

ERIC B. LEVASSEUR

PARTNER



Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

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PRIMARY PRACTICES

Complex Commercial Litigation

Litigation

Tort Litigation

Appellate Advocacy

Fiduciary Litigation

Construction

A Partner in the Litigation Area, Eric B. Levasseur is a commercial litigator and trial attorney who represents clients in business disputes around the country. A trusted advisor and creative advocate, Eric strategically guides his clients from the pre-litigation planning stage through trial and the highest levels of appeal. In over twenty years in practice, Eric has earned a reputation for cutting to the core of disputes to deliver a successful result, whether inside or outside the courtroom.

In addition to his client representation, Eric serves as the Firm's General Counsel: a lawyer's lawyer entrusted to advise the Firm's Board of Directors and lawyers on loss prevention and claims-related matters.

Eric is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Ohio Super Lawyers*, *Ohio Leading Lawyers* and maintains an AV-Preeminent rating through Martindale-Hubbell. He was also previously recognized as an Up-and-Coming Attorney by *Chambers USA* and as a Rising Star by *Ohio Super Lawyers*.

In the Litigation Area, Eric represents companies and individuals in state and federal trial and appellate courts, with extensive mediation and arbitration experience. He represents clients across various industries facing time-sensitive injunctive relief disputes to multiple-week trials. He is experienced in pre-litigation claim strategy and avoidance, complex contract and business disputes, breach of fiduciary duty claims, business tort and negligence claims, fraud, conspiracy and defamation claims and non-compete and employment agreements. Eric also handles trade secrets, product liability actions, fiduciary and estate litigation, real estate litigation, shareholder and partnership disputes, and judgment execution and recovery. His breadth of experience has contributed to an in-depth knowledge of insurance coverage and recovery disputes.

As a member of the firm's Construction Team, Eric represents industry clients in construction disputes and AAA arbitrations. Eric has worked with clients at every stage of the construction process, helping them to avoid litigation, minimize and allocate risk and resolve disputes as early as possible. He has handled defective design, installation and material claims, delay claims, payment/change order disputes and public bid disputes. Well-versed in all aspects of construction litigation and insurance matters, Eric has extensive experience with mechanic's liens, payment and performance bond claims, and insurance recovery for both public and private projects.

In addition to business disputes, Eric has also represented clients in significant wrongful death and catastrophic personal injury actions.

Eric has also counseled franchisors in more than 40 disputes involving franchise termination, trademark infringement, enforcement of non-competition covenants and defense of vicarious liability claims.

Since starting his practice at Hahn Loeser in 2001, Eric has served in a variety of leadership roles in the Firm, including as Deputy General



Counsel, Chair of the Recruiting Committee and as the Firm's Director of Legal Personnel Relations.

Eric is actively engaged in the community. He currently serves as Immediate Past President of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation and serves or has served on the board of numerous other non-profit institutions. Eric also volunteers his time as a youth sports coach.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Lead defense trial counsel in state court jury trial defending entertainment industry client against civil theft and related claims. Following multiple-week trial, matter successfully settled during jury deliberations
- Lead trial counsel in multiple-day federal court bench trial in dispute alleging fraudulent transfer of assets and related claims. Successfully obtained judgment on complex fraudulent transfer claims
- Longstanding representation of premier Cleveland non-profit institution in high-profile land use dispute involving numerous stakeholders. Successfully obtained summary judgment in trial court. Lead counsel responsible for subsequent briefing and oral argument before both intermediate appellate court and Supreme Court of Ohio
- Defended a national franchisor of children's entertainment facilities in high-stakes, catastrophic personal injury action alleging damages in excess of \$30 million and involving over 50 defendants. Matter successfully resolved prior to trial
- Lead trial counsel in federal action on behalf of a client alleging claims against competitor and former employees for breach of fiduciary duty and other business torts. Achieved favorable verdict and damage award, which was subsequently affirmed on appeal
- Defended national title and escrow company in a series of related actions stemming from the provision of escrow services for a \$650 million condominium project in Maui, Hawaii, and seeking damages in excess of \$23 million. Obtained dismissal of certain actions and resolved others prior to trial
- Defended national title and escrow company in a series of complex, consolidated actions related to a \$30 million condominium infrastructure project, and seeking damages in excess of \$6 million. Matter successfully resolved prior to trial
- Defended national title and escrow company against escrow liability claims. Achieved favorable early dismissal and briefed/argued subsequent related appellate proceedings in Ninth Circuit and Hawaii Supreme Court, affirming dismissal
- Represented former director and chief executive officer of publicly traded corporation in action alleging claims by and against former employer, including shareholder derivative claims. Matter resolved prior to trial including complete resolution of executive compensation matters
- Represented an estate and related investment entities in multi-forum litigation alleging securities fraud and non-registration claims in



connection with investments in certain oil and gas securities. Following nearly two-week federal jury trial, achieved multi-million judgment, and successfully defended on appeal to 6th Circuit

