

"I have worked with Sara on "bet-it-all" patent infringement and antitrust litigation matters. When disputes arise, I know I can count on her to quickly assess the important factual and legal issues; to communicate them to me clearly; to recommend a strategy that positions MVCONNECT for a successful outcome; and to execute skillfully and aggressively in pursuit of that outcome. Sara has helped MVCONNECT achieve its business objectives in every matter she has handled."

Sara Siegall | Partner

Scott Jackson, CEO  
MVCONNECT, LLC



I focus my practice in the areas of complex commercial and intellectual property litigation. In this arena, I have an established track-record of advancing clients' interests both in and out of the courtroom. While the best solutions to clients' problems vary from case to case, it is my work ethic, creativity, pragmatism, and breadth of experience that allows me to consistently deliver great results.

I have spent the entirety of my legal career at Chapman Spingola, first as law clerk, then as an associate and, since 2013, a partner. This continuity afforded me the unique opportunity to hit the ground running, handling dispositive motions, oral arguments, depositions, and obtaining trial experience in the earliest stages of my career. Since then, I have successfully steered clients from start to finish through a wide variety of complex commercial and intellectual property disputes.

## Representative Matters

- **Defended board members of publicly traded company** accused by dissident shareholder of entrenchment and other wrongful conduct in Wisconsin federal court. **Defeated motion for preliminary injunction** and, thereafter, **negotiated favorable settlement**.
- **Obtained seven-figure judgment** for medical equipment company against a manufacturer for **breach of an exclusive distribution agreement** in a damages trial in Illinois federal court.

- Defended medical equipment company against **Lanham Act, copyright, and other intellectual property claims** of its competitor in Illinois federal court. **Successfully moved to dismiss** the majority of plaintiffs' claims. Case remains pending.
- **Defended e-commerce kitchenware company** and its owner against **intellectual property and other claims** in Illinois federal court brought by the company's former freelance designer who alleged he was promised a partnership interest in the business. Obtained favorable settlement following briefing on a motion to dismiss.
- Represented preeminent Chicago produce company in **accounting malpractice suit** against former accountants alleged to have incorporated false information in company's financial statements, disguising millions in losses that could have been avoided had accurate financial information been presented. **Took the lead in mediation** that resulted in **confidential favorable settlement** shortly before trial.
- **Defended financial services firm** against former employee's **claim of gender discrimination**. Guided dispute to a **favorable confidential outcome through early mediation**.
- Defeated a **motion for temporary restraining order** and **won summary judgment** for client sued by former employer for violating restrictive covenants in his employment agreement. **Drafted briefs in opposition to TRO motion and in support of summary judgment motion and delivered oral argument at TRO hearing**. The trial court first denied plaintiffs' TRO motion and, following summary judgment briefing and oral argument, ruled that the restrictive covenants were unenforceable and not subject to judicial modification as a matter of law. **Successfully defended the ruling on appeal**, in what is now a **leading published opinion** on restrictive covenant law in Illinois.
- Defended LLC member against a claim for judicial dissolution of an energy brokerage in an arbitration proceeding brought by one of the brokerage's investors. **Delivered opening statement and examined key witnesses in three-day arbitration and wrote the pre- and post-hearing briefs**. After hearing, the arbitrator denied the investor's dissolution claim and granted our client's counterclaim, ordering the investor to pay the brokerage close to \$1 million due under the parties' agreements.
- Successfully represented technology company in suit against the dominant companies in its industry for **antitrust violations, civil conspiracy, and unfair competition**. **Briefed and argued client's opposition to defendants' motions to dismiss** in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Following the court's denial of defendants' motions, obtained confidential **favorable settlement** on client's behalf.
- **Successfully defended a technology company against an opposition action** before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Following the parties' completion of written discovery, negotiated a settlement whereby our client made nominal, nonmaterial changes to the description of its product in exchange for petitioner's **dismissal of its opposition action with prejudice**.

