



Vincenzo R. Chimera

Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Vincenzo Chimera is counsel and a member of the Mass Tort and Product Liability practice group. Vincenzo concentrates his practice on toxic tort matters, including defense of matters involving exposures to asbestos, benzene, and other alleged contaminants. Vincenzo has a proven track record of success for his clients, including second chair trial experience in defense of a steel manufacturer and successful appellate defense in the Illinois First District Appellate Court and US Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a member of the Federal Trial Bar for the Northern District of Illinois. Vincenzo's experience includes significant trial court motion practice, including objections to personal jurisdiction, admissibility of expert testimony and other evidentiary issues, complex pleading issues, and constitutional challenges under the Illinois Special Legislation Clause and vested due process rights.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Vincenzo has extensive experience in all phases of discovery in civil litigation, defending bet-the-company cases in the highest risk jurisdictions in the country. He has taken numerous depositions of plaintiffs claiming toxic exposures, regularly conducting lead examination in multi-defendant mass tort actions, and depositions of expert witnesses in industrial hygiene, toxicology, medical causation, and genetics. He provides extensive analysis of toxic exposure claims and liability, providing invaluable contributions for client defense and complex risk management.

Vincenzo's experience extends to product and premises liability in defense of steel and industrial equipment manufacturers, railroad litigation, and federal civil rights matters. He twice prevailed on Rule 12(b)(6) motions to dismiss in federal court addressing the pleading standard in discrimination cases. He also successfully argued a motion to dismiss a time barred claim as precluded from filing under vested due process rights in Illinois state court. Prior to his admission to the bar, Vincenzo served as a judicial extern for Judge Thomas M. Durkin of the Northern District of Illinois and the late Judge James P. Flannery Jr., who presided over the Cook County Law Division. Vincenzo also completed an internship with the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, where he prosecuted petty offenses, prepared a Seventh Circuit brief, and assisted a wire fraud prosecution trial team in obtaining a conviction.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Harris Martin's Midwest Asbestos Litigation Conference, September 2021: Issues in Employee Cases

EDUCATION

- J.D., Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, 2015 (*cum laude*)
- B.A., Carthage College, 2012 (*magna cum laude*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Illinois
- Bar of Missouri
- United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 23 February 2024, Formaldehyde - Why Manufacturers Should Be Paying Attention
- 30 June 2023, US Supreme Court Holds Business Registration Subjects Out-of-State Companies to General Personal Jurisdiction

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “The Litigation Issue 2023—Chemical Considerations,” *Best Lawyers*, 1 September 2023
- “Can the New Illinois Asbestos Exemption Amendment to the Construction Statute of Repose Revive Time-Barred Claims?” *IADC Committee Newsletter: Toxic and Hazardous Substances Litigation*, May 2015.

NEWS & EVENTS

- 8 June 2023, Defending Premises Claims in Toxic Tort Cases, Hosted by Illinois Defense Counsel

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mass Tort

- Commercial Disputes
- Product Liability

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Second chair trial counsel in defense of asbestos premises liability matters, with substantial findings of plaintiff contributory fault in two jury trials.
- Successful negotiations of settlements in dozens of mass tort matters.
- Oversight and defense of toxic tort matters throughout the State of Illinois, including coordination of expert discovery.