

Eric Sparks

Partner



Connect with Eric

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Services / Industries

Litigation

Construction

Estate Planning & Wealth Transfer

Tax Controversy

Bio

With over 20 years of experience as a commercial litigator, Eric Sparks is known for his ability to handle a wide variety of complex matters, both in the courtroom and at the appellate level.

Whether it's counseling businesses on pre-dispute issues, managing arbitration proceedings, or advocating at trial and on appeal, Eric excels in finding practical solutions to his clients' most challenging legal issues. Eric often serves as lead counsel in high-stakes litigation through a practice that spans several areas of law.

Eric's experience includes complex commercial litigation across industries, with a particular emphasis on construction law, product liability defense, high-stakes trust and estate disputes, business ownership issues, and complex real estate disputes.

He has tried cases throughout the country and represented clients in appellate matters, including arguing before the Illinois Supreme Court. Eric secured a unanimous ruling by the Illinois Supreme Court in favor of M/I Homes, a decision that had significant implications for construction law in Illinois.

In addition to his trial and appellate experience, Eric frequently serves as a trusted advisor in pre-litigation matters and alternative dispute resolution processes such as arbitration. His broad experience across these key practice areas enables him to approach each case from a well-rounded perspective, ensuring that his clients' needs are met at every stage of the litigation process.

Recognized as a "Rising Star" in Business Litigation by *Illinois Super Lawyers* and as one of *Crain's Chicago Business* "Notable Gen X Leaders in Law," Eric is committed to providing insightful and effective legal counsel. He is an active member of the American Bar Association, where he has served as an editor for the Construction Litigation Committee newsletter and previously co-chaired the Subcommittee on Mediation, Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Credentials

Education

Northwestern University

University of Chicago Law School

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Affiliations

- American Bar Association
 - Former Editor, Construction Litigation Committee newsletter
 - Co-Chair, Litigation Section, Construction Committee's Subcommittee on Mediation, Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Chicago Bar Association
 - Commercial Litigation Committee
 - Commercial Real Property Law Committee
 - Construction Law and Mechanics Lien Subcommittee
 - Trust Law Committee
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest
- Appellate Lawyers Association
- University Club of Chicago

Speaking Engagements

- [Eric Sparks and Vanessa Tiradentes Presented at the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education's Trial Advocacy for Civil Litigators Program, October 17, 2019](#)
- [Eric Sparks Was a Guest Lecturer at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, April 17, 2019](#)

Presentations

Mechanics Liens, Guest Lecturer, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Construction Law Course, April 19, 2017

Key Cases or Transactions

- Represented subcontractor in perfecting and prosecuting its multi-million dollar mechanics lien claim on a high-rise construction project in Chicago.
- Represented a Fortune 500 company in defense against a mechanics lien.
- Represented owner in dispute involving construction defects and breach of warranty claim.
- Represented subcontractor in dispute involving an alleged joint venture for high-rise construction project.
- Represented national contractor in dispute involving alleged construction defect of municipal water plant.

- Represented subcontractor in breach of contract claim on high-rise construction project for acceleration damages.
- Represented purchaser/homeowner in dispute involving a developer/vendor's fraudulent sale of property.
- Represented former beneficiaries of a trust in action against an institutional trustee for breach of trust.
- Represented institutional trustee in litigation regarding potential beneficiaries of a trust and authenticity of trust instrument.
- Represented trustees and executor in litigation in

News

Nine Gould & Ratner Lawyers Recognized in the 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®, August 20, 2026

Sixteen Gould & Ratner Attorneys Named to Legal 500 City Elite List for Chicago, July 16, 2026

Gould & Ratner Selects Practice Leaders and other Leadership Roles for 2026, February 18, 2026

Gould & Ratner Selects Practice Chairs/Vice Chairs, Additional Leadership Roles for 2025, February 20, 2025

Gould & Ratner Selects Practice Chairs, Vice-Chairs, February 18, 2024

Gould & Ratner Secures Unanimous Ruling by Illinois Supreme Court in Favor of M/I Homes, December 7, 2023

Gould & Ratner Selects Practice Chairs, Announces New Vice Chair Role, March 13, 2023

Gould & Ratner Lawyers Named to Crain's 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law List, December 8, 2022

Publications

Best Practices for Coping With Project Modifications, Suspension and Termination During the Age of COVID-19, July 13, 2020

Construction Projects Impacted by COVID-19?, May 21, 2020

Commercial Tenant Evictions Limited by Latest Executive Orders, April 28, 2020

OSHA, Illinois Issue Safety Measures for Construction, Other Essential Businesses, April 27, 2020

COVID-19 and Commercial Disputes: Some Practical Considerations, March 17, 2020

COVID-19 and Commercial Disputes: Some Practical Considerations, March 17, 2020

Arbitration and "Appellate" Review: Competing Legal Principles, May 29, 2017

Illinois Department of Revenue Releases Guidance on Exemption Certificates, May 29, 2013