

DETROIT

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Services

Litigation and Dispute Resolution
Arbitration and Alternative
Dispute Resolution
Class and Collective Actions
Cybersecurity and Data Privacy
Securities Litigation
Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Litigation
Trade Secrets and Non-
Competes
Trademarks and Brands

Industries

Higher Education

Education

University of Michigan Law School,
J.D., 1982

Richard Stockton State College,
B.A. 1974

Bar Admissions

Michigan



Michael P. Coakley

Of Counsel

Michael Coakley represents and counsels businesses in complex domestic and international litigation, including data breach prevention, response and class action defense, business torts, intellectual property, financial services in both banking and securities, and constitutional law, focusing on the First Amendment and defamation. His business litigation also includes contracts, insurance, unfair competition, non-competes and trade secrets.

He has maintained a trademark litigation practice, primarily in the enforcement/protection of trademark owners' rights, including anti-counterfeit actions. His trademark/brand clients have included major brand luxury goods, a Big Three auto manufacturer, a famous brand food manufacturer, a Major League Baseball team and a related licensing agency, and professional regional and national league organizations, a National Hockey League team, a National Basketball Association team, a famous brand cleaning products companies, an international retail company, national banks, and a major brand grooming products company.

Mike has extensive arbitration experience in commercial matters, including complex commercial arbitration. He has developed a deep understanding of the financial services industry, its laws, regulations and standards of practice. He has served as an arbitrator for FINRA, the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and the International Center for Dispute Resolution. He is also qualified to serve as an injunction arbitrator — a special designation — for FINRA (then NASD) to handle emergency relief hearings in broker departure cases. He has trained arbitrators for these organizations and served on the AAA Council for Complex Commercial Cases, an advisory board of the AAA for the establishment of the rules and procedures to be used in complex commercial arbitrations.

Michael P. Coakley

He is the immediate past leader of Miller Canfield's nationally recognized Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice group and is president and a master of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Inns of Court.

Representative Matters

Securities

One of Mike's clients faced a rash of limited partnership investment cases filed in a Michigan court. Although his team developed factual and legal defenses to the claims, the client initially sought to settle the few cases it had because the cost to litigate would outweigh the benefit of winning on the merits. The early settlements only fueled the fire though, resulting in many new cases being filed. So Mike and his team sat down with the client and developed a strategy to vigorously defend the claims that started pouring in. This strategy yielded 15 summary judgments, several of which were upheld on appeal, including a seminal opinion of the Michigan Court of Appeals. Today, that opinion is still relied on by lawyers, courts and arbitrators for the efficacy of disclosure documents in securities cases. Mike was the principal architect of the strategy and lead lawyer carrying it out.

Cybersecurity

Defended data processing subsidiary of Fortune 500 technology company in a data breach matter which we resolved out of court pre-litigation. Currently defending proposed class action in federal court against data service provider arising out of a data breach event.

Consumer Protection - Higher Education Institution

Successfully defended law school in a consumer protection and fraud class action filed in federal court alleging the school misrepresented job placement and salary data to prospective students. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan dismissed the lawsuit for failure to state a claim. The Sixth Circuit agreed and affirmed.

Teaching

American Arbitration Association

American Inns of Court — Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, 2013-present Master; President, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 terms

A Full View of the Securities Industry

Commercial-Construction Arbitrators' Training Program

Arbitration Day-Securities Presentation

Securities Conference Orientation-Seminar

Large Complex Case Arbitrator Training

Securities Arbitrator Development Program

Michael P. Coakley

University of Michigan Law School, Moot Court Judge

Wayne State Law School

Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association

Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Ninth Annual Midwest Securities Law Institute

The Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Faculty Member

Trial Advocacy Workshop, Faculty Member, 1999

Honors

Best Lawyers in America, Arbitration, 2022-present; Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property Litigation; Regulatory Enforcement Litigation (SEC, Telecom, Energy), Securities Litigation, 2011-present; Detroit Intellectual Property Litigation Lawyer of the Year, 2022; Detroit Securities Litigation Lawyer of the Year, 2013

Michigan Super Lawyers, Securities Litigation, 2007-present; Business Litigation, 2025

City of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Recognized for many years of volunteer service on Zoning Board of Appeals

DBusiness, Top Lawyers, 2011-present:

Securities Law

Intellectual Property Litigation

Leading Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, ADR Law: Commercial Litigation, Copyright & Trademark Law, Data Privacy, Intellectual Property Law, 2014-present

Professional Activities

American Bar Association

State Bar of Michigan

ADR Section Council Member; Chairman, 1998; Chairman-elect, 1997-98; Secretary, 1996-97; Treasurer, 1995-96

Commercial Litigation Committee

Chairman, Commercial Litigation Subcommittee on programs

Uniform Commercial Code Committee

Master Lawyers Section

Federal Bar Association

Bicentennial Constitutional Celebration Committee, 1988-90

Contributor, Eastern District of Michigan Practice Manual, 1991

Programs Committee, 1991

Michael P. Coakley

Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, Circuit Court Committee, 1990

