

Peter D. Sullivan

Chicago, IL

He/Him

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About Peter

Peter has spent over 40 years navigating complex professional liability and commercial litigation, often managing cases with significant exposure. His experience defending attorneys, accountants, and financial institutions reflects practical insight and a balanced view of risk.

Peter has held numerous leadership roles at the firm before becoming Chairman in 2019. Since then, his visionary approach, enthusiasm, and decisive leadership have been central to the firm's growth in existing and new markets, as well as to strengthening client service, talent, efficiency, and profitability. He is a strong advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and fosters a firm culture built on professionalism and mutual respect.

Areas of Focus

Services: Complex Commercial Litigation ; Consumer & Class Action Defense;

Financial Services Litigation ; Litigation & Trial

Initiatives: Lawyers for the Profession®

Experience

- In 2025, successfully convinced an Illinois Appellate Court to affirm our summary judgment win in favor of a law firm client in a legal malpractice action arising out of commercial litigation over ownership, control, and alleged mismanagement of an Illinois LLC.

- In 2025, obtained complete defense verdict in New York jury trial of malpractice claims against national accounting firm, with over \$30 million in potential exposure.
- In 2025, obtained summary judgment on legal malpractice claims in Cook County, Illinois, against regional law firm involving over \$10 million in claimed damages.
- In 2024, obtained complete dismissal of claims against attorneys for malpractice and fraud in DuPage County, IL based on absolute litigation privilege, affirmed on appeal in 2025.
- In 2024, secured a complete defense arbitration award in representation of a law firm client in a bet-the-firm legal malpractice claim arising out of an underlying patent infringement case.
- In 2023-2024, obtained summary judgment in favor of national accounting firm client on claims for malpractice in New York seeking over \$25 million in damages.
- Summary judgment in favor of law firm and attorneys sued for legal malpractice in Illinois federal court arising out of alleged errors in underlying litigation, affirmed by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in 2022.
- Summary judgment in favor of law firm and attorneys sued for legal malpractice in Cook County, Illinois, affirmed by the Illinois Appellate Court in 2022.
- Obtained complete defense verdict for law firm in \$10 million legal malpractice case in Cook County, Illinois, arising out of alleged errors in drafting commercial agreement, with verdict affirmed by the Illinois Appellate Court in 2018.
- Obtained complete defense verdict for law firm in malpractice case in Cook County, Illinois, arising out of alleged errors in documentation of underlying loan transaction.
- Obtained complete defense verdict for law firm in \$10 million legal malpractice case arising out of alleged errors in underlying commercial licensing agreement, with defense verdict affirmed by the Illinois Appellate Court in 2017.

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, 2016 – 2026
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, 2005 – 2025
- *Crain's Chicago Business*, Notable Leader, Accounting, Consulting & Law, 2024
- *Leading Lawyers*, Top 10 Illinois Legal Malpractice Defense, 2018
- *Illinois Jury Verdict Reporter*, Trial Excellence Award, Defense – Attorney Malpractice, 2011
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rating
- *Leading Lawyer*, Commercial Litigation; Insurance, Insurance Coverage & Reinsurance Law; Products Liability Defense Law; Professional Malpractice Defense Law

Credentials

Education

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, JD, *with honors*, 1983

University of Notre Dame, BA, 1980

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

US District Court for the Central District of Illinois

US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, including Trial Bar

US District Court for the Southern District of Illinois

US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

US District Court for the Western District of Michigan

US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

Interests

Did you know...

Outside of the office, Peter enjoys spending time with his twelve siblings, his wife Sheli, their five children, and grandson. He also enjoys golfing, running, skiing, hiking, and supporting all Chicago sports teams.

Thought Leadership

Presentations

- Moderator, “Year in Review: Significant Developments in Legal Malpractice Cases of 2024,” Hinshaw’s 24th Annual Legal Malpractice & Risk Management (LMRM) Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 5, 2025
- Opening Remarks, “60 Million Congress,” Global Polonia Summit, Chicago, Illinois, October 19, 2024
- “The Year in Review 2023 – Significant Attorney Malpractice and Ethics Decisions,” Hinshaw’s 23rd Annual Legal Malpractice & Risk Management (LMRM) Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 6, 2024
- “Lessons from the Professional Liability Front: Claims CAN Happen to You,” ICPAS Midwest Accounting Show, Rosemont, Illinois, August 23, 2016

Event

- Justyna Regan and Peter Sullivan to Present at the Global Polonia Summit, October 18-19, 2024

In The News

- Media Coverage: Hinshaw Names Peter Sullivan as Firm Chairman, Mar 11, 2019

Press Releases

- 102 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *Ones to Watch*™, Aug 21, 2025
- Hinshaw Celebrates the Firm's 90th Anniversary, Sep 20, 2024
- Peter Sullivan and Scott Seaman Selected as Crain's Chicago Business 2024 Notable Leaders in Law, Sep 9, 2024
- 105 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2025 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch, Aug 15, 2024
- Peter Sullivan Re-elected Chairman of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Jun 3, 2024

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