

Lew R.C. Bricker

Chicago, IL

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PARTNER

Overview

In one of Lew Bricker's most memorable cases he had the jury nodding along with his closing argument; a true testament to his litigation skills. He defends clients in the areas of commercial transportation, products liability and commercial litigation. He also counsels clients and attorneys on best practices for managing and litigating issues involving electronically stored information and e-discovery. Additionally, he leads the firm's Rapid Response Team, coordinating responses to catastrophic losses for clients in the Midwest.

Lew's clients include motor carriers, logistics providers, product manufacturers, retailers, distributors and their insurers. He represents many clients in commercial and contract disputes and counsels clients on best risk mitigation practices, business structure, management and marketing practices in the transportation, retail and manufacturing industries.

As chair of the firm's Transportation & Logistics Service Group Lew oversees a team providing comprehensive litigation and transactional services to the transportation industry. As a member of the firm's Executive Committee, Lew works to ensure that Amundsen Davis provides the best possible service to clients across the globe.

Lew currently serves as the Chair *Emeritus* of the USLAW Network and serves on the Network's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. In 2008 he served as the chair of the USLAW Transportation Practice Group. He designed and coordinated the Transportation Motor Carrier Boot Camp, a training program for transportation lawyers held every two years.

Lew holds many titles, but husband and dad are among his most cherished. He is involved with his kids and active in the community where he raises his family. He coached his kids in youth sports and ran the community baseball and softball organizations for several years, overseeing more than 150 teams. During his tenure he rebuilt the softball program, restored the organization financially and saw teams to multiple championships. He currently serves as past commissioner.

SERVICES

COVID-19 Resource Center & Task Force

General Liability

Product Liability

Retail

Transportation & Logistics

EDUCATION

University of Illinois College of Law, J.D., 1991, *cum laude*

University of Illinois, B.A., 1988, *cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa*

ADMISSIONS

Illinois

Supreme Court of the United States

He also served on the local high school district facilities community, helping to identify the needs of the local high school and lobbying for the passage of a referendum.

Experience

Helps a National Multi-Line Insurance Company With Multiple Areas of Representation and Business Operations

Represents a Large Public Transit Service Provider on Litigation and Business Operations

Have Counseled a National Motor Carrier on its Corporate Structure, Operations and Risk Mitigation

Successfully Defended an Emergency Medical Services Provider in Four Separate Lawsuits

Defeats Lawsuits for Injuries Arising Out of Motor Vehicle Accidents with an Ambulance

Obtained a Favorable Settlement for a Traumatic Brain Injury Following a Motor Vehicle Accident

Represented a Motor Carrier in a Carmack Amendment Claim

Represented a Car Dealership in a Personal Injury Lawsuit

Handled a Broker Liability Lawsuit

Handled an Admitted Liability Case

Represented a Window Manufacturer in a Case Involving a Minor Death

Successfully Represented a Hotel in a Massive Claim of Alleged Food Poisoning

Successfully Defended Truck Owners Who Leased Their Truck to a Driver Who Was Then Involved in an Accident

Membership & Involvement

- Amundsen Davis Executive Committee
- USLAW Executive Committee: Conference Educational Coordinator, Fall Conference, 2019; Chair *Emeritus*, 2018 – present; Immediate Past Chair, 2017 – present; Chair, 2016 – 2017; Vice Chair, 2015 – 2016; Treasurer, 2013 – 2015; Transportation Practice Group Chair, 2007 – 2008, Vice Chairman, 2006 – 2007, Secretary 2006; Business Litigation Group: Sub Chair 2010 – 2011
- TELFA: Board of Directors, *ex officio* representative, 2016 – present
- Technology Liaison: Defense Research Institute Diversity Committee

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- Section Council Member: Illinois State Bar Association Public Utilities and Transportation Council, 2004 – present; Illinois State Bar Association Tort Law Council 2004 – present
- Member: Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA); Transportation Lawyers Association (TLA); Chicago Traffic Club; American Bar Association; Illinois State Bar Association; Intermodal Association of North America (IANA); Defense Research Institute (DRI)

