AXINN

Jarod G. Taylor

Counsel

Hartford

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PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, JD, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif (2009)

University of Oklahoma, BA (2006)

ADMISSIONS

Connecticut

New York

U.S. District Court of Connecticut

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan

U.S. District Court Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York

PROFILE

Jarod Taylor represents clients in antitrust and other high-stakes, complex commercial litigation, arbitrations, and government investigations nationwide. He has represented clients in some of the largest litigations of the last few years, including multibillion-dollar, multidistrict class actions, and he has fought just as hard for individuals, including attorneys accused of malpractice and directors and officers whose careers were on the line in regulatory investigations.

Recognized among *Best Lawyers in America's* "Ones to Watch," Jarod is equally at home in the courtroom and in the boardroom. Clients value his client-first approach—he understands his clients' businesses, tailors litigation strategy to their business needs, and welcomes client input at every stage of the case.

Jarod has particularly deep experience representing pharmaceutical companies and clients based outside of the United States, but has represented clients in industries as diverse as insurance, entertainment, and banking, in addition to representing law firms against legal malpractice claims. Those representations include headline-grabbing matters requiring public relations expertise, including representing Redbox in its contentious copyright dispute against the Walt Disney Company and the former President and CEO of the Queens Borough Public Library in litigation against the library and two of its trustees. His creative approach often prevails against the odds. For example, he has persuaded the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to issue a declination letter declining to bring an enforcement action against a publicly traded company's chief financial officer, pointing to reliance on the company's outside auditors and resulting in an action against the auditors rather than the CFO.

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Jarod also maintains an active pro bono practice and has helped a number of refugees obtain asylum.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association, Litigation Section

EXPERIENCE

Antitrust and other class actions and MDLs

- Defending Tyson Foods in multiple major treble-damage class actions alleging industrywide conspiracies to raise the prices of broiler chicken, pork, and turkey.
- Representing The Hartford and related entities in a long-running MDL regarding the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.
- Defended Nishikawa Rubber Company in an automotive parts class action MDL in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.
- Defended The Hartford in parallel wage and hour cases, including a class action brought under New York's Wage and Hour Law, a collective action under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, and multiple parallel arbitrations.
- Defended Axinn's longstanding client, Independence Blue Cross of Pennsylvania (IBX), in a class action MDL against the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and individual Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans. The lawsuit, which alleges that the plans' designated service areas are anti-competitive, is the most significant challenge to the Blue System in its 80-year history.

Complex commercial litigation in pharmaceutical industry

- Defending Alvogen, Inc. in breach of contract litigation in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York brought by licensor and contract manufacturer.
- Represented global pharmaceutical company and its U.S. subsidiary in an arbitration brought against a leading animal health company, resulting in settlement providing nearly the entire relief demanded by the client.
- Defended biosimilar and complex drug manufacturer in mediation over alleged breach of biosimilar development and

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commercialization agreement.

- Represented pharmaceutical startup in confidential international arbitration over drug development agreement.

Other complex litigation and investigations

- Defended Am Law 100 law firm in confidential malpractice arbitration, resulting in no liability.
- Defended former directors and officers of a technology startup in successful defense of SEC investigation, resulting in declination letter.
- Represented Redbox Automated Retail LLC in a copyright dispute challenging the Walt Disney Company's sales and distribution practices.
- Represented the former President of the Queens Borough Pubic Library in litigation against the library and certain of its trustees.

HONORS

- *Best Lawyers* "Ones to Watch" (2024)
- *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars (2019 and 2020)
- *Global Competition Review*, on the team shortlisted for "Litigation of the Year – Cartel Defence" for its work on behalf of Nishikawa Rubber Company in the Auto Parts litigation (2018)
- *Connecticut Law Tribune*, New Leader in the Law (2018)
- Georgetown University Law Center, CALI Excellence for the Future Award for International Business Transactions

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