

CURRICULUM VITAE-THOMAS P. BURKE

Education

- St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts, 1976 English (with a focus on journalism, minor in mathematics) *with high honors*
- Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, Masters in Public Visual Communications, 1978
- Loyola University of Chicago, JD, 1984

Professional Experience

- **Querrey & Harrow, Ltd.**, Chicago, Illinois; 1984-present (currently Of Counsel)

During my 36 year career at Querrey & Harrow, I have been a litigator and trial lawyer, and have practiced in a variety of areas. My primary focus in recent years is trucking and transportation litigation and general advice. I also have substantial experience in automobile negligence litigation (primarily on behalf of a major auto insurer), premises liability, construction negligence, municipal torts and common-law employment cases (wrongful discharge and breach of contract). By virtue of my being Illinois counsel for a major trucking company, I have exposure to and experience with trucking insurance issues, workers compensation issues (including liens and lien waivers), defense tenders, FELA, products liability and numerous other controversies and problems that commercial motor carriers and motor carrier insurers confront on a day-to-day basis.

Bar and professional memberships

- Illinois State Bar, licensed since 1984
- Member of the Federal Trial Bar, US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Lake County Bar Association
- Trucking Industry Defense Association
- The CLM

Trial Experience and Representative Cases

- I have tried approximately 60 cases to verdict or judgment in my career and have settled hundreds more. A representative sample of those cases can be found on the Chicago Law Bulletin's *Lawyerport* website. Additionally, I was involved in the following significant reported cases, among others:

Sperl vs. CH Robinson: I argued an issue involving the application of the Contribution Act to two principles with a common agent tortfeasor before The Illinois Appellate Court, Third District, and the Illinois Supreme Court

Droege v J.B. Hunt: In an admitted liability case with 6 plaintiffs, including three minors, and a demand of \$25,000,000, I obtained a \$753,000 global verdict.

Coulson v Village of Libertyville: I successfully defended the Village of Libertyville in a case involving a bicycle accident that undisputedly left the plaintiff severely brain damaged. Plaintiff asked the jury for \$30,000,000.

Estrada- Reza vs. Toll Bros.: On the retrial of a construction accident case, the first trial having ended in the jury, I obtained a net verdict of zero for a national luxury homebuilder.

Ruiz vs. Mohammed: I obtained summary judgment in favor of the defendant on a slip and fall case and successfully defended the appeal before the Illinois Appellate Court, First District

A Little Bit about Me

- I have lived in the Chicago area since the late 70's, and on the North Shore for the last 25 years. I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My father was a steelworker and my mother a homemaker/beautician. I am the first college graduate in my family.
- Although I have tried a substantial number of cases, some successfully and some not, I have settled hundreds more. I firmly believe that a good settlement is almost always more beneficial to more people than trial to verdict, and that there are very few cases that cannot be settled if the parties approach the process with an open mind and a recognition of the realities of litigation in general and their case in particular. This is the philosophy that I will bring to any mediation or arbitration.