

Joseph J. O'Hara Jr.

Of Counsel

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Joe O'Hara spent the first part of his legal career mastering the challenge of trial work, handling everything from complex commercial disputes to catastrophic personal injury cases to unconstitutional conditions in a now closed jail. His trial work took him across the country, and his record of success on behalf of his clients was extraordinary—so extraordinary, in fact, that a major client recruited him to come in house to create and implement a nationwide strategy to manage company-threatening litigation for almost a dozen years.



In 2018, Joe launched the next phase of his career, again focusing his skills as a trial lawyer and a complex litigation manager on a new set of goals. His work at RSHC emphasizes the representation of clients who have been wrongfully convicted and who seek justice in the criminal and civil courts. This is an area where RSHC has already developed substantial experience and achieved remarkable success. Joe both leads and advises teams seeking to free those who have been wrongfully incarcerated and to compensate them for devastating violations of their constitutional rights.

CREDENTIALS

Education

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, J.D., 1981, Editorial Board, *Northwestern University Law Review*
Marquette University, B.S., 1975

Bar Admissions

Illinois
New York
Ohio
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

Professional Memberships

Former Member of Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel
Former Member of the Board of Directors
Former Executive Editor, IDC Quarterly

Past Teaching Appointments

Faculty Member, Illinois Defense Counsel (IDC) Trial Academy

Honors & Awards

Illinois Leading Lawyer

Law Bulletin Media Leading Lawyers (2003-2005, 2008-2015, 2018-2024)

RSHC Pro Bono Award (2023)

Illinois Super Lawyers

Thomson Reuters (2005-2009, 2011-2012, 2014-2017, 2019-2024)

2016 Irish Legal 100

The Best Lawyers in America

Best Lawyers® (Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions-Defendants, 2007-2016)

2014 Chicago Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions-Defendants “Lawyer of the Year”

Best Lawyers®

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Civic and Charitable Memberships

Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, MI

President (2023-2024)

St. Luke’s Hospital (Maumee, OH), Former Member of Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Finance Committee

Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Former Member of Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Orchestra Relations Committee

Chair of Music Director Search Committee