



Dan K. Webb

Partner
Winston & Strawn Co-Chairman
Chicago
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dwebb@winston.com

Services	Antitrust / Competition, Antitrust Litigation, Complex Commercial Litigation, Compliance & Counseling, Federal Circuit & Other IP Appeals, Global Cartel Defense, Government Investigations, Litigation, Product Liability, Professional Liability, Securities Litigation, Sports Litigation, White Collar, Regulatory Defense & Investigations
Admissions	Illinois
Education	Loyola University Chicago School of Law, JD, 1970

Dan Webb, a partner in the litigation department, serves as firm co-chairman and is a member of the Executive Committee. His trial practice concentrates in the areas of major commercial, civil, regulatory, and white-collar criminal cases.

Mr. Webb has tried more than 100 jury cases, including numerous successful complex commercial and white-collar criminal trials, representing, on several occasions, large corporations in jury trials lasting two months or longer. Mr. Webb joined Winston & Strawn in 1985 as a partner, after serving as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Webb has spent his entire professional life as a courtroom trial attorney and litigator. He received international attention for his successful prosecution of retired Admiral John Poindexter in the Iran-Contra affair. As the U.S. Attorney in Chicago, he spearheaded the "Operation Greylord" investigations into judicial corruption in Cook County, Ill.

He received national attention for his work as lead trial counsel for General Electric, successfully defending it against criminal price-fixing allegations related to industrial diamonds, as well as for his representations of Microsoft Corp. in its antitrust litigation, Philip Morris in its tobacco-related litigation, and Verizon in obtaining a \$58 million verdict in a patent litigation matter.

Moreover, a team of Winston attorneys, led by Dan Webb, conducted an internal investigation at the New York Stock Exchange related to the compensation of its former Chairman and CEO, Richard A. Grasso. Following Winston's investigation, summarized in what is now known as the "Webb Report," the New York Attorney General's Office sued Grasso for the return of more than \$120 million in compensation.

Other recent successes for clients in securities matters include obtaining favorable settlements for Ernst & Young in a securities class action brought by stockholders of HealthSouth Corporation and for Cisco Systems in a securities class action brought by the Plumbers & Pipefitters National Pension Fund, and obtaining summary judgment for Scientific-Atlantic in a securities fraud class action.

On the antitrust front, Mr. Webb successfully represented Wyeth (Pfizer) against an antitrust class action relating to its patented potassium chloride product K-Dur®, C.R. Bard against claims of anti-competitive conduct relating to sales contracts with group purchasing organizations for catheters, and Monsanto against the antitrust claims brought by competitor DuPont relating to Monsanto's patented Roundup Ready® weed killer.

As for other class action experience, one of Mr. Webb's most significant cases was for Philip Morris. He served as lead counsel in *Engle, et al. v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, et al.*, the first — and to date, only — class action brought by cigarette smokers for punitive damages to be tried to verdict. He also served as chief trial counsel for another high-profile class action civil trial that resulted from the failure of Lincoln Savings, the S&L institution owned and operated by Charles Keating, Jr.

Mr. Webb's corporate clients have also included Abbott Laboratories; Alcoa; Altria Group, Inc.; American Airlines; Caremark International; Deloitte & Touche LLP; General Electric; Monsanto; and Research in Motion. A list of Mr. Webb's significant trials is available on Winston.com.

Ratings and Rankings

- *Illinois Super Lawyers* – Highly ranked as an Illinois *Super Lawyer* from 2005-2012, including a No. 2 ranking in 2012 and a No. 3 ranking in 2011.
- *Chicago Magazine* – Ranked as No. 65 in the 2012 “100 Most Powerful Chicagoans” list, which called him the “go-to litigator for white-collar defendants nationwide.”
- *Chambers & Partners USA* – 2014, received award for Legal Excellence for Business Trial Lawyers, ranked in Antitrust and Product Liability & Mass Torts, listed as a star individual in Litigation: General Commercial, Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations, and Litigation: Trial Lawyers; 2013 and 2012, ranked in Litigation: Trial Lawyers, Products Liability & Mass Torts, Antitrust, listed as a star individual in Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations and Litigation: General Commercial; 2011, ranked in Litigation: Trial Lawyers, Products Liability & Mass Torts, Antitrust, listed as a star individual in Litigation: General Commercial and Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations; 2010, ranked in General Commercial Litigation, Antitrust, White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations, and Products Liability; 2009, ranked as a top attorney in Antitrust, General Commercial Litigation, Products Liability, and White-Collar Crime; 2007 and 2008, ranked as a top attorney in Litigation and Products Liability; 2006, ranked No. 2 nationally in Product Liability, listed with exceptional recommendations in Illinois in Commercial Litigation and White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations; 2005, listed with exceptional recommendations in Illinois in Commercial Litigation; 2004, listed with exceptional recommendations in Commercial Litigation, and ranked third in Antitrust Litigation in Illinois; 2003, listed with exceptional recommendations in Illinois in Commercial Litigation.
- *The International Who's Who of Business Crime Lawyers* – Ranked as one of the world's leading business crime defense lawyers in the 2013 edition.
- *Guide to the World's Leading Lawyers* – Best of the Best 2008 – Ranked as the top litigation expert in the United States and one of the top 25 litigation experts in the world.

