

CLAYBORNE, SABO  
& WAGNER LLP







## ABOUT OUR FIRM

Clayborne, Sabo & Wagner LLP is a minority certified law firm comprised of seasoned, diverse attorneys with decades as partners in a national law firm. Our practice is divided into litigation and commercial transactions. Our attorneys have developed highly specialized capabilities in their dedicated practice areas and are recognized by their peers as leaders in their fields.



# GENERAL LIABILITY

## Class Action Defense

The class action attorneys at Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP have a successful track record of defending corporate clients in class action litigation in some of the most plaintiff-oriented jurisdictions in the country. Our attorneys have defended more than 50 class action cases both as lead counsel and as local counsel.

## Contract Disputes

Clayborne, Sabo & Wagner LLP can help you resolve contract disputes with proven techniques to protect your business and help facilitate growth following resolution. We have the experience to bring your claim or defend your business against a claimed breach of contract.

## Commercial Lease Disputes

We are committed to resolving disputes by means of well-structured agreements, but we are also capable of enforcing evictions, obtaining compensation for damaged property, pursuing breach of lease claims, enforcing rent collections and further litigation on behalf of both landlords and tenants.

## Construction & Mechanic Lien Disputes

Construction disputes are fairly common, and vary in their nature, size, and complexity. We will help you analyze and investigate the problem and find efficient and effective solutions to resolve it.





# LITIGATION SERVICES

## Personal Injury Defense:

The attorneys at Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP have over a hundred years combined experience defending clients in personal injury cases from minor injuries to the catastrophic. Whether the injuries are claimed to have been caused by industrial accidents, exposure to toxic substances, construction accidents or defects, collisions involving automobiles, commercial trucks, alleged product defects, premises liability or some other cause, we have experience defending them.

## Product Liability Defense

Product liability claims are often complex and require the highest level of litigation skills as well as a thorough understanding of the complex science, engineering and medical issues involved in these cases. Our attorneys have represented insureds and self-insured manufacturers, designers, distributors, and retailers in products cases involving injuries and other losses that range from the frivolous to the catastrophic. We have also defended companies in class action lawsuits involving product liability claims.

## Public Entity Litigation

Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP have been representing public entities such as Counties, Cities and Villages, Townships, School Districts and other public entities in litigation for nearly 30 years. Our lawyers understand and have experience in the spectrum of liabilities a public entity may face and are knowledgeable of all applicable immunities and defenses available to the public entity.

## Workers Comp

Our attorneys take pride in their ability to provide thorough and complete analysis of every aspect of a workers' compensation claim to the employer. We have successfully defended municipalities, utility companies, school districts, hospitals, trucking companies, transportation companies, and other employers in labor intensive jobs in cases involving complex medical issues, accident or occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment, alleged permanent total disability, temporary total disability issues, wage loss issues, and allegations of permanent partial disability.



# COMMERCIAL SERVICES



## **Business Formations:**

Our attorneys work with you to determine the appropriate entity structure to meet your business and legal goals. We then work with you in putting the framework in place for success, whether that is in preparing bylaws, partnership agreements, operating agreements or shareholder agreements that will govern the operation of your business. Your business is your dream and we take your success seriously since we look to build a long-term relationship with you as you grow.

## **Commercial Transactions**

There are many forms of commercial transactions, including those that occur between two separate businesses, consumers and businesses, businesses and government entities and between internal divisions of a company to name a few. Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP guides its clients beginning with the negotiation stage of a commercial transaction through its execution and post execution stages.

## **Real/Estate Land Use**

The attorneys of Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP have the knowledge, expertise and experience to offer “full service” representation in the broad spectrum of real estate and land use matters. Our attorneys have successfully represented clients in matters including: zoning; planning and land use entitlements; development agreements; environmental issues (including CERCLA and RCLA liability); brownfield reclamation, storm water and development run-off issues. We also understand Tax Increment Financing (TIF), New Market Credits and other forms of government incentive financing.

## **Construction Transactions**

Our construction legal services cover the planning and design, bidding, contract negotiation, lien creation, construction documentation counseling and post-construction claims resolution. Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP’s construction services span every level of the construction industry from complex, multimillion-dollar projects to independent and private construction projects. If issues arise after the initial contracts are signed, we work with you to reach workable solutions.

