HUSCH BLACKWELL

Robert J. Hurtt

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Rob likes to help people with trust problems.

While he advocates for clients in all kinds of litigation contexts – from traditional commercial litigation to product liability cases – Rob's practice involves a significant focus on fiduciary litigation.

Individuals and businesses facing lawsuits involving wills and trusts rely on Rob to bring clarity to a process that most find unfamiliar. He has worked as lead counsel and as part of a larger trial team for both beneficiaries and trustees on trust contests, breach of trust actions, accounting actions, and estate administrations. In addition, he handles other financial and fiduciary disputes for banking and lending clients.

Rob's work also involves managing the defense of entire dockets of product liability and premises liability cases for Fortune 500 manufacturing, chemical, and petrochemical companies. Rob has practiced in multiple state and federal courts, and he also routinely represents clients in arbitration.

Whether serving as first-chair at trial or helping clients resolve disputes in mediation, Rob finds strategic options for clients that lead to favorable outcomes. He is experienced at drafting and arguing pleadings and motions; deposing and examining witnesses, both at deposition and at trial; and all levels of discovery, including eDiscovery. He also has represented clients through the appellate stage, working on both the briefing and oral argument.

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Asbestos Litigation
Class Action Defense
Commercial Litigation
Emerging Companies & Venture Capital
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
Toxic Tort
Trust, Estate, & Fiduciary Litigation

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Experience

- Served one-year secondment, performing assistant general counsel duties and overseeing all U.S. federal and state court litigation for Fortune 500 company as in-house counsel, including engaging in significant work directly with the company's entire C-suite.
- Obtained jury verdict for beneficiaries in three-week undue influence trial regarding $35 million estate.
- Represented trustees in complex trust contest for trust with assets exceeding $80 million. Matter was successfully settled through mediation.
- Drafted and successfully argued motion for summary judgment in toxic tort case for Fortune 50 company.
- Defended banking client on breach of fiduciary duty claims and positioned it for favorable settlement through successful motion practice.
- Won motion for directed verdict for financial client during one-day trial on negligence claims.
- First-chaired weeklong bench trial for beneficiaries seeking recovery for trustee's breaches of fiduciary duty.
- Secured favorable motion to dismiss and summary judgment rulings from federal court that saved manufacturing client millions in potential damages.
- Served as first-chair for jury trial in breach of contract case after getting more dangerous negligence claim dismissed on summary judgment.
- Leveraged counterclaim to obtain federal court voluntary dismissal with prejudice for banking client, less than a week after plaintiff demanded $500K settlement.

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Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers In America®*
  - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2027
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
  - Mass Tort Litigation - Class Actions - Defendants, 2023-2025
  - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2021-2025

Education

- J.D., Saint Louis University School of Law
  - *magna cum laude*
  - *Saint Louis University Law Journal*, Notes and Comments editor
  - Academic Excellence Awards in civil procedure, evidence, healthcare, negotiation, and Brandeis seminar
  - Order of the Woolsack
  - Theodore McMillian Endowed Scholarship
  - Samuel I. Sievers Writing Award
  - Dean's Select Scholarship
- B.J., University of Missouri School of Journalism
  - *magna cum laude*
  - Bob Broeg Sportswriter's Scholarship
  - Kappa Tau Alpha, national honor society

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Admissions

- Missouri
- Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana

2025 Pro Bono Champion

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