

Robert T. Shannon

Chicago, IL

He/Him

📞 312-704-3901

✉️ rshannon@hinshawlaw.com



About Bob

Bob navigates complex matters to develop focused strategies at the intersection of law, government, and politics. A veteran litigator, Bob represents prominent clients, managing sensitive and high-exposure cases. With significant trial experience in state and federal courts, he was honored by the Jury Verdict Reporter for obtaining the top defense verdict of the year for a long-time client, the Chicago White Sox. Bob also has a regulatory practice, advising well-known Chicago businesses, nonprofits, elected officials, lobbyists, and public entities. He serves as Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois, Special Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County, and Special Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. Previously, he was a prosecutor in the city's Special Prosecutions Division.

Bob serves as the firm's managing partner and collaborates with the firm's management committee, DEI Committee, practice group leaders and C-suite to develop and advance its strategic plan and goals. He is also former leader and member of the firm's Government Practice Group.

Outside of work, Bob is an active member of the Economic Club of Chicago. He also is a member of the Chicago Inn of Court and the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws. He serves on the Advisory Committee for the Illinois Restaurant Association and previously held a long-standing position on the Board of Governors for Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Bob's Affiliations

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Board of Governors, 2018 – 2024
- Chicago Inn of Court
- The Economic Club of Chicago

- Illinois Restaurant Association, Advisory Council
- Council on Governmental Ethics Laws

Areas of Focus

Industries: Government

Services: Complex Commercial Litigation ; Litigation & Trial; Regulatory & Compliance ;
White Collar Defense, Investigations & Enforcement

Experience

- Lead attorney representing Cook County Sheriff in the well-known lawsuit Michael Shakman v. Democratic Party of Cook County.
- Represented Cook County Recorder of Deeds in Michael Shakman v. Democratic Party of Cook County.
- Defended the Cook County Sheriff as lead attorney in the wrongful death lawsuit Michael Chambers v. Sheriff Sheahan, arising from a wedding brawl at the Countryside Holiday Inn. Crain's Chicago Business identified this lawsuit as one of its most significant cases in 2007.
- Successfully defended reporter's privilege in a defamation case where the plaintiff had sought access to the reporter's text messages with a radio show host. Hinshaw had argued that the Illinois Reporter's Privilege protected the communications with the reporter as her journalistic work product, and the court agreed.
- Represented two US congressmen in a lawsuit by Illinois Republicans challenging the congressional map drawn by Illinois Democrats in Judy Biggert, et al. v. Illinois State Board of Elections, et al.
- Defended the State of Illinois highway construction program for minority and disadvantaged businesses against federal constitutional attack in Northern Contracting v. IDOT.
- Defended the Illinois State Treasurer in a constitutional class action lawsuit in Canel v. Rutherford.
- Lead attorney representing the Chicago White Sox in a lawsuit brought by former Kansas City Royals coach Thomas Gamboa and based upon an attack by father and son spectators during a game at US Cellular Field.
- Defended the White Sox in the Illinois Appellate Court in both Mazin v. Chicago White Sox and Marianne Fricano v. Chicago White Sox, et al.
- Defended the Cook County Jail's COVID mitigation policies against federal constitutional attack by the Northwestern University MacArthur Justice Center.
- Successful prosecution of effort to prevent an unconstitutional petition for an amendment to propose an alternative method for the Illinois redistricting process in Hooker et al., Appellees, v. Illinois State Board of Elections et al. (Support Independent Maps, Appellant). 63 NE3d 824 and 407 Ill.Dec. 392 (2016).
- Successfully defended the Cook County Sheriff's office against a constitutional class action by Northwestern University MacArthur Justice Center against Cook County Jail practices in Hudson, et al. v. Cook County Sheriff.
- Successful trial defense of Chicago White Sox security policies in Uhler v. Chicago White Sox.

