

Manufacturing & Food Processing

In manufacturing and food processing, legal issues arise during each phase of the process, from design, process and production to distribution, integration and collection. We serve clients in transactional matters like mergers and acquisitions, handle day-to-day employment and labor needs, provide counsel to prevent unwanted litigation and defend clients when problems inevitably arise. These problems vary in size, scope and subject matter.

Our clients manufacture everything from printing paper, to snacks, to industrial machinery. Our knowledge and experience in multiple practice areas enable us to handle the various issues that arise in each industry. We serve both large multinational companies and local enterprises with the goal of contributing to the long-term value and strategic growth of each business.

Our legal knowledge is underscored with our understanding of the manufacturing industry. We are involved with various trade associations that include members from all types of manufacturing services. In addition to counseling manufacturers, our attorneys frequently provide educational opportunities and presentations to manufacturing groups to help them stay on top of all legal updates and compliance issues.

CORPORATE

- Mergers and acquisitions
- Commercial contracts and disputes
- Freight and logistics
- Real estate leasing and transactions
- Business ownership agreements and disputes
- Outside general counsel services
- Company and securities law
- Borrowing and lending transactions
- Private equity and venture capital investment
- Joint ventures, strategic alliances and outsourcing transactions
- Investment bank relationships

PROFESSIONALS

Beverly P. Alfon
Partner

Michael J. Bendel
Partner

Elisabeth Townsend Bridge
Partner

Timothy J. Feldhausen
Partner

Eric M. Fogel
Partner

Laura Grebe
Partner

Joseph S. Heino
Partner

Matthew Horn
Partner

Lisa M. Kellermann
Paralegal

Jennifer E. Lacroix
Partner

Laura McGuire
Paralegal

Maddie Owen
Paralegal

Daniel S. Peters
Partner

John T. Pienkos
Partner

Thomas J. Pienkos
Partner

Jeffrey A. Risch
Partner

Steven K. Sims
Partner

Danielle M. Zimmerman
Paralegal

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

- Hiring/firing
- Union contracts/collective bargaining issues
- Supervisor training
- Immigration compliance/ICE audits
- Discrimination/harassment
- Wage/hour
- OSHA
- Unfair competition

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Licensing of IP rights and trademark
- Registration (logo, trademark, label and merchandise art)
- Patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret infringement
- Advise on domain dispute resolution
- Patents for equipment or software innovation
- Copyright advice on advertising content, works made for hire agreements, domestic or international

LITIGATION

- Contract disputes
- Commercial supplier and distributor disputes
- Premises liability
- Product liability
- Unfair competition

Experience

Defended a Farm Produce Client in Connection With Salmonella Outbreak

Successfully Represented a Wisconsin Manufacturer Accused of Patent Infringement and had the Claims Dismissed

Defended an Industrial Chemicals Manufacturer and Sales Representative in a Suit Brought by a Former Employer

Represented a Window Manufacturer in a Case Involving a Minor Death

Manufacturing & Food Processing

Acts As Long Standing Outside Global General Counsel to Dental Products Manufacturer

Successfully Represented a Concrete Manufacturer against Laborers' Organizing Petition

Successfully Defended an Illinois Manufacturer Against the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act Claims

Represented Manufacturing Company in Connection With the Sale of the Company's Assets

Successfully Defeated Class Allegations Against a Subsidiary of an International Food Manufacturer

Outside General Counsel to an Owner-Operated Freeze Dryer Company

Obtained a Voluntary Dismissal in a Breach of Warranty Case

Successfully Represented a Cheese and Butter Manufacturer Facing Trademark Infringement

Acts As Outside Securities and M&A Counsel to a Publicly Traded Electronics Company

Assisted a Third Generation Family-Owned Steel Manufacturer in its Sale of Equity to a Private Equity Buyer

Defended a Manufacturer in a Liability Lawsuit Where an Individual's Leg was Amputated

Assisted Clients With an FDA Investigation and Voluntary Recall of a Food Additive Product

Defended a Commercial Trailer Manufacturer in a Multimillion Dollar Product Liability Case

Advised an International Equipment Manufacturer on Corporate and Employment Advice

Defended a Steel Fabricator in a Personal Injury Action Where the Plaintiff Fell from a Steel Beam at Some Height and was Rendered Quadriplegic

Represented a Cosmetics Manufacturer that was Accused of Consumer Fraud

Secured Voluntary Dismissal in Negligence and Strict Product Liability Case

Obtained Summary Judgment for a Manufacturing Client Accused of Wrongful Termination

Manufacturing & Food Processing

Managed Successive Campaigns to Avert Unionization of Warehouse Employees of a Food Manufacturer

Lead Counsel to a Chemical Manufacturer in the Discharge of a Union-Represented Employee

