

MARKS & KLEIN, LLP

Franchise, Business & Estate Law

Marks & Klein, LLP Announces Opening of Illinois Offices

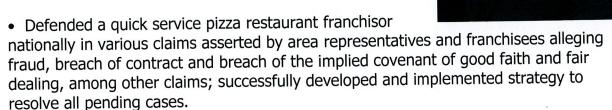


We are pleased to announce the addition of <u>Andrew P. Bleiman, Esq.</u> as an attorney with the firm and the opening of our offices in <u>Chicago and Northbrook, Illinois</u>. Andrew will serve as the managing attorney of these offices and will handle matters nationally. Andrew's skill and effectiveness as both a litigator and an advisor will enhance the firm's ability to better serve clients in the Midwest as well as throughout the United States.

Since 1998, Andrew has represented clients in commercial and civil litigation matters throughout the country. Andrew has litigated complex class action lawsuits and has significant experience utilizing various methods of alternative dispute resolution. He has extensive experience litigating franchise, fraud, consumer protection, product liability, personal injury, negligence and professional negligence matters. Andrew is a member of the bar of the Illinois Supreme Court as well as the Court of Appeals for the Seventh and Ninth Circuit, the Northern District of Illinois, the District of Colorado and the Eastern District of Wisconsin. (cont.)

Some of Andrew's Representative Matters

- Represented an international quick service restaurant franchisor in a series of class actions brought by franchisees in several forums across the county alleging fraud, consumer fraud, RICO, breach of contract and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing claims, among other claims; participated in mediation and negotiations; drafted complex national class action settlement agreement.
- Defended an international franchisor against claims by a competitor for tortious interference with contract and tortious interference with business relationships; prepared summary judgment motion; prepared case for trial, including all pre-trial materials and motions in limine.



- Represented an automotive service and repair franchisor in claims against franchisees for breach of contract, tortious interference, and violations of the Lanham Act; drafted and filed appellate briefs in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on the issue of venue.
- Defended former executive against claims by his former employer for breach of restrictive covenants contained in an employment agreement, prevailed on motion for temporary restraining order, conducted evidentiary hearing on motion for preliminary injunction, which resulted in an order denying the former employer's request for injunctive relief, and handled the appeal of the trial court's order.

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