Oakland County Bar Association

Young Lawyers' Committee, 1983-87, Chairman, 1986-87

Federal Court Committee, 1987-89

Speaker Committee, 1987-89

Membership Committee, 1987-89; Vice-chairman, 1988-89

Oakland County Circuit and District Courts, Case Evaluator

Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association

Arbitrator, New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (now FINRA)

Arbitrator, National Association of Securities Dealers (now FINRA)

American Arbitration Association, Member, AAA Securities Advisory Counsel, 1996; Member, Large Complex Case Program Council

National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., Arbitrator Training Instructor

Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association

Wayne County Circuit Court, Case Evaluator

New York Stock Exchange, Inc., Arbitrator Training Instructor

International Trademark Association, Member

International Bar Association, Member

Civic, Cultural & Social Activities

City of Bloomfield Hills, Commissioner 2013-present; Mayor Pro Tem, 2015-2016 term; Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals, May 2007-present; Member, Zoning Board of Appeals

Detroit Athletic Club, Member

Detroit Economic Club, Member

Old Newsboys' Goodfellows Fund of Detroit, Member since 1987

Purchasing Committee, 1989-present

Board of Directors, 1991-present

Second Vice-President, 2009

President, 2011

Michael P. Coakley

Rudgate Associates, Inc. (Homeowners' Association of Bloomfield Hills)
President, 1995-96
Former Member, Board of Directors

Speeches

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: An Update on Cybersecurity in the Financial Industry," Miller Canfield, October 12, 2017

Volunteer Presenter, "Professionalism in Action Program," State Bar of Michigan and University of Michigan Law School, January 27, 2017

"Cappuccino With Counsel: Cyber Security Issues," Miller Canfield, October 27, 2016

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Report from SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association)," Miller Canfield, April 21, 2016

"Cappuccino with Counsel: Brand Protection and Anti-Counterfeiting - We're the Government and We're Here to Help," Miller Canfield, November 4, 2015

"Understanding Your Options for Raising Capital in Michigan - Legal and Structural Basics: Key Formation and Often Overlooked Issues + How to Protect Yourself from Arbitration, Civil Litigation and Potential Criminal Liability," Miller Canfield, August 26, 2015

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Report From SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association)," Miller Canfield, June 25, 2015

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Protecting Customer Accounts, Information, Identity and Seniors," Miller Canfield, November 13, 2014

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Report from SIFMA," Miller Canfield, April 17, 2014

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Suitability Update," Miller Canfield, November 21, 2013

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Securities Industry Update," Miller Canfield, September 19, 2013

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Report from SIFMA (Securities Industry + Financial Markets Association)," Miller Canfield, April 11, 2013

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: A Report from SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association)," Miller Canfield, April 19, 2012

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: The Changing Rules - Suitability, Know-Your-Customer and Social Media," Miller Canfield, December 15, 2011

Michael P. Coakley

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Indexed Annuities and Other Financial Products," Miller Canfield, August 18, 2011

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: A Report from SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association) C&L Annual Seminar," Miller Canfield, May 19, 2011

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Social Media from a Regulatory Standpoint," Miller Canfield, March 17, 2011

"Plain English requirements for Form ADV Part 2," Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, Investment Adviser Seminar on Dodd-Frank and the new Form ADV, Lansing, Michigan, November 9, 2010

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Report from SIFMA (Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association)," Miller Canfield, June 17, 2010

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Islamic Finance 101," Miller Canfield, April 22, 2010

"Before the Bell Breakfast Forum: Will All Financial Service Providers Soon Be Fiduciaries?" Miller Canfield, March 18, 2010

Publications

"Business Torts, A Fifty State Guide — 2016 Edition," (Editor-Michigan), Wolters Kluwer, 2016

"Business Torts, A Fifty State Guide — 2015 Edition," (Editor-Michigan), Wolters Kluwer, 2015

"Business Torts, A Fifty State Guide — 2014 Edition," (Editor-Michigan), Wolters Kluwer, 2014

"The New Form ADV Part 2 and the 'Plain English' Movement of the SEC, FINRA, and Michigan's OFIR," (Co-Author), Michigan Business Law Journal, State Bar of Michigan, Spring 2011

"There are 'Answers' to be Found via Foreign Anti-Suit Injunctions," Michigan Lawyers Weekly, October 17, 2011

"Trend for trademark disputes is to go through ADR," (Co-author), Michigan Lawyers Weekly, February 8, 2011

"De-mystifying Securities ADR: Reform and Resurgence after McMahon," (Co-author Mary A. Bedikian), Michigan Bar Journal, February 1994, Vol. 76, No. 2

Michigan Pleading and Practice--ADR, Vol. 8A (Lawyers Cooperative Publishing, 2d Ed., 1994)

Articles

For-Profit Schools Ruled Exempt From Michigan Personal Property Tax

The New Form ADV Part 2 and the "Plain English" Movement of the SEC, FINRA, and Michigan's OFIR