

STEPHEN P. ELLENBECKER

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SERVICE AREAS

[Complex / Catastrophic](#)

[Product Liability](#)

[General Negligence](#)

[Business Litigation](#)

[School & University Liability](#)

[Toxic Tort](#)



Stephen P. Ellenbecker concentrates his practice in the areas of product liability, construction, fire litigation, general civil litigation, and business disputes. He is co-chair of the firm's Product Liability group, co-chair of Johnson & Bell's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and a vice-chair of the ABA's Torts and Insurance Practice Committee.

Mr. Ellenbecker also represents clients in the food & ingredient industry, the welding equipment industry, and manufacturers. He has utilized bacterial genomic sequencing to defend foodborne outbreak litigation and has successfully used human genome sequencing to establish alternative causation and dispel notions of genetic susceptibility in tort litigation. He works on litigation as local and national counsel and coordinates scheduling, discovery, and trial work with other firms throughout the US.

Mr. Ellenbecker also represents companies involved in the marine industry, defending their products and handling litigation involving mishaps at sea. He also represents a large food and food ingredient manufacturer in a range of issues encountered by the business. Mr. Ellenbecker maintains a national product liability practice and regularly litigates premises liability, fire defense litigation and commercial matters.

Related item: [Manganese Toxicity: Defending the Welding Rod Industry](#) (Client Case Study)

ADMISSIONS & EDUCATION

ADMISSIONS

Illinois Supreme Court

Wisconsin Supreme Court

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana

U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin

EDUCATION

Illinois Institute of Technology, J.D. (with honors), 2002

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, B.S.E., 1994

AFFILIATIONS

Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's TIPS-Product Liability section

American Bar Association

American Boat & Yacht Council

HONORS

40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch, Law Bulletin Publishing Company, 2008

Illinois Super Lawyers, "Rising Stars," 2012

Leading Lawyers 2012-2022

Illinois Super Lawyers, 2017-2020

Best Lawyers (Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants), 2026

CLIENT RESULTS

[Illinois Appellate Court Affirms Verdict for J&B Client in Boat Dispute](#)

[Defending Personal Injury Claims in PFAS Disputes \(Current\)](#)

[In Boat Dispute, Ellenbecker Torpedoes Plaintiff's \\$800K Demand](#)

[Ellenbecker Secures Defense Verdict in Favor of Chiropractor](#)

[Manganese Toxicity: Defending the Welding Rod Industry](#)

[When Manganese Presented a Potential Health Issue for the Welding Rod Industry, We Responded.](#)

[Additional Representative Cases](#)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

PRESENTATIONS

American Boat & Yacht Council Marine Law Symposium, "Anatomy of a Boat Explosion," 2022

Presenter, Genetics' Growing Interaction with the Law - Tracing Food Contamination and the Role of Whole Genome Sequencing

in Litigation, June 23, 2021

Moderator, Genetics' Growing Interaction with the Law - What Population Genomics Teaches Us about Foodborne Pathogen Epidemiology, a presentation by Carlos Neto, PhD, University of Nebraska, June 23, 2021

Moderator, Genetics' Growing Interaction with the Law - Genetic Testing Related to Psychiatric Illnesses; Medical Technology in the Age of Genetic Testing, presentations by Sarah Slocum, MD, and Alex Slocum, MD, PhD, Medical College of Wisconsin, May 26, 2021

Co-presenter, Genome Sequencing and Its Role in Medical Causation, December 2017

Presenter at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Advanced Food Science Seminar. March 13, 2017. Topic: "Whole Genome What? Genetic Fingerprinting in Litigation."

Presenter at the American Conference Institute's 6th National Forum on Chemical Product Liability and Environmental Litigation. April 21, 2015. Topic: "Avoiding the GM Trap: Protect Your Company's Global Brand from Negative Perception Even When Actions Taken are within the Law"

Presenter at the Chicago Law Bulletin Litigation Skills II Conference. May 16, 2008. Topic: "Opening Statements"

Presenter at the Thirteenth Annual Conference of the National Forum for Environmental and Toxic Tort Issues. October 5-6, 2006. Topic: "What's Hot About Welding Rods"

Presenter at the Illinois Association of Defense and Trial Counsel Spring Seminar. March 1, 2003. Topic: "Defendant v. Defendant: Selected Case Law Regarding Liability and Related Insurance Coverage Issues under Illinois Law"

PUBLICATIONS

Co-author, Genetics - The Future is Now, March 2018