



Robert F. Wagner

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Leveraging profound industry expertise, natural leadership, and deep understanding of business and insurance matters, Robert continues to serve as the driving force behind Lewis Wagner's dedicated and determined community of trial and business lawyers.

Practice Areas

Premises Liability

Biography

Robert is among the Midwest's most respected trial lawyers—having tried more than 200 cases in courtrooms across the United States throughout his 50+ years of legal service.

His trial work has included highly complex litigation in the areas of auto and premises liability, commercial litigation, insurance defense, premises liability, products liability, and wrongful death. He has also mediated numerous complex legal issues throughout his career.

Robert has earned the respect of his legal colleagues and opposing counsel, as well as that of the Judiciary before whom he regularly appears in trial. He is known for his commitment to diversity—becoming part of one of the first racially-integrated law firms in the state in the 1970s. Among his numerous local, regional, and national honors, Robert was presented with the Indiana State Bar Association's Rabb Emison Award in 2006.

In 2015, he received the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. He was also named as one of Indiana's top 15 "Distinguished Barristers of 2008" by *The Indiana Lawyer* and was named an *Indiana Super Lawyer*® each year from 2004-2021. Nationally, Robert was recognized as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, from 2005-2021 in the fields of Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants; and Product Liability Litigation - Defendants.

Robert is a frequent lecturer on a wide range of continuing legal education topics and is a long-term faculty member of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) and has been involved for years in teaching trial advocacy with the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum.

Robert has had a great impact on the legal community and the firm, contributing significantly to the areas of politics and community service. Robert has run numerous political campaigns in the state and Marion County, including for U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, Governor, and several judgeships. He has also managed numerous candidates at state conventions.

Robert's impact upon the people of Indiana has even been noted at the highest levels of our State government. In 1989, Robert received Indiana's highest honor, the "Sagamore of the Wabash" from then-Governor Evan Bayh.

He was instrumental in planning, fundraising, and implementing various programs intended to beautify, enrich, and comprehensively improve the Indianapolis community, particularly the within the Indianapolis city center. In the mid-1990's, Robert spearheaded efforts to plant hundreds of trees along West Street and received an award for Outstanding Individual for Urban Forestry for his dedication and commitment to Indiana's urban forests. He has served as Chair or Vice Chair of the White River State Park Development Commission since 1995. Today, he continues contributing and raising significant funds and making investments into the community's horticulture.

Accolades, Affiliations and Activities

Accolades

- Best Lawyers' Inaugural Business Litigation Issue - Personal Injury Litigation, Summer 2019.
- Best Lawyers' 2016 Indianapolis Product Liability Litigation - Lawyer of the Year
- College Mentors for Kids - Inspire Award Finalist, 2015
- Hoosier Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award - Presented by Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, June 21, 2007
- Indiana State Bar Association - Rabb Emison Award, 2006
- Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law - Distinguished Alumni Award, 2015
- *Indiana Super Lawyers* - 2004-2022
 - Top 50, 2006, 2007, 2011-2013, 2015
- *Indianapolis Monthly* - Voted among the top personal injury defense lawyers in Indianapolis, 1993
- IndyBar - 50-Year Practitioner Award, 2018
- *Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review* - Rated AV® Preeminent
- National Institute for Trial Advocacy - C. Joseph Russell Award, 2013
- Sagamore of the Wabash - Gov. Evan Bayh, 1989
- *The Best Lawyers in America* - Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2005-2021, 2023
- *The Best Lawyers in America* - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2005-2021, 2023
- *The Indiana Lawyer* - Distinguished Barrister, 2008

Affiliations and Activities

- American Bar Association
- American Board of Trial Advocates
 - Past member of the faculty
 - Past President of the Indiana Chapter
- American Judicature Society
- *Defense Research Institute*
- *Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana* - Diplomat, 2000
- Federal Bar Association
- Indiana Trial Lawyers Association
- Indianapolis Bar Foundation
- Indiana State Bar Association
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers - Diplomat, 2007
- International Association of Insurance Receivers
- Litigation Counsel of America - Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, Fellow
- Sagamore American Inn of Court - Member
- The Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Publications and Presentations

- "Building Trial Skills", NITA Mid-Central, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, 1986-present.
- "Deposition Skills", NITA Mid-Central Deposition Program, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, 1999-present.
- Trial Camp 2013, Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum, March 11, 2013.
- Trial Advocacy Skills College, Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum, 1986-present.

Selected Cases and Representation

- *Marsh Supermarkets, LLC v. Roche Diagnostic Operations, Inc.*, 987 N.E.2d 72 (Ind. Ct. App. 2013)
- *Randles v. Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund*, 860 NE2d 1212 (Ind. Ct. App.2007)
- *Georgos v. Jackson* (Ind. Sup. Ct. oral argument), 790 NE2d 448 (Ind. Sup. Ct. 2003)
- *Inlow v. Henderson Daily Withrow & DeVoe*, 787 NE2d 385 (Ind. Ct. App. 2003)
- *Elmer Buchta Trucking, Inc. v. Stanley*, 744 NE2d 939 (Indiana 2001)
- *Wells v. Stone City Bank*, 691 NE2d 1246 (Ind. Ct. App. 1998)