

Barry E. Fields

Age: 38



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**"Barry is bright and hard-working,
and he's a wonderful strategist."**

Specialty: Commercial and Products Liability Litigation

Law School: The University of Chicago Law School

Barry E. Fields, a litigation partner in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, counts organizations such as Allstate Insurance Company, BP Products North America, Exxon Mobil, General Motors, Motorola, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Speedway SuperAmerica among his clients. His broad scope of practice includes products liability, commercial, professional liability, civil rights, and securities fraud cases.

It's little wonder that Fields made the pages of this publication. Just consider a short list of his successful results:

In his first trial, he co-tried a case defending Andersen Consulting (now known as Accenture) against a \$35 million claim concerning the consulting firm's implementation of a computer system at Beverly Enterprises. A jury rejected Beverly's claims and ordered the nursing home chain to pay Andersen Consulting nearly \$2 million — the remaining balance due for the firm's services.

In 2003, Fields achieved a significant result for BP Products North America in a case in which a Chicago police officer filed a class action lawsuit claiming that company-owned and—operated stations in the Chicago area were applying gasoline prepayment requirements in a racially discriminatory manner. After extensive discovery and briefing, the court granted summary judgment in BP's favor on the class-wide claim.

Fields was one of the attorneys who defended Motorola in the Newman v. Motorola case, a case in which the plaintiff claimed that use of cellular telephones caused his brain cancer. Fields and his fellow lawyers focused the defense on a lack of scientific evidence supporting the plaintiff's claim. After a multi-day evidentiary hearing, the court ruled that the plaintiff had failed to present "sufficiently reliable and relevant scientific evidence" to support a claimed link between cellular telephone use and the development of brain cancer. In a major victory for Motorola and the other defendants, the court excluded all of the plaintiff's proposed experts and subsequently granted summary

judgment in favor of the defendants.

Fields' legal skills also were on display during the firm's representation of Lincoln Benefit Life Company, an affiliate of Allstate Insurance Company. In that case, several financial-services firms filed a counterclaim seeking up to \$2.4 billion for Lincoln Benefit's alleged breach of a loan contract. Approximately one month before trial, Lincoln Benefit retained Kirkland & Ellis to revise the company's litigation strategy and try the case. After hearing the evidence and reviewing extensive briefing, the court ruled in favor of Lincoln Benefit.

Fields' peers are not surprised at his high level of success.

"Barry is an excellent lawyer," said Theodore Senger, assistant general counsel with PricewaterhouseCoopers. "He is very well-organized and always on top of his cases. He's somebody we use whenever we can."

"Barry is bright and hard-working, and he's a wonderful strategist," said Timothy Moorehead with BP Products North America. "His success really hasn't come as any surprise to me. He's an outstanding lawyer."

Fields' impressive results in the courtroom would be enough to earn him mention in this publication. But there is more. For example, Fields has dedicated significant time to firm management, professional, and civic activities.

At Kirkland & Ellis, Fields serves as the partner in charge of coordinating the pro bono activities in the Chicago office and has been a member of the office's hiring committee for nearly 10 years. He is currently a member of the firmwide Diversity Committee and formerly served as chairman of the Committee.

Fields is a lecturer in law at the University of Chicago Law School (teaching trial advocacy) and a member of the school's Visiting Committee. He serves as co-chairman of the American Bar Association's Conference of Minority Partners in Majority Corporate Law Firms. He was recently elected to the board of The Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms. In addition, he sits on various other boards and committees.