

## GRAND RAPIDS

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## Services

Litigation and Dispute Resolution  
Class and Collective Actions  
Arbitration and Alternative  
Dispute Resolution  
Product Liability and Torts  
Trusts and Estates

## Education

University of California School of  
Law at Davis, J.D., 1970  
Calvin College, A.B., 1967

## Bar Admissions

Michigan

## Court Admissions

U.S. Courts of Appeals

- 5th Circuit
- 6th Circuit

U.S. District Courts

- Western District of Michigan
- Northern District of Ohio
- Southern District of Ohio
- Southern District of Texas

## Robert L. DeJong

Senior Counsel



Bob DeJong's specialty is commercial litigation. He focuses on contract disputes, non-compete agreement disputes, trade secret disputes, employment issues, real estate lease and easement disputes, construction law, family firm disputes, products liability law, condemnation law, and negligence law.

When circumstances of the case require, Bob works with jury consultants, including "Dr. Phil" before his television fame when litigating a matter in Houston, Texas.

Bob takes a collaborative approach in partnering with his clients. He believes in working toward a mutually acceptable and early resolution whenever possible, but he is not afraid of "going to the mat" if circumstances require. Bob also believes in offering his clients 24/7 availability.

## Representative Matters

Bob successfully prosecuted a multimillion-dollar international arbitration claim against a Northern European machine manufacturer under the International Commerce Commission, obtained a "no cause" in a Michigan handicappers' jury trial, successfully prosecuted and defended sexual harassment and discrimination claims, obtained favorable verdicts for municipalities in major condemnation cases, and prosecuted and defended wrongful death claims involving product liability, premises liability and general negligence.

In a recent policy coverage dispute, he guided a client to recover \$750,000 when an attorney from another firm advised the client not to bother with submitting a claim.

## Robert L. DeJong

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Bob led the litigation team for the owners of the East Bank Building (now known as Plaza Towers) in Grand Rapids, Mich., when it closed down for two years for complete reconstruction. Millions of documents were exchanged among the parties in what was described by then-Chief Judge Kolenda as the largest lawsuit in the history of Kent County Circuit Court. Mediation took a full week with settlement among 29 of 32 defendants. The client recovered a sum well into eight figures.

## Honors

Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation, 2007-present; Construction Litigation, Real Estate Litigation, Trusts & Estates Litigation, and Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2012-present; 2015 Grand Rapids Trusts and Estates Litigation Lawyer of the Year; 2012 Grand Rapids Real Estate Litigation Lawyer of the Year

Michigan Super Lawyers, General Litigation, 2007-present

Leading Lawyers in Michigan, Class Action/Mass Tort Defense; Commercial Litigation; Products Liability Defense Law; Trust, Will & Estate Planning Law, 2014–present

*Grand Rapids Business Journal*, Top Lawyers, Litigation, 2022

*Grand Rapids Magazine*, Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2022; 2025

## Professional Activities

American Bar Association

State Bar of Michigan, Negligence Law Section

Grand Rapids Bar Association

Michigan Defense Trial Counsel, Inc.

American Trial Lawyers' Association

Michigan Trial Lawyers' Association

## Civic, Cultural & Social Activities

Cascade Township Planning Commission, served for 14 years

University Club, Former Board of Trustees and Chairman of Membership Committee

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Board of Directors

LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Past President of the Council and Chairman of the Executive Committee

**Robert L. DeJong**

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Cascade Township Zoning Board of Appeals

Faith, Inc., Board of Directors

Peninsular Club Board of Directors

Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, Holland, Michigan, Judge Advocate and Past Commodore

**Speeches**

"What Litigators Want (From Facilitative Mediators)," U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan Voluntary Facilitative Mediation Training, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 22, 2024

"Cappuccino With Counsel: Enforcing Your Non-Competes," Miller Canfield, July 15, 2014