

Joseph “J.J.” Nelson

Associate

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Overview

Joseph “J.J.” Nelson is an associate in DiCello Levitt’s Chicago office, where his practice focuses on complex litigation, including class actions and commercial disputes.

Before joining DiCello Levitt, J.J. clerked for judges at various levels of the judiciary, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the Supreme Court of Ohio. In these positions, he conducted extensive research, drafted opinions and orders, and advised judges on a broad range of issues.

J.J. earned his law degree and graduated *cum laude* from Cleveland State University College of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Global Business Law Review*, regional moot court director for the Black Law Students Association, and research assistant for Professor Heidi Gorovitz Robertson. J.J. earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Mount Union, where he participated in the school’s track and field team.

Practice Areas

CLASS ACTION LITIGATION

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

PUBLIC CLIENT

Education

Cleveland State University College of Law, J.D., *cum laude* Cleveland State University Monte

Ahuja College of Business, M.B.A. University of Mount Union

Awards & Honors

Leadership Academy Scholar, **American Bar Association** (2026)

Top 40 Under 40, ***The National Black Lawyers*** (2025)

Publications & Presentations

"The Perception of Prestige in the Legal Profession," *@theBar*, Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section (YLS), November 11, 2026

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: When the Class Representative Can No Longer Serve," *The National Law Journal*, August 2026

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: Megafunds—An Outdated Concept That Was Wrong From the Outset," *The National Law Journal*, December 2025

Admissions & Memberships

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Ohio

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

Memberships

Chicago Bar Association, 2026 Nominating Committee

Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section, Inclusion and Engagement Officer (2025-2026)

Cook County Bar Association

Black Men Lawyers' Association