

Eric J. Hatchell

Partner

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Madison

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Eric Hatchell is a trusted trial lawyer with extensive experience representing companies and individuals in their most complex legal challenges — issues that jeopardize the stability of their businesses or create significant financial risk. With a proven track record of securing favorable outcomes both before and at trial, Eric's successes include obtaining a seven-figure jury punitive damages award for his clients in a jury trial.

With a deep specialization in fiduciary litigation, Eric focuses a substantial portion of his practice in representing trustees, personal representatives, and beneficiaries in high-value trust and probate litigation disputes. He has handled a wide range of unique and high-profile cases, including challenges to the enforceability of testamentary documents, claims of undue influence, disputes over testamentary capacity, and cases arising under the slayer statute. Eric also has significant experience representing closely-held businesses in fiduciary matters, handling disputes related to ownership, management, and succession planning, as well as conflicts among shareholders or partners.

In addition to his work in fiduciary litigation, Eric specializes in representing property owners fight back against the government on state and local taxation assessment and exemption disputes. He has consistently delivered exceptional results, helping clients eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars in property tax assessments. Eric has litigated a diverse range of high-value properties, including movie theaters, multi-family apartments, paper mills, tax credit projects, industrial facilities, commercial office buildings, and large retail complexes. His strategic approach and reputation for achieving favorable results position him to secure advantageous tax assessments and help clients mitigate financial burdens in challenging their property tax matters.

Eric also advises clients on appellate matters and has argued cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, securing multiple favorable decisions from both state and federal appellate courts.

Representative Experience

- *United States v. Walter*, 870 F.3d 622 (7th Cir. 2017) – Appellate reversal of criminal conviction due to government's Brady violations
- *Regency West v. City of Racine*, 2016 WI 99 (2016) – Wisconsin Supreme Court appellate victory which defined proper property tax assessment for Section 42 low-income housing under Wisconsin law
- *Primex Plastics Corporation v. Zamec*, 2016 WL 4006153 (W.D. Wis. 2016) – Federal court trial victory defending claims of fraudulent transfer
- *Yankee Hill Housing Partners v. City of Milwaukee*, 2014 WL 4328201 (Ct. App. 2014) – Wisconsin Court of Appeals appellate victory regarding the recovery of unlawful BID special assessments
- *Kienitz v. Sconnie Nation, LLC*, 766 F.3d 756 (7th Cir. 2014) – Represented the prevailing party in one of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeal's most significant decisions regarding the copyright fair use defense
- *United States v. Robinson*, 714 F.3d 466 (7th Cir. 2013) – Achieved pro bono appellate victory on a circuit split issue involving a criminal sentencing enhancement

Awards and Recognition

- Received a *Best Lawyers®: Ones to Watch* recognition for Commercial Litigation (2023-2024)
- *Wisconsin Super Lawyers®* Rising Star – Business Litigation (2016 – 2023)

Presentations and Publications

- Regular contributing author of tax law updates for the Council on State Taxation (COST)
- Annually co-authors the "Tax Law" chapter of the Wisconsin State Bar's Annual Survey of Wisconsin Law
- Frequently writes and presents on issues relating to trusts, estates, and probate litigation matters

Practice Areas

- [Commercial Litigation](#)
- [Consumer Law, Finance & Class Action Group](#)
- [Litigation](#)

Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D., cum laude, 2011),
 - Order of the Coif
 - Won a national Moot Court competition
- University of Wisconsin – Madison (B.A., 2008)
 - Letter winner on the University of Wisconsin's track and field team
 - Member of the 2007 national championship team

Admissions

- Wisconsin
- U.S. District for the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin
- Seventh Circuit of Appeals