



Steven M. Ruffalo

Partner

Office: Chicago

sruffalo@kdlegal.com

p: 312-651-2434

f: 312-423-9303

Steven Ruffalo is a Partner in the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice. He has extensive experience in litigating, trying, and settling a wide range of cases across Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana. His practice focuses on distilling complex disputes into practical solutions, often working with corporate and individual clients on issues including professional malpractice, business conflicts, contested estates, financial exploitation, property disputes, employment matters, and corporate governance issues.

Steven frequently provides pre-litigation counsel, helping clients proactively address potential disputes and avoid costly litigation. Through mediation and strategic resolution techniques, he has shielded clients from prolonged litigation, fostering efficient, confidential outcomes.

Education

- J.D., University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, 1988
- M.B.A., Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, 1988
- B.S. in Business Management, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 1984

Bar & Court Admissions

- Illinois, 1989
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals Seventh Circuit
- Federal Trial Bar U.S. District Court for the Northern District of IL
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of WI

Practices

- Business Services

- Corporate Governance
- Privately and Closely-Held Businesses
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Class Action and Multi-Party Litigation
- Financial Services Litigation
- Local Counsel Representation
- Municipal and Governmental Litigation
- Trust and Estate Litigation
- Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation
- Labor and Employment

Industries

- Financial Services
- Real Estate

Representative Experience

- Represented employers and senior executives in employment disputes over restrictive covenants and wrongful termination.
- Defended employers in BIPA-related class and collective actions, including handling coverage disputes.
- Provided general and litigation counsel to mid-market, closely held companies across sectors, including a global logistics provider, food and beverage co-packer, contractor supply and rental center, national accounting firm, and insurance casualty broker.

Professional Associations

- Member; Past-President; Chair, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, DuPage County Bar Association
- Member, Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee

Civic Involvement

- President, DuPage County Bar Association

- Board of Directors, Anima - Glenn Ellyn Children's Chorus
- Board of Directors, College of DuPage Foundation
- Ethics Officer, The Village of Glen Ellyn
- Secretary, Medinah Country Club
- Special Counsel, College of DuPage

Awards & Recognitions

- Martindale-Hubbell AV Peer & Client Rated, 1999-Present
- AVVO Superb Rating
- Leading Lawyer, Nation's Top Lawyers

Seminars & Presentations

- Presenter, Arbitration and Mediation Case Law Updates & Trends, October 30, 2024
- Presenter, Current Trends in Arbitration and Effective Mediation Strategies, DuPage County Bar Association, May 19, 2024
- Presenter, Developments in the Enforceability of Arbitration Clauses, DuPage County Bar Association, November 14, 2023
- Presenter, Legal Action Television Program Starting Your Own Business, DuPage County Bar Association, 2012

Publications

- Author, "In the Matter of Good v. Evil: Good's Motion to Intervene," DuPage County Bar Association, December 2010
- Author, "Pretrial Settlement Conferences: A Roundtable Discussion With Judges Patrick J. Leston, Hollis L. Webster and Bonnie M. Wheaton," DuPage County Bar Association