Honors

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rated
- Named a BTI Client Service All-Star, 2012
- Selected to the Illinois Super Lawyers List: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Selected by the Leading Lawyers Network as a "Leading Lawyer" in transportation defense law
- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Transportation Law: 2021, 2022, 2023
- Selected as a "Stand-Out Lawyer" by Thomson Reuters: 2022, 2023
- USLAW O'Hagan Award Recipient, 2008

Firm News

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List

Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, January 23, 2023

45 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*© 2023

Firm News, August 18, 2022

30 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2022 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

January 28, 2022

38 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*© 2022

August 19, 2021

27 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2021 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

January 29, 2021

32 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*© 2021

August 20, 2020

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24 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
January 29, 2020

29 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2019 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
January 24, 2019

27 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2017 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
SmithAmundsen, January 13, 2017

Lew Bricker named Chair of USLAW NETWORK
USLAW NETWORK, INC, September 23, 2016

28 SmithAmundsen Attorneys Included on 2016 Illinois Super Lawyers and 2016 Illinois Rising Stars Lists
SmithAmundsen, January 8, 2016

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 26 SmithAmundsen Attorneys to 2015 List
January 12, 2015

Illinois Super Lawyers & Illinois Rising Stars Names 19 SmithAmundsen Attorneys to 2013 List
January 3, 2013

[In the Media](#)

Ill. Attys Hope Virtual Hearings Will Endure Post-Pandemic – *Law360* Interviews and Quotes Lew Bricker

Lew Bricker Quoted in *Cook County Record* Article on Self-Driving Cars

[Alerts](#)

Illinois Executive Order Allows Testing of Autonomous Vehicles

Personal Conveyance Update – Trying to Define What a Driver Can and Cannot Do

The Importance of Dotting i's and Crossing t's in the Post-Accident Investigation

Step on a Crack; Break your Mother's Back

Hanjin Bankruptcy and Cargo Update

The Coercion Rule – We Think it is Only a Matter of Time...

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The Anti-Indemnity Train Continues

Speaking Engagements

Legal Considerations for Self-Driving Vehicles

Speaking Engagement, Society of Casualty Safety Engineers, Seminar;
Schaumburg, IL, November 4, 2022

Current Auto Liability Trends and Preventing Products Liability Claims

Speaking Engagement, Arthur J. Gallagher Roundtable; Chicago, IL, September
22, 2022

Crisis Management and Its Triggers

Speaking Engagement, USLAW Fall Conference; Austin, TX, September 17, 2022

How to Combat Nuclear Verdicts

Speaking Engagement, Client Litigation Conference; Arlington, TX, September 13,
2022

Mock Trials and Focus Groups

Speaking Engagement, USLAW Summer Transportation Forum; Asheville, NC, July
28, 2022

Trucking Accident Cases and Insurance Coverage Complexities: Guidance for
Personal Injury Counsel and Industry Professionals

Speaking Engagement, Stafford; Webcast, June 2, 2022

Psychology of a Jury – Causes of Verdicts: How to Defend Them and How to
Prevent Them

Speaking Engagement, Client Customer Seminar; Nashville, TN, April 13, 2022

Seconds in Command: Are We Doing Enough to Identify and Prepare Them?

