



## Eric K. Combs

Partner  
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Cincinnati, OH  
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Eric is an experienced trial lawyer and trusted adviser to businesses. He has extensive first-chair trial experience in federal and state courts and has tried numerous jury trials to successful verdicts. Eric has secured significant results for clients before juries, judges and arbitrators, and has successfully negotiated settlements in matters including or involving diverse areas of the law: products liability, noncompetition/trade secrets, class action consumer and securities, intellectual property, health care, consumer protection, franchise, corporate control, real estate and construction. He has represented and counseled clients of all types and sizes, including Procter & Gamble, Wendy's, Kraft Foods Group, Bank of America, Graeter's Ice Cream Co., multiple professional sports franchises, the University of Cincinnati, and closely-held companies and individuals in various industries.

In addition to his trial practice, Eric has unique experience in the business of sports. He has advised and represented sports franchises, sports facility owners, university athletic departments, and athletes. His experience includes counseling and representation of clients across the broad range of areas in which the law applies to the business of sports, including matters ranging from defense of class action suits brought by NFL season ticket holders, to advice to college athletic departments on Title IX compliance, to eligibility disputes involving amateur athletes.

Eric's work on behalf of his clients has been recognized by several publications, including:

- Peer Review Rated AV in *Martindale-Hubbell*,
- *Best Lawyers*® since 2009,
- *Ohio Super Lawyer* since 2012, and
- *Benchmark Litigation*® "Future Star."

He actively participates in a number of community and professional organizations. He recently completed his term as the 124th president of the Cincinnati Bar Association. The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners recently appointed Eric to the Hamilton County Public Defender Commission. He also serves on the boards of trustees of Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor Foundation; ArtsWave; the May Festival; the Cincinnati Law and Leadership Institute; the Miami University Pre-Law Advisory Program, and the Hamilton County Republican Party

Judicial Selection Committee. He is vice chair of the firm's Recruiting Committee. Eric also teaches Sports Law as an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Eric is a past recipient of the Forty Under 40 Award presented by the *Business Courier* and completed the Leadership Cincinnati program as part of Class XXXII. In 2013, he received the Teaching Excellence Award from the UC Law Alumni Association for his work as an adjunct professor.

## Services

- Litigation
- Class Action
- Product Liability

## Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D., 1996)
  - Order of the Coif
- Miami University (B.S., *magna cum laude*, 1993)

## Bar Admissions

- Ohio

## Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

## Affiliations/Memberships

- Cincinnati Bar Association,
  - President (2015 - 2016)
  - Board of Trustees (2010 - 2017, 2004 - 2006)
  - Admissions Committee (2008 - present)
  - Grievance Committee (2017 - present)
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor Foundation
  - Board of Trustees (2006 - present)
  - President (2011 - 2014)
  - Board Chairman (2014 - 2016)
- Hamilton County Public Defender Commission (2017 - present)

- Cincinnati Bar Foundation, Board of Trustees (2005 - 2014)
- ArtsWave,
  - Executive Committee (2014-present)
  - Board of Trustees (2010 - present)
  - Chair, Tier 1B Allocation Committee (2011 - 2014)
  - ArtsWave Allocation Task Force (2009 - 2011)
  - FAF's inaugural "Business on Board" Program (2004)
- Cincinnati May Festival
  - Board of Trustees (2011 - present)
  - Vice chair (2017-present)
  - Treasurer (2015 - 2017)
- Miami University Pre-Law Program, Advisory Board (2011 - 2018)
- University of Cincinnati School of Law, Sports Law, adjunct professor (Spring 2010 - present)
- Hamilton County Republican Party, Judicial Selection Committee (2009 - present), chair
- Cincinnati Law & Leadership Institute, Board of Directors (2012 - present)
- Potter Stewart Inn of Court, member & presenter (2003 - 2008, 2011 - present)
- Leadership Cincinnati Graduate, Class XXXII

## Distinctions

- Peer Review Rated AV in *Martindale-Hubbell*
- *Best Lawyers*® (2009 - present)
  - "Lawyer of the Year" Cincinnati for Bet-the-Company Litigation (2019)
  - Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation (2021)
- *Super Lawyers*®
  - Top 50 lawyer in Cincinnati (2014 - 2015)
  - Ohio *Super Lawyers*® (2012 - present)
- *Benchmark Litigation* Future Star (2014)
- Forty Under 40 Award, *Cincinnati Business Courier* (2009)
- UC Law Alumni Board's Adjunct Professor Teaching Excellence Award (2013)
- Leading Lawyers, *Cincy Magazine*

## Experience

### **Unfair Competition Litigation**

We represented our client and a number of individual employees in a lawsuit filed by a competitor. The competitor asserted claims for conspiracy, misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of non-compete agreements, tortious interference with contractual and business relations, breach of fiduciary duty, unfair competition, unjust enrichment, and violations of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. We tried the case for seven days in federal court before the parties settled the matter.