Negotiated a Successor CBA for a Client Procuring Economic Increases under the Client's Budgeted Target

Handled Negotiations for an Initial CBA for an Industries Manufacturer

Defended an Engineering and Manufacturing Industry Client Accused of Terminating an Employee Because of Her Race

Serves as Primary Outside Trademark Counsel to a Leading Worldwide Manufacturer

Served as Counsel for a Metal Fabricating Company Securing Favorable Terms Related to Immigration Services

Obtained Favorable Settlements for a Group of Distributors When a Large Manufacturer Wanted to Take Over the Distributors' Sales Territories

Obtained a Summary Judgment Dismissal in Favor of High Profile Clients Accused of Tortiously Causing a New Business to Suffer \$25M in Alleged "Lost Profits" and an Additional \$75M in Other Damages

Manages and Protects the Worldwide Trademark Portfolio of a European Medical Products Manufacturing Company

Represented a Designer and Manufacturer of a Display Where an Individual Fell and Sustained a Fatal Traumatic Brain Injury

Successfully Defended Aluminum Manufacturer

Represented a Manufacturer During Contract Negotiations and a Strike

Defended Manufacturer Against Attempt to Unionize Laborers

Handled Labor Negotiations for Food Processing Client in a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

Serves as General Counsel for a Manufacturer Doing Business Nationwide

Renegotiated a Distributor Agreement for a Large Manufacturer

Firm News

41 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*© 2023
Firm News, August 18, 2022

Alerts

Why You Need to Pay Attention to How the Feds Are Approaching the Meat and Poultry Processing Industry

Amundsen Davis Labor & Employment Alert, April 28, 2020

Wisconsin Expands Immunity for Health Care Providers and Health Care Manufacturers, Distributors & Sellers Amidst COVID-19

Amundsen Davis Health Care Alert, April 17, 2020

Wisconsin Offers Legal Protection for Those Manufacturing Emergency Medical Supplies

Article, April 16, 2020

Liability Immunity under the PREP Act for Medical Device Manufacturers for Qualified Medical Countermeasures against COVID-19

Amundsen Davis Health Care Alert, April 9, 2020

Old Fashioned to Go? Alcohol Beverages May Be Ordered on a Carry-Out Basis During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Article, March 26, 2020

Guidance to Manufacturers in Managing Operations during the COVID-19 Crisis

Article, March 23, 2020

Be Wary of Speculative CDS Bets and Manufactured Defaults

Amundsen Davis Corporate Alert, April 4, 2019

Secret Sales Still "On Sale" For Patent Purposes

Article, January 25, 2019

Drone Manufacturer Liability: the Hypothetical Case of the Professional Pitcher

Amundsen Davis Aerospace Alert, November 30, 2016

Events

The Very Latest on Vaccine Mandates for the Illinois Employer: Focusing on the Manufacturing Industry

Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Webcast, December 8, 2021

Recruiting & Retaining Employees in 2021

Illinois Manufacturers' Association, Webcast, August 31, 2021

Mergers & Acquisitions Steps to Success

Speaking Engagement, Webcast, April 28, 2021

Racine & Kenosha Counties – The Bridge to Wisconsin's Future

Speaking Engagement, BizTimes Media, Webcast, April 22, 2021

Safeguarding Your Intellectual Property Assets in Turbulent Times
Speaking Engagement, First Business' 10th Annual Manufacturing First Expo &
Conference, Webcast, October 20, 2020

How to Document and Terminate in YOUR Industry
Event, Amundsen Davis, Webcast, August 21, 2019

Aviation Insurance Coverage Issues in a Difficult Market: Viewpoints from
Manufacturers, Airlines, and Insurers
Defense Research Institute, Seminar; Boston, Massachusetts, October 20, 2016

Heather Bailey to Present at the National Automatic Merchandising Association
OneShow 2016
National Automatic Merchandising Association, Chicago, IL, April 13, 2016

Published Works

Top 5 Cyber Security Threats the Manufacturing Industry Should Watch in 2022
The Illinois Manufacturer, February 2, 2022

Navigating Employer Vaccine Mandates: Incentives and Penalties
The Illinois Manufacturer Magazine, November 2021

Politicians Aim To Force Unionization In The Private Sector
The Illinois Manufacturer Magazine, August 2, 2021

New HR Laws Impacting Illinois Manufacturers
The Illinois Manufacturer Magazine, April 30, 2021

Blog Posts

U.S. Department of Labor Rolls Out Local Emphasis Program For Food Processing
Facilities
Labor & Employment Law Update, December 12, 2022

Why You Need to Pay Attention to How the Feds Are Approaching the Meat and
Poultry Processing Industry
Labor & Employment Law Update, April 28, 2020

Manufacturing & Food Processing