- Defended global agribusiness in defense of trade secret misappropriation and related tort claims. Matter successfully resolved prior to trial
- Represented trustees and estate beneficiaries in wide range of trust, estate and will contest actions
- Represented group of private investors in dispute related to oil and gas securities. Achieved complete return of equity investment on behalf of investors
- Represented a Fortune 100 company in a number of jurisdictions across the Midwest and East Coast in numerous construction-related disputes in both litigation and arbitration
- Served as counsel to design-build contractor in dispute relating to state-of-the-art cellulosic ethanol pretreatment facility. Following two-and-a-half week arbitration hearing, obtained award in excess of \$7.5 Million
- Served as counsel to nation's largest producer of ethanol and other biorefined products in multimillion-dollar dispute relating to a \$60 million contract for the design and construction of a material-handling system for a solid waste fuel boiler
- Represented a leading Northeast Ohio manufacturing company in a dispute regarding installation and warranty of a synthetic roofing system for a large portion of its Texas distribution facility. Claims successfully resolved prior to commencement of litigation
- Served as trial counsel to a national residential developer in a dispute concerning concrete placement in a series of driveways in high-end development. Successfully defended contractor's claims and obtained verdict for full amount of counterclaim
- Represented a national design/build contractor in a dispute relating to design and installation of terrazzo flooring for 60,000-square-foot federal government medical facility. Matter successfully resolved prior to trial
- Lead arbitration counsel on behalf of national design/build contractor in significant change order dispute
- Longstanding representation of national material supplier enforcing payment rights and resolving disputes related to dozens of private and commercial projects

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Ohio, 2002
- U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth, Ninth and Tenth Circuits; U.S. District Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio, Southern District of Indiana, Eastern District of Michigan and Eastern District of Wisconsin
- Admitted to practice pro hac vice in numerous federal and state jurisdictions throughout the country

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D., 2002



- Phi Delta Phi; International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award; William H. Wallace Award; William K. Thomas Inns of Court, Student Member; Jonathan M. Ault Mock Trial Team, Vice President; Moot Court Board; Dean Dunmore Distinguished Advocate
- Colgate University, B.A., Political Science, English Literature, 1999
- The Colgate Maroon-News, Editor-in-Chief; Konosioni Senior Honor Society; Beta Theta Pi Alumni Association Award; Campus Life Award; The Edward M. Stimets Memorial Award; Phi Eta Sigma

AWARDS & HONORS

- AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell, 2015-present
- Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation, 2023-26, Litigation – Real Estate, 2024-26, Appellate Practice, 2025-26
- Ohio Super Lawyers®, Business Litigation, 2024-26
- Ohio Leading Lawyers, Ohio Business Magazine, 2024-25
- ChambersUSA, Construction Law, 2012-13
- Rising Star, Ohio Super Lawyers®, 2011
- Life Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Silver Fellow, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America, 2015-17
- Certified Advocate, National Institute for Trial Advocacy. NITA National Session, 2012

PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Recent Industry Trends and Subcontractor Risk Management from Contract to Completion
- Managing Project Risk in Uncertain Times (Properties Magazine)
- Using Music to Help Bridge the Justice Gap – We The People (WKYC)
- What the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation Does for the Community – We The People (WKYC)
- Default Judgments: Strategies for Making Them Stick...And for Making Them Go Away (Litigation Journal, American Bar Association)
- Lawyers Behaving Badly: Curbing Abuses in Deposition and Motion Practice (ABA Roundtable)
- Protecting Yourself in Troubled Times: Ohio Mechanics Lien Law (HLP Construction Seminar)
- E-Discovery: An Introduction (CMBA New Lawyer Training Program)
- Final Appealable Orders (Ohio State Bar Association)

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association, Litigation Section, Construction Litigation, Pretrial Practice & Discovery Committees; Co-Chair, Motion Practice & Discovery Subcommittee, 2014-16; Co-Chair, Newsletter & Publications Subcommittee, 2017; Outstanding Subcommittee Chair, 2015
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, Judicial Selection



Committee; Bar Admissions Committee; Litigation Section, Litigation Section Council; Civil Rules Committee

- Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland
- William K. Thomas Inn of Court, Barrister
- Ohio State Bar Association, Former Member
- American Association for Justice, Former Member

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation, Immediate Past President, 2025-26, President, 2024-25, President Elect, 2023-24; Board of Directors, 2019-present
- Cleveland Law Library Association, Vice President, 2025-26, Treasurer, 2024-25, Board of Directors, 2018-present
- Cleveland Bridge Builders Class of 2017
- Cleveland Civic Leadership Institute, 2015
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Law Alumni Association, Past President, Vice President, Secretary and Board of Directors; Representative, Law Firm Giving Challenge; Alumni Mentoring Program
- Colgate Club of Cleveland, Past President and Board of Directors; Alumni Admissions Committee, Chair
- Colgate on the Cuyahoga, Board of Directors; Student Host Program
- Supreme Court of Ohio Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentor Program
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Frequent volunteer judge for law school and high school moot court/mock trial competitions
- Rocky River Youth Hockey, Inc., Board of Directors, Secretary and Legal Advisor
- Active youth sports coach for baseball, basketball, ice hockey and lacrosse

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Partner, Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, 2011-present; General Counsel, 2023-present; Deputy General Counsel, 2021-22; Director, Legal Personnel Relations, 2016-18; Chair, Recruiting Committee, 2014-15; Associate, 2002-10; Summer Associate, 2001; E-Discovery Committee
- Summer Associate, Grendell & Simon Co., L.P.A., 2000
- Arbitrator, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas