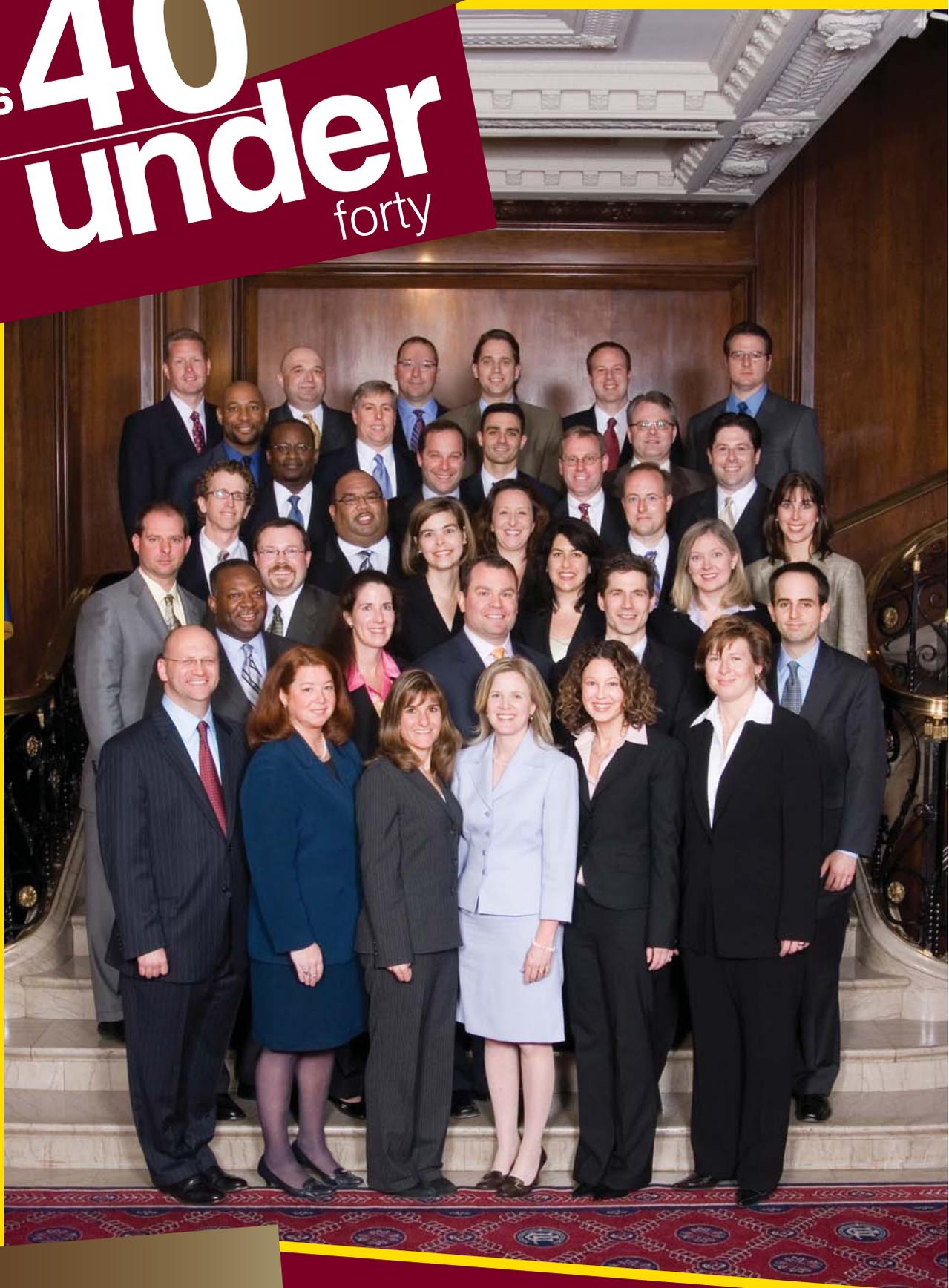


# 2006 **40** under forty

**Law Bulletin**   
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## **2006** **40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch**

Supplement to Chicago Daily Law Bulletin® and Chicago Lawyer®



**Robert B. Ellis** Age 39

**Firm:**

Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
200 E. Randolph Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312-861-2309  
rellis@kirkland.com

**Law School:**

University of Illinois Law School

**Area of Practice:**

Commercial Litigation, including  
Complex Class Actions.

“Rob displays an impressive combination of keen intelligence, courtroom presence and client-service orientation.”

Robert Ellis' long list of powerful clients is the ultimate testament to his legal skills.

A partner with Chicago's Kirkland & Ellis, Ellis has represented several Fortune 500 companies during his career, routinely earning positive results for them.

For instance, Ellis successfully defeated class certification recently in several putative class actions filed against car maker General Motors alleging certain defects in GM vehicles. One of the cases, which was brought in Wayne County, Michigan, marked the first time that a Wayne County Circuit Court decided that an “all owners” class of vehicle owners whose vehicles have not manifested the alleged defect is not appropriate for class certification. The Michigan Court of Appeals denied the plaintiffs' petition for review.

In *Daniel, et al v. Aon Corp.*, Ellis defended Aon Corporation in a nationwide class action challenging contingent commission compensation practices. Ellis negotiated a class settlement in the civil litigation after a settlement was reached between Aon, the New York Attorney General and other state attorneys general and regulators.

These two positive results are typical of Ellis' work, his peers say.

“In my court, Mr. Ellis has navigated the *Daniel v. Aon* case from its inception to its imminent finish in a professional and dignified manner,” said Honorable Julia Nowicki, judge with the Circuit Court of Cook County. “This case has been complex and time-consuming in all respects, including motion practice, discovery, negotiation and preparation for a fairness hearing. Mr. Ellis has adopted an approach that is always open, frank and helpful to the court.

He has been able to do this without ever compromising his client's position. He is an outstanding member of the bar and one that is always welcome in my courtroom.”

Ellis' clients appreciate his work.

“Rob is a complex strategic thinker who is always recalibrating his client's position in light of its goals and exposure,” said Robert Rivkin, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Litigation and Government Affairs with Aon Corporation. “Rob displays an impressive combination of keen intelligence, courtroom presence and client-service orientation. He is a fluid and concise writer who simplifies complex matters and presents his client's position in a compelling way. Even in bitterly contested litigation, he never resorts to bitterly contentious behavior. And beyond that, he is a great guy who's a pleasure to work with.”

Ellis also finds time to serve his community. He is a member of the Park Board for the Village of Lincolnshire and is chairman of the village's Recreation Committee.