

Stephen B. Higgins

THOMPSON COBURN LLP

From the beginning of his legal career more than 30 years ago, Steve Higgins has maintained an active trial and litigation practice in the areas of complex commercial disputes and criminal fraud and misconduct.

For more than 25 years, Higgins' practice has concentrated on the trial and management of complex, document intensive cases involving the cable and telecommunications industries. In recent years, Higgins and his legal team at Thompson Coburn have successfully litigated a number of high profile cases for Charter Communications Inc. and AT&T Inc., ranging from the dismissal of nationwide class action lawsuits to winning a precedent-setting case limiting the power of government entities to impose right of way fees on telecommunications companies. In one matter for Charter, Higgins successfully argued before the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals a case limiting the obligations of internet service providers to comply with copyright subpoenas issued by the Recording Industry Association of America.

Utilizing skills developed as a prize-winning investigative reporter and later as a federal prosecutor of high profile public corruption cases, Higgins has also conducted numerous investigations for public and private entities. In one such inquiry, Higgins and CPA firm Grant Thornton represented the public service commissions of North Carolina and South Carolina in an investigation of a whistleblower's accounting fraud allegations against Duke Energy. That inquiry resulted in Duke paying a \$25 million fine to regulators. Last year, Higgins and other Thompson Coburn attorneys conducted a nine-month international investigation addressing export control issues on behalf of the Celanese Corporation, a global chemical company client.

Higgins has also conducted numerous internal investigations on behalf of corporate clients and frequently counsels businesses in the establishment of corporate compliance programs. He has also represented a number of corporate and executive clients in the health care, financial services, automotive and manufacturing industries in federal white collar investigations and trials. One, a month-long Medicare fraud trial, was spotlighted by the ABA's National Institute on Health Care Fraud.

As United States Attorney for Eastern Missouri prior to joining Thompson Coburn, Higgins worked with a range of regulatory and law enforcement agencies to establish regional enforcement initiatives and coordinated numerous high profile prosecutions in the white collar, banking and environmental areas. In earlier service with the Department of Justice, Higgins served as first-chair in the trial of a number of widely publicized and highly complex political corruption, fraud and racketeering cases.



Employment

- **Thompson Coburn LLP**
Partner (1993-Present)
- **United States Attorney**
Eastern District of Missouri
(1990-1993)
- **Assistant United States Attorney**
Eastern District of Missouri
(1976-1980)
- **Private Practice** (1980-1990)
- **St. Louis Globe Democrat**
(1970-1976)
Investigative Reporter

Education and Academic Honors

- **Saint Louis University School of Law**
(J.D., 1976)
Law Journal Staff
Recipient, *1993 Alumni Award of Merit*
- **Yale University**
(B.A., 1968) (Honors Major, American Studies)

Higgins has also been active in bar, political and community affairs. He has served on the executive committee of the Missouri Republican Party, been active in Presidential campaigns and chaired the reelection efforts of statewide officeholders. He has served in leadership positions on behalf of a number of St. Louis region arts and cultural institutions. Higgins has also served on a number of court appointed committees. Before embarking upon his legal career, Higgins served 15 months in Vietnam as an Army officer attached to the Phoenix program. He chairs Thompson Coburn's Business Litigation Practice Group and serves on the firm's Executive, Management and Contributions Committees.

Military

- **U.S. Army**
First Lieutenant (1968–1970) Republic of South Vietnam
Decorated, Bronze Star and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry

Representative Clients

- AT&T Inc.
- Celanese Corporation
- Charter Communications, Inc.
- UniGroup, Inc.
- US Bank