



John T. Hugo

Partner

Boston

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PRACTICE AREAS

Asbestos Litigation
Business Litigation
Child Victims Act + Sexual Misconduct
Defense
Construction
Consulting
Design Professionals
Employment Litigation
Food + Beverage Liability
General Liability
Maritime Litigation
Premises Liability
Products Liability
Professional Liability
Strategic Counseling + Risk Management
Toxic Tort Liability
Transactional
Transportation

EDUCATION

Suffolk University Law School, JD, 1994
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, BA,
cum laude, 1991

BAR ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts
Rhode Island
New Hampshire
California
US District Court, Central District of
California
US District Court, Eastern District of
California
US District Court, District of
Massachusetts
US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Overview

John Hugo helps businesses across the United States solve their most critical litigation problems. Drawing on more than 20 years of courtroom experience, John litigates high-stakes state and federal cases involving professional liability, general liability, products, asbestos, and chemical claims.

John is skilled in creating strategies that resolve litigation with minimal impact on business reputations, resources, and operations. As national coordinating counsel for various companies, he develops defense themes, prepares corporate and expert witnesses, tries cases, and handles settlement negotiations. In addition, John often counsels clients on internal contracts and policies and procedures that will strengthen their position in future cases.

John has served as national litigation counsel for a variety of companies, and has been instrumental in developing defenses, experts, and trial strategy. John also monitors litigation for his clients in all fifty states and has advised and overseen litigation strategy for hundreds of claims throughout the country. He is a member of national trial teams and has defended clients in courts throughout the United States. As a result, many of his clients have seen a decrease in their indemnity costs and pending cases.

A flexible thinker, John believes there is no single avenue to achieving client goals. To ensure that strategies and outcomes match expectations, he stresses frequent communication throughout every case, and ensures that clients have all the facts they need to make appropriate decisions.

John's broad array of clients includes architects, engineers, food service providers, product and equipment manufacturers, retailers, and other professional corporations.

Experience

- + Limited reputational damage for a food-service client by quickly settling with the plaintiff in an outbreak case and later pursuing litigation against downstream suppliers.
- + Helped a facility-management company quickly resolve a dispute over remediation costs for a rodent infestation, allowing the company

to preserve a business relationship with one of its largest clients, sign a lucrative contract and recover 95% of its settlement payment from the pest control providers in subsequent litigation.

- + Won a key jury verdict in an asbestos case that significantly reduced the number of cases filed against our client by a Massachusetts plaintiff's counsel.
- + Obtained summary judgment for a retail client in a premises liability case by demonstrating that the plaintiff's employer maintained control over the plaintiff's means and methods of work. Serves as national counsel to one of the world's largest food-service companies, responsible for coordinating and managing premises, negligence, products, and food liability claims and serving as its primary trial counsel.
- + Served as lead trial counsel for a premier construction management and general contracting firm in a significant professional liability matter within the construction industry.
- + Successfully secured the dismissal of all claims with prejudice for a third-party inspection agency following a 15-day jury trial in Massachusetts Superior Court. The dismissal was granted after exposing the plaintiffs' lack of evidence, misrepresentations by their structural engineering expert and bad faith discovery practices, including withholding key structural investigation evidence.
- + Represented a manufacturing client accused of overloading a tractor trailer operated by a third-party logistics provider, which allegedly caused the trailer to collapse and fatally injure a mechanic. Working with the client and a retained expert, we established that the loading pattern complied with industry standards and did not violate Department of Transportation weight restrictions. As a result, the mechanic's family declined to pursue a claim against the client.

Recognition

- + Thomson Reuters, *Super Lawyers*, 2015–2025, *Super Lawyers Rising Star*, 2007–2008
- + AM Best Insurance Recommended Attorney

Involvement

- + American Bar Association, Vice-Chair, Products Liability and Consumer Law Committee
- + Massachusetts Bar Association
- + California Bar Association
- + Rhode Island Bar Association