- **First-chaired trial on the merits** of breach of contract claim and, following judgment in client's favor, handled citation proceeding in which client collected 100% of the judgment. **Successfully appealed** and obtained reversal of denial of petition for post-judgment attorneys' fees. On remand, trial court **awarded 100% of the fees incurred** during the collection proceeding and the appeal.
- Successfully defended an e-commerce company **against competitor's claims of copyright infringement, trademark infringement, consumer fraud, and tortious interference** in Illinois federal court. Case **settled for a confidential nominal amount** following the completion of written discovery.
- Successfully represented **claimant-investor in FINRA arbitration** against two investment firms, their respective principals, and claimant's broker arising from broker's **churning and improper trading** of assets in claimant's securities accounts. Obtained **favorable confidential settlement** for claimant.
- Drafted **appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit** on behalf of dental implant company seeking declaratory judgment that its insurer had a duty to defend the company in an underlying lawsuit for patent and trademark infringement. **Obtained favorable settlement** prior to oral arguments.
- Represented **private equity firm** in bringing suit in the Commercial Division of New York County state court for **breach of contract** and **fraud** against buyer of software company. Obtained confidential **favorable settlement** on client's behalf.
- Successfully defended **Physician** against subrogee-insurance company's **claim for implied indemnity** in connection with settlement of underlying medical malpractice case. Obtained summary judgment in client's favor.
- Represented national law firm against recruiter who was seeking six-figure placement fee for lateral partner hiring. **Briefed and argued successful motion for summary judgment resulting in a finding of zero liability. Successfully opposed plaintiff's appeal.**
- Represented real estate investor in action against former partner and his co-conspirators for conspiracy to defraud, breach of promissory note, aiding and abetting fraud, and breach of contract in Illinois federal court. **Brief and argued successful opposition to defendant's motion to dismiss.** Obtained favorable settlement for client.
- Represented North American **building supply company** in **breach of contract** action. Deposed numerous fact witnesses. **Second-chaired arbitration proceeding and obtained award in client's favor.**
- Without filing a lawsuit, **obtained six-figure settlement** for former shareholders of direct marketing company in **accounting malpractice matter** against company's former accountants. Settlement achieved based upon correspondence alleging that the accountants' negligent preparation of annual audits and tax returns exposed shareholders to substantial liability.

## Articles

- *Appellate Court reverses dismissal of a financial fraud case: Rasgaitis v. Waterstone Financial Group*, 58 ISBA Trial Briefs 11 (May 2013).
- *Supreme Court clarifies fraudulent misrepresentation pleading requirements*, 58 ISBA Trial Briefs 2 (August 2012).
- *Illinois Appellate Court affirms preliminary injunction requiring American Airlines to allow ticket sales through Orbitz.Com: Travelport, LP v. American Airlines, Inc.*, 57 ISBA Trial Briefs 8 (June 2012).

## Community Involvement

- Member of Porchlight Music Theatre's Board of Directors
- Executive board member for the Chicago-Lincoln chapter of the American Inns of Court
- Selected by Jewish United Fund in 2016 for its annual list of Chicago's "36 Under 36," honoring local young professionals who are making a personal and professional impact in their communities.
- Appointed Member of the Illinois State Bar Association Civil Practice & Procedure Section Council, 2011-2014
- Co-Editor of the Illinois State Bar Association's monthly newsletter, Trial Briefs, 2012-2014
- Cast member of the Chicago Bar Association's Holiday Spirits Show, 2011 and 2013

## Judicial Externship

- Honorable Samuel Der-Yeghiayan, Northern District of Illinois

## Education

J.D., *with honors*, Chicago-Kent College of Law

- *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, Member
- *Moot Court Honor Society*, Vice President

M.S., *cum laude*, Fordham University

- New York City Teaching Fellow and recipient of Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

B.A., *cum laude*, Florida State University

- Major in English with a concentration in Creative Writing
- Minor in Theatre