Speaking Engagement, USLAW Spring Conference, Seminar; Amelia Island, FL,
March 19, 2022

Update - Should Our Traditional Model of Conservative, Neutral and Liberal
Jurisdictions be Reconsidered? How has Today's Political Landscape Impacted the
Composition

Speaking Engagement, USLAW Spring Conference, Seminar; Amelia Island, FL,
March 18, 2022

Psychology of a Jury – Causes of Nuclear Verdicts and How to Combat Them

Speaking Engagement, TIDA Annual Seminar; Philadelphia, PA, October 14, 2021

Litigation Trends in a Post-COVID-19 World: Should Our Traditional Model of
Conservative, Neutral and Liberal Jurisdictions be Reconsidered? How has
Today's Political Landscape Impacted the Composition

USLAW Fall Conference, Seminar; Colorado Springs, CO, September 25, 2021

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Weathering the Cyber Attack or Data Incident as a Business
2021 ATA Litigation Center Trucking Legal Forum, Seminar; Washington, DC, July 28, 2021

Litigation Financing and Letters of Protection
USLAW Summer Legal Forum, Seminar; Jackson, WY, July 20, 2021

A New Era: Prejudgment Interest in Illinois
SmithAmundsen, Webcast, June 16, 2021

USLAW Network Virtual Worldwide Retreat: 2021 and Beyond
USLAW Network, Webcast, September 30, 2020 - October 9, 2020

Industry Experts Fireside Chat: Transportation and Logistics
USLAW, October 1, 2020

Data Privacy: Obligations Under the Law and in Practice
2020 American Trucking Association Litigation Center Trucking Legal Forum,
Webcast, July 23, 2020

Transportation Safety, Compliance and Drivers
Client Roundtable Moderator, June 19, 2020

Resolution Strategies in the COVID-19 World
Client Roundtable Moderator, June 16 - 18, 2020

Safety Precautions, Policies and Procedures for Re-opening Your Business and
Your Stores
Client Roundtable Moderator, June 8, 2020

USLAW Transportation Exchange
Conference Chair and Program Co-Moderator; New Orleans, LA, February 27 - 28,
2020

Some Illinois Legal Issues for Your Consideration . . .
Client Seminar; Richfield, OH, January 2020

New Technology in Vehicle Collisions, Psychological and Communication Factors
that Influence Negotiations, and Best Practices for Both
Client Seminar; St. Louis, MO, November 2019

Just Saying No: The Successes, Perils and Pitfalls of Believing in Your Product and
How It Can Affect Litigation
USLAW Fall Conference; Washington, D.C., September 27, 2019

USLAW Fall Conference
Conference Educational Coordinator; Washington, D.C., September 2019

Going on the Offensive - "Proving Up" A Company is Being Safety Conscious
USLAW Summer Legal Forum; Quebec City, QC, CA, July 31, 2019

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Corporate Representatives and FROCP 30(b)(6)
Client Seminar; Phoenix, AZ, May 2019

Data Preservation Post-Accident
USLAW Transportation Exchange; Las Vegas, NV, February 20, 2019

Nuclear Verdicts and Defense/Claim Strategies Panel Discussion and Q&A
Client Presentation; Kansas City, KS, October 17, 2018

Avoiding the Big Mistake: Protocols, Procedures and Preservation
TrueNorth-USLAW Network Webinar, October 17, 2018

Training Programs Are Not Created Equal
Client Workshop; Las Vegas, NV, October 16, 2018

Legal Developments In Transportation Litigation
Client Seminar; Dubuque, IA, October 11, 2018

Auto Risk Management Seminar: Legal Implications and Risk Management of
Telematics, Distracted Driving and Hired Non Owned Autos
Client Seminar; Chicago, IL, October 10, 2018

Avoiding the Crisis Created Long Before the Accident: Legal and Litigation Issues
with Employee Handbooks and Training Manuals
Arkansas Trucking Conference; Rogers, AR, September 20, 2018

Program Co-Director and Presenter, USLAW Trucking Boot Camp for Lawyers
USLAW Trucking Boot Camp for Lawyers; Omaha, NE, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012,
2014, 2016, 2018

Managing Internal Expectations – How General Counsel and Attorneys Manage
Expectations, Litigation Strategies and Competing Interests
USLAW Conference; Montreal, Quebec, Canada, September 7, 2018

