

Russell S. Ponessa

Minneapolis, MN

He/Him

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About Russ

A trial lawyer with more than three decades of experience, Russ represents companies whose products or business practices are under attack. He has a wide-ranging civil litigation practice with substantial experience in product and professional liability, medical devices, toxic torts, construction, business and other commercial disputes, and consumer claims.

Russ has tried numerous cases to verdict and handles single and multiple-claim lawsuits in state and federal courts from coast to coast. His clients are manufacturers and sellers of consumer, industrial, and healthcare products, legal, medical, and construction professionals, construction companies and contractors, insurers, banks, and other businesses.

Russ is certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and the Minnesota Civil Trial Certification Council. In 2022, he was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Russell's Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Tort and Insurance Practice Section
- Minnesota State Bar Association, Litigation Section
- Defense Research Institute
- Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association, Product Liability Committee, Former Chair

Areas of Focus

Services: Complex Tort & General Casualty; Consumer & Class Action Defense; Litigation & Trial

Experience

- *Oien v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., et al.*, 69 F. 4th 487 (8th Cir. 2023)
- *Withrow v. General Motors, et al.*, 2021 Cal. Super. LEXIS 7065
- *Markel v. Douglas Techs. Grp., Inc.*, No. 19-2637, 2020 U.S. App. LEXIS 24786 (8th Cir. Aug. 6, 2020)
- *Stewart v. Norcold, Inc., et al.*, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 45087 (D. Minn. Mar. 16, 2020)
- *Mickelson v. County of Ramsey*, 823 F.3d 918 (8th Cir. 2016), *cert. denied sub nom., Mickelson v. County of Ramsey*, Minn., 137 S. Ct. 1578 (2017)
- *Troppe v. Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc.*, 2015 WL 4992011 (D. Minn. Aug. 20, 2015)
- *HomeStar Property Solutions, LLC v. VRM Mortgage Services, Inc.*, 2015 WL 1191270 (D. Minn. Mar. 16, 2015)
- *Fitzgerald v. Zakheim & LaVrar, P.A.*, 90 F. Supp. 3d 867 (D. Minn. Feb. 11, 2015)
- *Mclvor v. Credit Control Services, Inc.*, 773 F.3d 909 (8th Cir. 2014)
- *Whitney v. The Guys, Inc.* 700 F.3d 118 (8th Cir 2012)
- *Dakota West Credit Union v. CUMIS Ins. Society, Inc.*, 532 F. Supp. 2d 1110 (D.N.D. 2008)
- *Hughes v. Black & Decker*, 2007 WL 10768 (D. Minn. Jan. 10, 2007) and 2007 WL 624333 (D. Minn. Jan. 24, 2007)
- *Wagoner v. Black & Decker*, 2006 WL 2289983 (D. Minn. Aug. 8, 2006)
- *Yoder v. Honeywell Inc.*, 104 F.3d 1215 (10th Cir. 1997)

Recognition

- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rating
- American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), Fellow
- National Board of Trial Advocacy and Minnesota Civil Trial Certification Council, Certification, Civil Trial Specialist
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, 2017 – 2026; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2017 – 2026
- *Minnesota Monthly*, Top Lawyer, Personal Injury Law, 2023; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions, 2024; Product Liability, 2025
- *Minnesota Super Lawyers*, 1998 – present; Top 100 Super Lawyers, 2012 – 2015, 2017

Credentials

Education

University of Minnesota Law School, JD, *cum laude*, 1985

University of Minnesota, BA, 1981

Bar Admissions

Minnesota

Court Admissions

US Supreme Court

US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

US District Court for the District of Colorado

US District Court for the District of Minnesota

US District Court for the District of North Dakota

Thought Leadership

Event

- **WEBCAST: Just How Absolute Is A Litigation Attorney's Immunity From Liability to A Non-Client?**, Aug 20, 2013

Hinshaw Newsletter

- **Consumer & Class Action Litigation Newsletter - December 2014 Edition**, Dec 22, 2014

Press Releases

- 102 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *Ones to Watch*™, Aug 21, 2025
- Three Hinshaw Partners Named to *Minnesota Monthly's* 2025 Top Lawyers in Minnesota, Jul 10, 2025
- 105 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2025 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch, Aug 15, 2024
- Three Hinshaw Partners Named to Minnesota Monthly's Top Lawyers of 2024, Jul 9, 2024
- 101 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2024 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch, Aug 17, 2023

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