award for best oral advocate in the Final Four Competition