



Robert W. Vaccaro

Of Counsel

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Overview

Rob's litigation practice includes the trial and appeal of commercial, insurance coverage, and product liability disputes. He represents large corporations, small businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals in state and federal courts throughout the country.

Rob represents sophisticated parties in the energy, financial and manufacturing industries. He has defended product liability cases arising out of various products, including:

- ♦ Aviation
- ♦ Chemicals
- ♦ Construction
- ♦ Consumer and commercial heating
- ♦ Industrial controls
- ♦ Dairy equipment
- ♦ Medical devices

Rob also represents insurers and insureds in litigation involving Commercial General Liability (CGL) policies, Errors and Omissions (E&O) policies, Directors and Officers Liability (D&O) policies, and Homeowners policies, among others. Finally, Rob has handled a variety of other litigation—including cases involving clergy misconduct, privacy, real estate, and securities matters—as well as significant local counsel assignments statewide.

Education

- ♦ Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 2001

Services

- ♦ Commercial Litigation
- ♦ Appellate
- ♦ Products Liability
- ♦ Catastrophic Loss
- ♦ Insurance

State Bar Admissions

- ♦ Minnesota

Federal Court Admissions

- ♦ United States District Court, District of Minnesota
- ♦ United States District Court, Western District of Wisconsin
- ♦ United States District Court, District of North Dakota
- ♦ United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- ♦ United States Supreme Court

- ◆ Boston University, B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, 1997

Experience

Representative Experience

- ◆ Complete defense verdict in \$173MM+ commercial property damage case involving claims stemming from the catastrophic failure of a large coal-fired steam turbine. Case affirmed on appeal.
- ◆ Rule 12 dismissal of \$37M commercial business interruption claims on behalf of Fortune 50 industrial conglomerate.
- ◆ Defense verdict in insurance coverage dispute. Previously obtained favorable summary judgment ruling dismissing claims of bad faith, misrepresentation and violation of Unfair Claims Practices Act. Briefed and argued appeal, securing affirmance.
- ◆ Partial summary judgment for valve manufacturer as to strict liability and breach of warranty claims, followed by dismissal of remaining failure to warn claim on the first day of trial.
- ◆ Summary judgment for gas control manufacturer in wrongful death case stemming from explosion and fire.
- ◆ Summary judgment for insurer in Miller v. Shugart coverage dispute involving Professional Services Liability Policy.

Professional Affiliations

- ◆ Defense Research Institute
- ◆ Hennepin County Bar Association
- ◆ Minnesota State Bar Association

Notable

Accolades

- ◆ Named to the Rising Stars list, Thomson Reuters, 2006-2014