



## Jason Wheeler

Partner

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### PRACTICES

- Appellate Litigation
- Tobacco Litigation
- Products Liability

### EDUCATION

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 2000
- University of Missouri-Columbia, B.A., Political Science, magna cum laude, 1997
- University of Missouri-Columbia, B.A., Philosophy, magna cum laude, 1997

### ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Missouri
- New York
- Texas
- Illinois USDC, Northern District
- Kansas USDC
- Michigan USDC, Eastern District
- Missouri USDC, Eastern District
- Missouri USDC, Western District
- New York USDC, Southern District
- Texas USDC, Northern District
- US Ct Appeals, 5th Circuit (LA, MS, TX)
- US Ct Appeals, 8th Circuit (AR, IA, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD)

Jason is a dynamic and highly effective litigator who develops and executes creative solutions to resolve product liability, personal injury, and commercial disputes in state and federal courts across the country.

Jason focuses on the representation of domestic and international companies in a variety of industries, whether for a large portfolio of claims or a single high-risk lawsuit. He guides clients through all phases of litigation so the clients can devote their resources to the important work of running their business. In every matter, he is laser-focused on the client's interests and the need to efficiently execute strategies to promote those interests.

Jason began his career serving critical roles on several of the largest cases in U.S. history. His responsibilities gave him opportunities most young associates never dream of, including working with world-renowned litigators and scientific experts, practicing the art of litigation at the highest level of risk and complexity, and learning first-hand the creative thinking needed to defeat high-exposure claims.

These opportunities also taught him the importance of employing an interdisciplinary approach to modern litigation. Jason recognizes that identifying and mastering the scientific, engineering, or other technical issues in a claim frequently yields the best strategies for successful outcomes. Jason works directly with his clients and their internal experts to quickly identify these issues in order to get ahead of opposing lawyers' understanding of the claims. This front-end investigation has proved extremely effective in securing favorable outcomes in an efficient manner. Jason prides himself on this proven ability to leverage his experience and knowledge for his clients, whether in deposing technical and medical experts, quickly mastering complex fields, negotiating favorable settlements, or advancing dispositive motions.

Jason has substantial experience developing strategic partnerships with local counsel in jurisdictions all over the country. He carefully manages those partnerships to build the best team for each matter, ensuring all team members complete their tasks efficiently and with the upmost precision.

## RECOGNITIONS

- Included in "Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers" Rising Stars list (by Thomson Reuters), 2009-2010; 2013-2015

## REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- Auto Kabel of North America, Inc.
- Bodum USA, Inc.
- Lufthansa Cargo AG
- Spectrum Brands
- Tubos Reunidos-America Inc. and Tubos Re

## AFFILIATIONS

- Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers
- American Bar Association
- Missouri Bar Association
- Illinois Bar Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, Chair, Trial Advocacy Competition Committee, 2005-2010, Recipient of Young Lawyers' Division "Award of Merit", 2006-2007

## EMPLOYMENT

- Thompson Coburn LLP Partner, 2009-Present Associate, 2000-2009

## Experience

### • National counsel for major consumer products company

Jason currently serves as national counsel for a federally regulated consumer product manufacturing company. In that capacity, Jason has developed a skill for crafting sophisticated legal strategies that maximize favorable outcomes for a large portfolio of claims and lawsuits ranging from a few thousand dollars to tens of millions of dollars in potential exposure. This portfolio is truly national in scope, with disputes arising in jurisdictions from Massachusetts to California and most points in between.

### • Primary U.S. counsel for foreign manufacturers

Through his long-standing relationship with a major international insurer, Jason represents foreign companies facing product liability, commercial, or other litigation in the U.S. He helps these companies navigate a foreign legal system, evaluate their options, and swiftly pinpoint the best avenue for the resolution of the claim — all while protecting his clients' rights under international law. Jason has successfully resolved numerous claims for international clients through summary judgment, jurisdictional defenses, and leveraged settlement.

### • Complex litigation experience

Jason served on the trial teams in the *Blankenship* litigation, the first-ever medical monitoring class action involving smokers tried to a verdict in the United States, as well as the *United States v. Philip Morris* litigation, a 10-month trial involving civil RICO claims brought by the Department of Justice against the tobacco industry. Jason also served on case teams for eight- and nine-figure lawsuits involving wrongful death claims, catastrophic injury claims, antitrust claims, RICO claims, and other complex commercial disputes.