New Technology Issues from Availability to Trial
USLAW Transportation Industry Summer Legal Forum; Half Moon Bay, CA, August
9, 2018

Women in Law Firm Management: A View from the Managing Partner's Chair
USLAW Women's Conference; Charleston, SC, June 22, 2018

Avoiding the Crisis Created Long Before the Accident: Legal and Litigation Issues
with Employee Handbooks and Training Manuals
USLAW Conference, April 7, 2018

Legal and Litigation Issues with Employee Handbooks and Training Manuals
Client Seminar; Las Vegas, Nevada, October 17, 2017

Best Litigation and Claims Practices
Client Seminar; Dallas, Texas, October 12, 2017

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Strategies and Considerations for Initial Accident and Case Handling: Collection and Protection, Early Resolutions Strategies, Preservation and Spoliation, and The Reptile and Case Preparation
Client Seminar; Carmel, IN, September 28, 2017

Truck Accident Litigation 101 - Basics and Issues
MyLawCLE and Wolters Kluwer; Webinar, September 22, 2017

Broker Liability
USLAW Summer Legal Forum; Colorado Springs, CO, August 17, 2017

Trucking Accident Cases and Insurance Coverage Complexities: Guidance for Personal Injury Counsel
Stafford; Webinar, July 12, 2017

Defending the Reptile and Witness Preparation
Client Presentation, January 31, 2017

Why Broker Liability Matters; Load and Unloading Cases
Client Presentation, January 17, 2017

Broker and Logistics Liability, Preservation and Spoliation, and DOT and OSHA Issues for Trucking Companies
Client Presentation, November 9, 2016

The U.S. Election and its Effect on Business
Seminar, Trans European Law Firm Alliance, Paris, France, November 5, 2016

Preservation and Spoliation
Client Presentation, Pittsburgh, PA, September 12, 2016

It's a Matter of Control...or is it? Broker/Logistics Liability and the Coercion Rule
American Trucking Associations; Seminar, Bellevue, Washington, July 19, 2016

Negotiating and Drafting Third-Party Logistics Provider Agreements
Strafford, Webinar, July 8, 2016

Negotiating and Drafting Third-Party Logistics Provider Agreements
Stafford; Webinar, June 8, 2016

Dissecting Written Policies: The Do's and Don'ts of Crafting Safety Policies
USLAW Client Conference, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, April 8, 2016

The Parameters of a Roadside Inspection: What They Can Ask for and What They Can't
American Trucking Association Forum for Motor Carrier General Counsel, July 21, 2015

Insurance Issues in Trucking Litigation
Client Seminar, Brookfield, WI, July 7, 2015

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How to Make a Negative into a Positive
USLAW Client Conference, San Antonio, TX, April 9, 2015

Preservation and Best Practices for Motor Carriers
Client In-house Training Meetings, Sunset Hills, MO, February 24, 2015

Published Works

Products Liability Practice 2023 Edition
Publication, *Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education*

National Editor and Illinois Author
USLAW Network Joint and Several Liability Compendium of Law, 2018

Illinois Offer of Judgment Law
USLAW Network Offer of Judgment Law Compendium, 2018

USLAW National Compendium of Law, National Editor
USLAW National Compendium, 2008; 2010; 2012; 2015; 2017; 2018

State of Illinois Transportation Compendium of Law
USLAW, 2017, 2018, 2021

Chapter Author, Special Considerations in Product Liability Cases
Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2021

Chapter Author, Special Considerations in a Premises Liability Case
Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2021

The Coercion Rule - We Think it is Only a Matter of Time
USLAW DigiKnow, July 19, 2016

It's a Matter of Control...or is it? Broker / Logistics Liability & The Coercion Rule
American Trucking Association Forum for Motor Carrier General Counsel, July 19, 2016

The Anti-Indemnity Train Continues
USLAW DigiKnow, January 15, 2016

Parameters of a Roadside Inspection
American Trucking Association Forum for Motor Carrier General Counsel, July 2015

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