

## Robert J. Trizna

ATTORNEY AT LAW, CHICAGO

One of the qualities that makes Robert Trizna such an effective litigator is his ability to distill the most complex and arcane facts and law into readily understandable concepts, which he then communicates in a compelling manner. His insight and feel for what does and does not matter and—more important—for what will persuade a judge or jury, explain why his opinions are sought and valued by both his colleagues and his clients.

Bob honed these qualities during a clerkship with United States District Judge George N. Leighton and, afterward, as a litigation associate with a major international law firm. A craving for the kind of hands-on trial experience he had observed while clerking inspired him to start his own law firm, which he built and managed in various sizes and incarnations for nearly 15 years. During this time his practice evolved from its exclusive focus on litigation to include business transactions and counseling services, and he began to employ analytical and trial skills proactively not only to assess and resolve his clients' disputes, but also to help them anticipate and avoid future problems through preventative audits and transactional counseling.

As the synergies of his dual practices placed more demands on him and his firm, Bob saw Schuyler Roche's size and structure as the appropriately sophisticated yet collegial platform for enhancing the scope and quality of the services he could offer his clients.



### CONTACT INFO

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### PRACTICE AREAS

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Commercial and Employment Litigation

Labor Arbitration and Litigation

Intellectual Property Litigation

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

As a litigator and trial attorney, Bob has represented a diverse group of national and international businesses. In recent years he has acquired experience litigating disputes under the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and, consequently, now also counsels clients regarding its mandates.

During his career Bob has served as lead counsel on hundreds of commercial, employment, trade secret, personal injury and property damage cases, trying a variety of them to both judges and juries. Among the reported cases for which he served as lead trial or appellate counsel are:

- *International Armor & Limousine Company v. Moloney Coachbuilders, Inc.*, 272 F.3d 912 (7th Cir. 2001), in which he represented a limousine and armored vehicle manufacturer in a suit involving contract, trademark and federal jurisdiction issues
- *International Union UAW v. BVR Liquidating*, 190 F.3d 768 (6th Cir. 1999), in which he represented a manufacturer of aerospace products in an ERISA dispute concerning the vesting of retiree healthcare benefits provided under a collective bargaining agreement
- *Board of Trustees, Sheet Metal Workers v. Illinois Range*, 71 F.Supp.2d 864 (N.D. Ill. 1999), in which he represented shareholders of a restaurant equipment manufacturer on claims against them for that corporation's ERISA-based pension plan withdrawal obligations
- *Creys Complex, Inc., v. Marriott Corporation*, 98 F.3d 321 (7th Cir. 1996), in which he represented Marriott Corporation in a commercial real estate contract dispute
- *Greer Properties, Inc., v. LaSalle National Bank*, 874 F.2d 457 (7th Cir. 1989), involving the conditional contract rights of a Marriott Corporation subsidiary in the acquisition of commercial real estate
- *American National Bank v. Bentley*, 512 N.E.2d 12 (1st Dist. 1987), in which he resolved partnership liability issues
- *Bartsch v. Gordon N. Plumb, Inc.*, 485 N.E.2d 1105 (1st Dist. 1985), in which he resolved complex real estate, contract and Illinois court procedural issues.

## EXPERIENCE

Schuyler, Roche & Zwirner, P.C.  
Chicago, Illinois

*Attorney at Law*  
1997 to Present

Trizna & Lepri  
Chicago, Illinois

*Partner*  
1984 to 1996

McDermott, Will & Emery  
Chicago, Illinois

*Associate*  
1980 to 1983

Honorable George N. Leighton,  
United States District Court  
Chicago, Illinois

*Law Clerk*  
1978 to 1980

The John Marshall Law School  
Chicago, Illinois

*Instructor in Appellate Advocacy*  
1977 to 1978

## ACHIEVEMENTS

In his more than 20 years as a trial and appellate advocate, Bob has also developed an understanding of and appreciation for certain forms of alternative dispute resolution, which he has used in appropriate situations to advance his clients' interests and objectives with a greater degree of predictability, cost-effectiveness and confidentiality than is normally possible through litigation.

Bob also serves as primary outside counsel to small and medium-sized businesses, as well as to the people who own and run them. In that capacity, he provides advice over a broad spectrum of business-oriented legal issues on such matters as corporate and partnership governance; labor and employment relations; contract negotiations and drafting; sales, distribution and marketing; real estate acquisition and leasing; and the protection of intellectual property and trade secrets.

Bob possesses a keen understanding of the need for crafting cost-effective solutions to business problems, whether at the transactional or litigation stage. If your business needs a hard-nosed but practical advisor, negotiator and litigator, call Robert Trizna.

## EDUCATION AND DISTINCTIONS

J.D., The John Marshall Law School,  
Chicago, Illinois, 1978.

Staff member, *The John Marshall Journal  
of Practice and Procedure*, 1977 to 1978.

Team member, Robert F. Wagner National  
Labor Law Moot Court, 1977 and 1978.

A.B., English, University of Notre Dame,  
South Bend, Indiana, 1974.

## PEER RECOGNITION

Illinois Super Lawyers, *Law & Politics*,  
since 2005.

## LECTURES

"Challenging the Myths of Alternative Dispute  
Resolution," Business Litigation Seminar, Illinois  
Association of Defense Trial Counsel, 2002.

## PUBLICATIONS

"The Permissible Scope of Public Sector  
Collective Bargaining in Illinois: A Proposed  
Solution" (*The John Marshall Journal  
of Practice and Procedure*, 1979).

**BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**  
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Illinois, 1979

United States District Court  
for the Northern District of Illinois,  
General Bar and Trial Bar, 1980

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Seventh Circuit, 1985

United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Wisconsin,  
1992

United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Michigan,  
1997

United States Court of Appeals  
for the Sixth Circuit, 1997

United States Supreme Court, 1999

**PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERSHIP**  
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American Bar Association (sections on Alternative Dispute Resolution  
and Litigation)

Illinois State Bar Association (sections on Alternative Dispute  
Resolution, Civil Practice and Procedure, Tort Law, Intellectual Property  
and Corporations)

Chicago Bar Association (Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee;  
vice chair, 1994 to 1995; chair, 1995 to 1996)

**CIVIC AFFILIATIONS**  
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Park Ridge Recreation and Park District; commissioner, 1997 to 2005;  
president, 2004 to 2005.