

People



## Joel D. Bertocchi

Partner, Litigation

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A highly skilled civil, criminal, and appellate litigator, Joel Bertocchi handles appeals in state and federal courts and represents clients in connection with criminal and regulatory investigations and proceedings, providing counsel on compliance policies and related issues. He has argued cases in the U.S. Supreme Court and multiple federal Circuits and state appellate courts, and served as Illinois' Solicitor General, the chief appellate lawyer for the State. A former federal prosecutor, he conducts internal investigations in all areas, including corporate governance and employee misconduct, and represents defendants and witnesses in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Joel also strategically advises clients on the application of complex statutes and regulatory issues, including private and public corruption statutes, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), and fraud.

### Affiliations

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Advisory Committee on Circuit Rules, Member, 2024-Present
- American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, Board of Directors, 2020–2023; Fellow, 2015–Present
- Seventh Circuit Pattern Federal Civil Jury Instruction Committee, Member, 2002–2008; Patent Subcommittee
- Seventh Circuit Pattern Federal Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, Member, 2013–Present; Reporter, 2009–2013; Member, 1996–1999
- Seventh Circuit Bar Association, Member
- Chicago Inn of Court, Master of the Bench, President, 2016–2017
- Illinois Appellate Lawyers' Association, Member

### Honors and Distinctions

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### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
Akerman Bench  
Appellate  
White Collar Crime and Government Investigations  
Commercial Disputes  
Professional Liability  
Staffing Law

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### Education

J.D., University of Wisconsin Law School, 1983, *cum laude*  
B.A., University of Wisconsin, 1979, *with honors*

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### Admissions

#### Bars

Illinois

#### Courts

U.S. Supreme Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit  
U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin  
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

- *Super Lawyers* Magazine 2018-2020, 2022, 2024-2025, Listed in Illinois for Appellate
- *The Best Lawyers in America* 2013, Named as “Lawyer of the Year” for Appellate Practice in Chicago
- *Best Lawyers*, 2008–2025, Listed in Illinois for Appellate Practice, Bet-the-Company Litigation, and Criminal Defense: White Collar
- Leading Lawyers Network, Leading Lawyer in Civil Appellate Law
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2008–2010, Listed in Illinois for General Litigation
- Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago, Recipient of the Diversity Helping Hand Award, 2007

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## Related Content

Eleven Akerman Attorneys Recognized Among 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers  
February 05, 2025

Joel Bertocchi Appointed to Court of Appeals Advisory Committee on Circuit Rules  
August 23, 2024

Akerman Achieves Landmark Victory in Illinois Supreme Court for Jon Don, LLC  
July 08, 2024

## Published Work and Lectures

- *Illinois Bar Journal*, Co-Author, Vol. 110, “Illinois Supreme Court Leaves Questions Concerning the Statue of Limitations on Legal Malpractice,” June 2022
- Pincus Professional Education, Speaker, “Appellate Practice 101: The Nuts and Bolts,” May 2018
- American Bar Association Annual Meeting, Speaker, “Oral Argument from the Inside Out,” July 2015
- Legal Malpractice and Risk Management Conference, Speaker, “Statutory and Government Imposed Sanctions, Bribery and Money Laundering Regimes: Are Law Firms in the Crosshairs,” February 2015
- Practising Law Institute Chicago, Speaker, “Business-related Cases in the Supreme Court’s October 2012 Term,” May 2013
- Practising Law Institute Chicago, Speaker, “Business-related Cases in the Supreme Court’s October 2011 Term,” May 2012
- Seventh Circuit Judicial Conference, Speaker, “Honest Services Fraud After the *Black* and *Skilling* Decisions,” May 2011
- Pincus Professional Education, Speaker, “Seventh Circuit Boot Camp,” September 2010
- Practising Law Institute Chicago, Speaker, “Business-related Cases in the Supreme Court’s October 2009 Term,” May 2010
- Community Bankers Association of Illinois, Speaker, “Investigating Employee Misconduct,” June 2008
- *Bloomberg BNA*, Co-Author, “Federal Appellate Practice,” 2008

## Related Professional Experience

- Law Clerk to Magistrate Judge Aaron E. Goodstein, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, 1983-1985
- Staff Attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, 1985-1987