

James M. Lydon

Chicago, IL

He/Him

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About James

An experienced and accomplished trial lawyer, James maintains a broad-based litigation practice, having tried cases to verdict in state and federal courts. James handles professional liability, health care, government, business, and employment litigation.

In the professional liability litigation arena, James defends physicians, hospitals, and other health care professionals in medical negligence matters. He also handles employment-related matters, including defending discrimination, retaliation, and wrongful termination lawsuits.

In his governmental practice, James has been appointed as special assistant corporation counsel and special state's attorney to represent the City of Chicago and Cook County in civil litigation matters, including civil rights defense. These appointments have additionally included employment administrative hearings and internal investigations.

James further represents corporate clients in business disputes such as breach of contract, tortious interference with business relationships, Whistleblower Act, and false claim/*qui tam* actions. He is also experienced in white collar criminal matters and defends clients in fraud and financial-related cases.

James' Affiliations

- Society of Trial Lawyers
- Chicago Inn of Court
- US District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Federal Defender Program, Panel Attorney

Areas of Focus

Industries: Energy & Environment; Healthcare; Professional Services

Services: Labor & Employment; Litigation & Trial;

White Collar Defense, Investigations & Enforcement

Experience

- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of geriatric physician in medical malpractice wrongful death jury trial involving allegations of abuse and neglect, where plaintiff sought \$6 million plus in damages.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of ER physician in medical malpractice wrongful death jury trial involving allegation of failure to diagnose an aortic dissection, where plaintiff sought \$2.1 million in damages.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of numerous deputy sheriffs with the Cook County Sheriff's Office in a high-profile civil rights case arising from a jail riot.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of a Chicago police officer in federal civil rights jury trial involving allegations of excessive force, false arrest and malicious prosecution, where plaintiff sought in excess of \$1 million.
- Obtained favorable nominal verdict on behalf of hospital in medical malpractice wrongful death jury trial involving allegations of nursing staff's failure to properly treat and medicate psychiatric patient who died from a cardiac arrhythmia at hospital.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of hospital in premises liability jury trial where plaintiffs sought \$2.5 million.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of hospital in premises liability jury trial where plaintiff sought in excess of \$1 million.
- Successfully defended client in federal firearms case. Jury was hung (10-2, not guilty), resulting in dismissal of indictment against client.
- Successfully defended the Cook County Sheriff's Office in a high-profile, two-month preliminary injunction hearing in a federal class action case alleging constitutional rights violations at the Cook County Jail.
- Obtained guilty decision for the City of Chicago against police officer charged with misconduct in connection with a fatal shooting after an evidentiary hearing before the Chicago Police Board, resulting in employment discharge.
- Conducted internal investigation for the City of Chicago, regarding alleged Ethics Ordinance violations by a city contractor.
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a former assistant state's attorney sued in a federal civil rights lawsuit alleging wrongful conviction.
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of hospital in wrongful death medical malpractice lawsuit involving a plaintiff's decedent who died as result of a kyphoplasty procedure.

- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of hospital alleged to have violated the Illinois Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act causing plaintiff's employment termination.
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf on the Chicago White Sox in a malicious prosecution and false arrest case where plaintiff's demand was \$1 million. Affirmed on appeal.
- Obtained dismissal on behalf of a commercial real estate company sued for fraud, negligent representation and breach of fiduciary duty.
- Obtained favorable low and nominal settlement on behalf of a large accounting firm sued in qui tam False Claims Act case involving allegations of tax fraud.
- Secured a large settlement, after a successful appeal before the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, on the eve of trial on behalf of a film producer in a breach of contract, fraud and defamation case that client brought against a Canadian film company and bank.
- Negotiated a \$1.6 million settlement for a commercial real estate company in a breach of contract case brought by client against a manufacturer that failed to pay fees for public incentive benefits negotiated and secured by client.
- Prevailed in US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, obtaining partial reversal of a mandatory preliminary injunction in a putative class action brought by plaintiffs alleging risk of harm due to allegedly inadequate institutional implementation of COVID-19 protections.

Recognition

- *Leading Lawyer*, Commercial Litigation; Employment Law; Professional Malpractice Defense
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rating

Credentials

Education

Chicago-Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology, JD, 1992

University of Michigan, BA, 1988

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

Interests

Community/Civic Activities

- Constitutional Rights Foundation, Lawyers in the Classroom Program, Volunteer

Thought Leadership

Hinshaw Newsletter

- Medical Litigation Newsletter - July 2012 Edition, Jul 2, 2012

In The News

- Robert Shannon Discusses Cook County Jail COVID-19 Lawsuit on Chicago Tonight, Jul 28, 2020

Press Release

- Hinshaw's Diane Webster and James Lydon Secure Complete Defense Verdict in \$6.25 Million Wrongful Death Case, Jan 11, 2019