



Appellate Litigation

Pretzel & Stouffer understands that litigation is not just what leads up to the trial, and it doesn't always end when the jury returns a verdict. Our skilled team of experienced appellate attorneys defend our own successful trial results on appeal and challenge decisions and verdicts that conflict with our clients' interests. Additionally, clients often retain our appellate attorneys to handle appeals of results obtained by other firms without the same appellate proficiency.

While this level of skill and experience is important on appeal, our appellate attorneys are just as valuable before and during the trial. Their deep understanding of the appellate process makes them a valuable resource for our trial attorneys, who often consult them for an appellate perspective on potential legal arguments. They also identify issues that can be appealed long before a case reaches trial, which can put an early end to costly litigation or shape a case in ways that improve the odds of winning at trial. Often this requires persuading a reviewing court to accept a discretionary appeal, a process in which our appellate team has a proven record of success.

Our appellate attorneys are respected advocates in the reviewing courts, identified as counsel of record on some of the best-known and most-cited precedents in Illinois law—cases that have changed the very practice of law to the benefit of civil defendants. Even a brief survey of the law governing civil trial procedure or insurance-coverage law in Illinois will reflect a host of appellate precedents that Pretzel & Stouffer helped create. It was our work, for example, that protected the constitutional right to a 12-person jury in civil cases in Illinois, convincing the Illinois Supreme Court to throw out a legislative effort to eliminate that right.

We have earned a reputation as leaders in the small community of lawyers who focus on appeals. Our appellate attorneys are respected by courts and counsel alike, reflecting a long history of dedication and creativity and making for an unmatched record of success.