



John E. Tangren

Partner

Chicago

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Overview

As Chair of the Firm's Consumer Products Group, John Tangren has exclusively represented plaintiffs for the past decade in multistate automotive defect class actions. In addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars he's recovered for his clients, he also obtained nearly half a million dollars in sanctions for discovery misconduct in a class action involving unintended acceleration in Ford vehicles. Most recently, John was a member of a trial team and led plaintiffs' presentation on damages in a multi-state class action involving oil consumption of trucks and sports-utility vehicles, in which the jury awarded the class \$102.6 million. The verdict—a rarity in class action litigation—is one of the highest-ever achieved for an automotive defect class action, setting the bar for litigating similar cases across the country. In another case, involving ignition switch defects, John served as Settlement Allocation Counsel in a blockbuster \$121.1 million settlement against General Motors.

John's professional accomplishments are among the most impressive in the country. He has recovered hundreds of millions of dollars in product defect cases, including \$600 million for property damage caused by an herbicide, \$135 million for defective heavy truck engines, and \$45 million and \$40 million in cases involving defective SUV parts, all while setting himself apart as an expert legal writer and tactician.

John's expertise in legal writing is recognized in the community; John frequently presents to other lawyers on how to best communicate their message, present advocacy in compelling ways, and use tools and technology to streamline the process. He also presents on other topics—ranging from communications with absent class members at an annual antitrust conference, to issues related to Article III standing in the federal court system. Some of his other presentations have included a lecture to members of the Chicago Bar Association concerning the Class Action Fairness Act and its impact on litigation since its passage, the use of discovery tools and techniques for electronically-stored information, and how to avoid legal ethics



violations and liability for malpractice by following established protocols and procedures.

John has been recognized as an Illinois Super Lawyer, in the National Trial Lawyers “Top 40 Under 40,” and as an Emerging Lawyer by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company.

Practice Areas

AGRICULTURE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY LITIGATION

ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION LITIGATION

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

SECURITIES AND FINANCIAL PRODUCTS LITIGATION

PRODUCT LIABILITY

Education

University of Chicago Law School, J.D. *with honors*

University of Chicago, B.A. *with honors*

Representative Matters

Played a significant role in the successful appeal of *Messner v. Northshore University HealthSystem*, 669 F.3d 802 (7th Cir. 2012), which established important precedent for class certification.

Played a significant role in the successful appeal of *In re Text Messaging Antitrust Litigation*, 630 F.3d 622 (7th Cir. 2010), which established important precedent for complaint pleading standards in antitrust cases.

Obtained nearly half a million dollars in discovery sanctions for uncovering the defendant's discovery misconduct in class action litigation involving unintended acceleration in various Ford vehicles.

Represented plaintiffs in nationwide class action over toxic herbicide, resulting in a \$550 million settlement.

Represented plaintiffs in nationwide class action over leaking plastic cooling tubes in SUVs, resulting in a \$45 million settlement.

Represented plaintiffs in nationwide class action over student loan marketing, resulting in a \$9.75 million settlement.

Awards & Honors

500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers, *Lawdragon* (2025-2026)

Notable Litigators & Trial Attorneys, *Crain's Chicago Business* (2025)

Illinois Super Lawyers Honoree, *Super Lawyers*, (2017-2025)

Illinois Rising Star, *Super Lawyers* (2011, 2013-2016)

Emerging Lawyer, *Law Bulletin Publishing Company* (2015-2018)

Top 40 Under 40, *National Trial Lawyers* (2012)

Publications & Presentations

Publications

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: Manifestation Redux," *National Law Journal*, January 2025

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: Reevaluating the Rule Against One-Way Intervention," *National Law Journal*, October 2024

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: Objections to Class Action Settlements," *National Law Journal*, January 2024

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: 'Nuclear Verdicts' – Opportunistic Alarmism Disguised as Advocacy," *National Law Journal*, November 2023

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: Arbitration and Class Action Waivers—The Hypocrisy of the 'Textualists'" *National Law Journal*, October 2023

Contributor, "Arguing Class Actions: The Value of a Trial-First Approach in Post-Pandemic Class Actions," *National Law Journal*, May 2023

Class Action Litigation: Avoiding Legal Ethics Violations and Malpractice Liability, Strafford CLE Webinar (2018, 2020)

CAFA: 12 Years Later, Chicago Bar Association Class Action Committee (2017)

"The Potential Perils of Deposition Objections to Form," *The Illinois Employment Advocate* (Aug. 2015)



Lessons on Motions to Dismiss from Other Car Defect Cases, HarrisMartin MDL Conference:
General Motors Ignition Switch Recall Litigation (2014)

The Use of Absent Class Member Discovery on Issues of Class Certification, National
Consumer Class Action Litigation & Management Conference (2013)

ESI For Beginners, Seventh Circuit Conference of the National Employment Lawyers
Association (2013)

Media Commentary

Quoted, "GM Judge Says 'Extraordinary' \$57M Atty Fees Are Warranted," [Law360](#), October 6,
2025

Admissions & Memberships

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Courts of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. States District Court, District of Colorado

U.S. States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

U.S. States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan

Memberships

Chicago Bar Association