

ATTORNEY PROFILE » RICHARD G. DOUGLASS



AGE

39

LAW SCHOOL

University of Georgia School of Law

AREA OF PRACTICE

Commercial Litigation

FIRM

Novack and Macey LLP
100 North Riverside Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312.419.6900

**PROVIDING ZEALOUS
ADVOCACY ON
BEHALF OF HIS CLIENT**

RICHARD DOUGLASS is a commercial litigation attorney who is valued by his partners, clients and opponents for his ability to break down and clearly convey complex issues, calm the waters in a contentious case and always remain respectful of other lawyers.

Douglass, 39, graduated from the University Of Georgia School Of Law and is now a key part of the Novack and Macey team, where he is a partner. The focus of his practice is energy and real estate litigation.

Douglass joined the firm in February 2004, and just two months later was asked to second chair a multi-million dollar energy dispute for an important and well-established client. His partners said he wasted no time in stepping up and making himself as valuable as possible to the success of the case. He proved early on that he was able to take complex issues and break them down so they could be conveyed simply and concisely to the fact-finder, his partners noted.

Joseph S. Nacca, of Bond, Schoeneck & King, formerly worked alongside Douglass at Novack and Macey. "I noted in Rich's dealings with opposing counsel that he was firm but respectful when disagreements arose, and always mindful of the balance between accommodating certain requests or proposals by opposing counsel and providing zealous advocacy on behalf of his client," Nacca said. "Rich also invested himself personally in the representation of his clients; work was not about generating billable hours, but about doing something in which he took great pride."

Fellow attorneys outside the firm also consider Douglass to be a tough, but professional attorney. Lauren Colton, of Hogan Lovells US LLP, has served alongside Douglass as co-counsel for an international medical device company. "We appeared in court together on multiple occasions and Rich's courtroom presence was impressive," Colton said. "In our last appearance together, the judge began by stating that he was planning to rule against our client on discovery issues relating to personal jurisdiction. By the end of the hearing, however, he reversed his initial ruling and found in favor of our client, thanks in large part to Rich's contributions."

Ronald D. Menna, Jr., of Fischel & Kahn, Ltd., first met Douglass in 2004, when they represented co-defendants in a complicated aviation tort case. "Rich was cordial and courteous, giving other lawyers respect," Menna said. "He helped to calm the waters in a very contentious case, when he could have easily added to the plaintiff's lawyer's antagonistic behavior."

Likewise, Douglass' clients commented on how pleased they are with the high quality of services he provides. Vincent P. Duane, Vice President and General Counsel of PJM Interconnection, LLC, spoke highly of Douglass' work on a federal case that Duane noted was "of national significance to the wholesale electricity trading industry." "Rich developed a full understanding of an extremely complex and unique industry, one requiring facility with both sophisticated financial/commodity trading and power system engineering," Duane said. "[Douglass] was able to take this understanding and synthesize his skills as a trial attorney so as to assure his expert counsel was both strategic and applied in the most practical sense. Based on over 20 years of experience in this industry, it is a rare practitioner who is able to provide this kind of insightful counsel grounded in a thorough understanding of a complicated business."

Claudia Iannelli, a client who worked closely with Douglass said that he demonstrated great strategic instincts and remarkable insight. "He was able to immediately identify the long-standing issues and then proceeded to consolidate the numerous cases that were spread out in various courts," Iannelli said. "His adeptness at developing creative legal arguments and suggesting innovative solutions to our issues was a huge benefit for a timely resolution and settlement."

Douglass routinely handles highly complex litigation matters and is regarded as a "go to" attorney by his colleagues and clients. Douglass is also involved in many legal organizations, including the Energy Litigation Committee of the ABA Section of Litigation, the Professional Development, Education and Ethics Committee of the Energy Bar Association, the ABA Section on Environment, Energy and Resources and the Institute for Energy Law.