- Successful trial defense of Chicago police officer in federal civil rights lawsuit *Buchanan v. Officer Hammermeister*.
- Successfully defended White Sox ballpark security practices in *Shugrue v. Chicago White Sox*.
- Successfully defended the State of Illinois Sexually Violent Persons Commitment Program against constitutional attack brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in *Hargett v. Department of Human Services*.

Recognition

- The Daniel Burnham Fellowship for Executives by Leadership Greater Chicago (LGC), 2025 Cohort
- *Jury Verdict Reporter*, Trial Lawyer Excellence, Outstanding Defense Verdict in a Premises Liability Case, Award, 2014
- *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* and *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, 40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch, 2003
- *Leading Lawyer*, Governmental, Municipal, Lobbying & Administrative Law; Commercial Litigation

Credentials

Education

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, JD, 1995

Indiana University, BA, 1991

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Interests

Did you know...

Bob is passionate about politics and government, and if he were not practicing law, he would likely return to public service.

Thought Leadership

Publications

- “[Finding the Fun at the Firm](#),” *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, July 2015

- [“Rules of the Game: For Running Back, Court Appeal Is 4th-and-Long,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, February 2015
- [“Rules of the Game: Caffeine Buzz More Than a Pick-Me-Up – New Forms of the Drug May Bring Much-Needed Regulation,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, October 2014
- [“Rules of the Game: Pot and Professional Sports?,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, April 2014
- [“Rules of the Game: Vegas, Baby - States Want Sports Betting,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, September 2013
- [“Garden State Fights for Sports Betting,”](#) *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, April 23, 2013
- [“Rules of the Game: Consequences of Armstrong’s ‘Confession’,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, March 2013
- [“Armstrong Fallout Affects Many Areas,”](#) *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, December 4, 2012
- [“Rules of the Game: Concussion Lawsuits Face Court Hurdles,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, November 2012
- [“Rules of the Game: Vilma May Shed Light on NFL Investigation,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, July 2012
- [“NCAA Reacts to Social Media Reality,”](#) *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, July 10, 2012
- [“Rules of the Game: Bounty Program Increases Focus on Injuries,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, May 2012
- [“Saints Get Hit With New Allegations,”](#) *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, May 8, 2012
- [“Concussion Controversy May Play Out in the Legal System,”](#) *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, March 13, 2012
- [“Rules of the Game: Different Takes on Toradol,”](#) *Chicago Lawyer Magazine*, March 2012
- [“Hurd’s Arrest May Lead to Larger Fallout of Other NFL Players, Teams,”](#) *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, January 10, 2012
- [“NBA Players, Owners Prepare to Salvage Season With New Agreement,”](#) *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, November 29, 2011

Hinshaw Newsletter

- National Retail Newsletter - October 2014 Edition, Nov 4, 2014

In The News

- Firm Managing Partner Robert Shannon and the Leadership Greater Chicago 2025 Daniel Burnham Fellowship Cohort Profiled in *Crain’s Chicago Business*, Sep 18, 2025
- Robert Shannon Discusses Cook County Jail COVID-19 Lawsuit on Chicago Tonight, Jul 28, 2020
- Media Coverage of Chip Schmadeke’s Appointment as Chair of the Illinois Gaming Board, Aug 12, 2019
- Media Coverage of Hinshaw Legal Team Representing Former LaSalle County State Attorney Brian Towne, Jul 20, 2017
- Hinshaw Leaders Discuss Firm Leadership Changes and Strategic Direction With The American Lawyer, May 19, 2016

Press Releases

- Robert Shannon Selected to LGC 2025 Cohort of The Daniel Burnham Fellowship for Executives, Feb 11, 2025

- Hinshaw Celebrates the Firm's 90th Anniversary, Sep 20, 2024
- Hinshaw Makes "Big Gains" in 2023 as Firm Sees Double-Digit Revenue and Profit Growth, Apr 18, 2024
- Hinshaw Partner Vaishali Rao Selected to the 2020 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellows Leadership Development Program, Jun 6, 2019
- Client Success: Illinois Restaurant Association Helps Defend City of Chicago Food Truck Ordinance against Constitutional Challenge, May 28, 2019

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