# MINORITY OWNED LAW FIRM

## We Are A Certified Minority-Owned Law Firm

The National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) provides a nationally-acclaimed minority ownership verification program to ensure that corporate America has a credible source for minority suppliers, consultants and contractors. Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP is certified by the CMSDC as a minority-owned law firm. Clayborne, Sabo & Wagner LLP is one of the few such Illinois firms located outside of Chicago. Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP is a member of the National Association of Minority and Women-Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF) whose membership is limited to certified firms who have a demonstrated track record of delivering the highest quality legal services.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## We Are Recognized For The High Quality Of Our Work

We Are Recognized For The High Quality Of Our Work: The Leading Lawyers Network was started by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company, publishers of the Chicago Law Bulletin, to help lawyers and legal consumers identify experienced, reputable lawyers in 84 different areas of law throughout the state of Illinois. Lawyers selected for the Network are those most often recommended by their peers in statewide surveys who are then further reviewed by an Advisory Panel. Less than 5% of Illinois' more than 65,000 attorneys are admitted to the Network. Each member of the Network must qualify annually.

## AV Rated

The Martindale-Hubbell® peer review rating process has been in place for over 100 years and is a reputable source for attorney reviews. The AV Preeminent rating is the highest rating granted to attorneys under the Martindale-Hubbell system. Partner Jennifer L. Barbieri has achieved an AV Preeminent Rating in Workers Compensation.



### **James F. Clayborne, Jr.**

Personal Injury Defense  
Commercial Litigation  
Governmental, Municipal Law

### **John E. Sabo**

Personal Injury Defense  
Transportation Defense Law





# JAMES F. CLAYBORNE, JR.



## Bar Admissions

Illinois, 1988

Missouri, 1994

U.S. District Court Southern District of  
Illinois, 1991

U.S. District Court Eastern District of  
Missouri, 1994

James Clayborne has a broad-based personal injury defense practice that includes an emphasis on matters involving automobile accidents, premises liability, product liability and workers' compensation. His clients have included such major corporations as Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation and U.S. Bank. He has also represented major insurance companies such as Farmers Insurance and State Farm Insurance. Mr. Clayborne is the corporate counsel for the City of East St. Louis.

Mr. Clayborne is a founding Partner of Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP. Prior to coming with Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP, he was a partner with a national law firm for 23 years. Since 1995 Mr. Clayborne has served as an Illinois State Senator for the 57th District. He has held a number of Committee and Leadership positions within the Senate and currently serves as the Senate Majority Leader. Mr. Clayborne has been recognized as a Leading Lawyer in the categories of Personal Injury Defense Law; Commercial Litigation and Governmental, Municipal Law; and has been rated by Martindale-Hubbell for ethics and legal ability.

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## Areas of Practice

Municipal Law  
Class Action Litigation  
Insurance Defense  
Products Liability Litigation  
Commercial Litigation



# JOHN E. SABO



## Bar Admissions

Illinois, 1987

Missouri, 1988

U.S. District Court Southern District of Illinois, 1987

U.S. District Court Central District of Illinois, 2015

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri, 2011

U.S. Court of Appeals 7th Circuit, 1990

U.S. Court of Appeals 8th Circuit, 2011

Mr. Sabo's technical background includes a unique combination of capabilities gained from litigating both personal injury and commercial litigation. Over his nearly 30 years of practice he has represented clients in personal injury litigation including products liability claims, construction design and structural failures, ERISA disability claims, automobile, and trucking accidents. Mr. Sabo has also represented clients in commercial matters involving banking and financial services, contract disputes, consumer rights claims, commercial foreclosures, insurance coverage disputes, and real estate disputes. In addition, he has represented commercial clients in close to 50 class actions both as lead counsel and local counsel.

Mr. Sabo is one of the founding partners of Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP. Prior to coming with Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP, he was a partner with a national law firm for 15 years. He has been recognized as a Leading Lawyer in the categories of Personal Injury Defense Law; General, and Transportation Defense Law: including Aviation, FELA, Maritime, and has been rated by Martindale-Hubbell for ethics and legal ability.

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## Areas of Practice

Commercial Litigation  
Insurance Defense Litigation  
Class Action Litigation  
Consumer Litigation  
Products Liability

# MICHAEL L. WAGNER



Michael Wagner's litigation experience includes representing businesses, insurance companies and governmental units, specifically municipalities and school districts, on claims involving general liability, employment discrimination and civil rights, construction, real estate, environmental (including CERCLA and RCRA) and labor negotiations. Mr. Wagner's practice also includes the representation of real estate developers in TIF and land use cases, as well as major industries in major environmental litigation.

Mr. Wagner is one of the founding partners of Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP. Prior to coming with Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner LLP, he was a partner with a national law firm for thirteen years. He worked at the St. Clair County State's Attorney's office, where he was the department head for the misdemeanor and D.U.I. department.

## Bar Admissions

Illinois, 1998

Missouri, 1997

U.S. District Court Southern District of Illinois, 1997

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Missouri, 2010

## Areas of Practice

Municipal Law  
Environmental Law  
Products Liability Litigation  
School Law  
General Liability Litigation  
Real Estate





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