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Timothy S. Rigsbee

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Biography

Tim Rigsbee represents plaintiffs and defendants in all aspects of commercial litigation, including high-stakes matters involving breach of contract and commercial lease disputes, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, trade secrets, trademarks, licensing disputes, and professional liability. He has broad experience in mediation, arbitration, trial, and appealate proceedingsl in state and federal courts.

Tim has a strong record of success representing clients ranging from Fortune 50 companies to smaller, family-run entities in bet-the-company cases. He leverages this extensive experience to develop legal strategies that are both cost-efficient and aligned with his clients' goals. He also brings a high level of professionalism to every engagement, earning respect from both the bench and the bar.

Before joining the firm, Tim served as a law clerk to Justice John L. Nickels on the Illinois Supreme Court.

Representative Matters

- Brought breach of contract and Lanham Act claims on behalf of a manufacturing company against a distributor who created a competing product. Obtained injunctive relief prohibiting use of

deceptive trade names, and recovered a multi-million dollar damages judgment and attorney's fees.
- Defended a major international hotel company in a lease dispute in which the building owner sought $35 million in damages. Obtained summary judgment on all the building owner's claims and a ruling that the owner had wrongfully terminated the lease and owed damages to our client.
- Successfully defended copier supply wholesalers in $3.8M federal lawsuit; obtained summary judgment on most claims and a jury verdict awarding our client over $1M more than the opposing party recovered.
- Represented a national insurance company in breach of contract and fiduciary duty claims following a raid of 20 employees. Secured a Georgia Supreme Court ruling upholding all restrictive covenants and prohibiting the former employees from soliciting the company's customers and staff.
- Defended a departing employee against breach of non-solicitation and trade secret claims brought by a tech company. Secured Eleventh Circuit ruling affirming dismissal of all claims.
- Defended an international hotel company in disputes over fiduciary duties and a resort operating agreement. Successfully blocked injunctive relief that would have forced the client to surrender the property.
- Pursued ERISA claim on behalf of a former employee seriously injured in a plane crash. Secured injunctive relief requiring the plan administrator to provide coverage; damages claim resolved for a confidential amount.
- Defended an international printing supplies distributor against claims by a foreign manufacturer. Obtained summary judgment on eight counts; all client counterclaims survived and proceeded to trial.
- Defended officers and directors of a failed insurance company against RICO claims.
- Acted for a carpet manufacturer in an antitrust class action.
- Successfully secured commissions for a broker in a dispute over a co-brokerage agreement involving a New York skyscraper.
- Advised former owners of a defibrillator company in a dispute over an earn-out provision.
- Handled fraud and breach of contract claims on behalf of former owners of an automotive parts company following the sale of the business.
- Counseled orthotic device manufacturers in a patent dispute with a former employee.
- Litigated patent claims for orthotic device manufacturers in conflict with a former employee.
- Resolved contract dispute for a distributor against a consumer electronics company.
- Defended a shopping mall owner in a foreclosure action brought by a bank.

Professional Activities

- Atlanta Bar Association, Georgia's Lawyer vs. Lawyer Dispute Resolution Program, Chair
- State Bar of Georgia, Administrative Rules Committee, Member
- State Bar of Georgia, Study Committee for the Restrictive Covenants Act, Member

- Atlanta Bar Association, Litigation Section, Member
- Georgia Bar Association, Member
- Lawyer’s Club of Atlanta, Member
- Lumpkin Inn of Court, Barrister, 2001-2002

Honors & Awards

- Georgia Rising Star, 2006 - 2007

Credentials

Education

- Northern Illinois University College of Law, J.D., 1993, Summa Cum Laude
    - Dean’s Prize
    - Articles Editor, Editorial Board, Northern Illinois Law Review
- University of Colorado, B.A., 1990

Previous Experience

- Senior Law Clerk, Judge John L. Nickels, Illinois Supreme Court, 1993-1998

Admissions

- State Bar of Georgia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- State Bar of Illinois
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Thought Leadership

- Speaker, ACC-Georgia Chapter Value Challenge Event
- Author, “Standing Erie on its Head: Should Federal Law Govern Pleading Standards for Section 1983 Claims in Illinois State Courts?” – *16 DuPage Co. Bar J. 38, 1998*
- Author, “Federal Restrictions on Forum Selection Clauses” – *13 Northern Illinois University Law Review, 145*