



## Justin J. Hawal

Partner

Cleveland

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### Overview

Justin Hawal's work spans a broad range of practice areas, with special expertise in complex catastrophic injury, civil rights abuse, mass tort, and class action litigations.

Justin's practice also encompasses police misconduct, human trafficking, and sex abuse. He currently represents dozens of women in the largest international sex trafficking lawsuit in U.S. history against Peter Nygard and his companies. Justin was integral to the consumer plaintiffs' success in the Equifax data breach multidistrict litigation, the largest consumer data breach settlement in U.S. history.

Justin was recently one of only 40 attorneys nationwide to be named a 2021 *National Law Journal* "Elite Trial Lawyers: Rising Star." Justin was also awarded *Public Justice's* 2021 "Trial Lawyer of the Year" for his work on the trial team in *Black v. Hicks*, a groundbreaking civil rights case involving shocking police misconduct and resulting in a \$50 million jury award. During law school, Justin was selected as a member of the Cleveland State Law Review and published a scholarly article regarding independent tort actions for spoliation of evidence under Ohio law. He was also an active member of the civil litigation clinic, through which he represented an asylum-seeking immigrant from Honduras fleeing gang violence.

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### Practice Areas

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATION

CLASS ACTION LITIGATION

PERSONAL INJURY

PRODUCT LIABILITY

PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND CYBERSECURITY

WHISTLEBLOWER LITIGATION

## Education

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Cleveland Marshall College of Law, J.D., *cum laude*

Saint Louis University, B.A., *cum laude*

## Awards & Honors

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40 & Under, ***Benchmark Litigation*** (2025)

How I Made It, ***Law.com*** (2024)

Trial Lawyer of the Year, ***Public Justice*** (2021)

Elite Trial Lawyers: Rising Star, ***The National Law Journal*** (2021)

Kentucky and Ohio Rising Star, ***Super Lawyers*** (listed annually since 2020)

## Publications & Presentations

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### Publications and Presentations

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: The Burden of Proof for Class Certification," *National Law Journal*, September 2023

Preserving Client Anonymity in Sex Abuse and Sex Trafficking Cases," *New York Law Journal* (July 21, 2020)

"2015 Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," Ohio Association for Justice (Winter 2015)

## Admissions & Memberships

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**Bar Admissions**

Ohio

**Court Admissions**

U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania

**Memberships**

American Association for Justice

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

Ohio Association for Justice

Ohio State Bar Association