- *Benchmark Litigation* – Included as a National and Illinois Litigation Star in the 2015, 2014, and 2013 editions for his antitrust, general commercial litigation, product liability, and white-collar crime practices.
- *Corporate Crime Reporter* – Ranked as the No. 1 white-collar criminal defense attorney.
- *Leading Lawyers Network* – Ranked as the No. 1 business litigator in the Chicago area, the No. 1 business lawyer in Illinois, and the No. 1 lawyer in all areas of law.
- *Expert Guides to the World's Leading Litigation Lawyers* – Identified as an expert; received more nominations than any other expert in the world.
- *Legal 500* – Listed as one of 10 leading trial lawyers in the United States for Litigation.
- *The Business Insider* – Named as one of the “Country’s Top Litigators” in 2010 and “One of 11 Trial Lawyers You Definitely Do Not Want to See Across the Aisle.”
- *The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* – Selected in 2010 as one of the “Top 10 Lawyers for the Past 10 Years.”
- *Chambers & Partners Global* – Listed as first tier for litigation in the United States.
- *The Best Lawyers in America* – Ranked for 2015 and previous years for bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense, mass tort litigation/class actions-defendants, and medical malpractice law-defendant practices. Ranked for both business litigation and criminal law; named Lawyer of the Year for 2014 Criminal Defense: White Collar Chicago, 2012 Chicago Bet-the-Company Litigation Lawyer of the Year, and 2010 Criminal Defense: White Collar Chicago.
- *Crain’s Chicago Business* – Leading Lawyers (2000-present).
- *National Law Journal* – Selected for the “Most Influential Lawyers” Special Report in the category of Law Firm Leadership, as one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America,” and as a “Winning Attorney;” also ranked No. 25 among the top 100 verdicts of 2007 for *Verizon Services Inc. v. Vonage Holdings Corp.*, in which Mr. Webb represented the plaintiff.
- *Lawdragon* – Named each year from 2008 through 2015 in the “Lawdragon 500: Leading Lawyers in America,” an annual guide to the nation’s top lawyers.
- *Intellectual Asset Management Patent 1000* – Recognized in the Illinois category as “one of the best lawyers in the country” who “proved his mettle in a number of substantial patent shootouts.”

Mr. Webb is also listed in ***The Euromoney Guide to the World’s Leading White-Collar Crime Lawyers; Super Lawyers Corporate Counsel Edition***; and ***The Guide to the World’s Leading Competition & Antitrust Lawyers***.

Community Service and Pro Bono Representation

In addition to his work for corporate clients, Mr. Webb is dedicated to community service and *pro bono* representation. In 2008, he chaired the Chicago Bar Association’s second annual Campaign for Justice, which raised a record amount of money from more than 40 law firms to help decrease the number of regional aid attorneys leaving Chicago organizations for more lucrative opportunities.

Mr. Webb defended Alex Hernandez, one of two men wrongfully convicted and later exonerated in the closely watched Jeanine Nicarico murder case in DuPage County, Ill. Mr. Webb represented Hernandez *pro bono* amid ongoing public outrage at the horrific abduction and homicide of an 11-year-old suburban child in February 1983 and during a period leading up to his third trial in 1995 (the first two convictions, including a death penalty and an 80-year prison sentence, had been overturned). Instead of trying Hernandez a third time with Mr. Webb at the defense table, the prosecutor dismissed the case.

In recent years, Mr. Webb has pledged significant gifts to his alma maters of Loyola University Chicago School of Law and Western Illinois University, where he established the Dan and Laura Webb Endowed Professorship in Political Science and the Dan and Laura Webb Pre-Law Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Webb's government experience includes: Assistant U.S. Attorney, Chief of Special Prosecutions Division, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Justice, 1970-1976; U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Illinois, 1981-1985.

Mr. Webb received a J.D. in 1970 from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where he graduated first in his class.

Honors & Awards

For all of his achievements during his career as a trial lawyer, Mr. Webb has received many bar and community service honors and awards. Notably, Mr. Webb was a 2010 recipient of the Inns of Court Professionalism Award. The award, given annually on a federal circuit basis, recognizes a lawyer or judge "whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law." Also in 2010, Mr. Webb was among five lawyers honored by the Anti-Defamation League at the Fifth Annual First Amendment Freedom Award Dinner in Chicago for his contributions during his service in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago. In addition, the Diversity Scholarship Foundation honored Mr. Webb as the recipient of its 2010 Unity Award, which recognizes leaders in the community who have made significant contributions within the legal profession, including embracing diversity and the ideals that diversity represents.

Mr. Webb was recently named a "Litigation Trailblazer & Pioneer" by *The National Law Journal*. In its inaugural list, the publication recognized 50 individuals who have changed the practice of litigation through the use of innovative legal strategies. Mr. Webb was selected by Global Investigations Review's independent research as one of the world's leading investigations lawyers and was named in the *Who's Who Legal: Investigations 2015* and *International Who's Who of Investigations Lawyers & Forensic Experts 2014*. He was also recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers*[®] 2014 for his commercial litigation, medical malpractice, mass tort litigation/class actions, and white-collar criminal defense practices. Also in 2014, Winston & Strawn was named the Chicago Litigation Department of the Year for white-collar defense by *The National Law Journal*. Mr. Webb was selected as one of *Law360's* Trial Aces in 2015 and was mentioned in their article, "Law360's Trial Aces Make Winning Look Easy." In 2016, he was named the Number Three lawyer on the Illinois "Super Lawyers" List.

Mr. Webb was named as a BTI Client All-Star in 2014 for his litigation practice. The annual report from BTI Consulting Group identifies attorneys that deliver the best client service, solely through unprompted client feedback.

Mr. Webb also received The American Jewish Committee's 2004 Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award, which is granted to those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to "combating all forms of discrimination and bigotry, promoting human rights, and advocating public policy rooted in American democratic values." In 1985, the Anti-Defamation League awarded Mr. Webb its Distinguished Public Service Award.

In 2006, the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (IACDL) honored Mr. Webb with a "Lifetime Achievement Award," and in 2008, *Chicago Lawyer* named him as "Person of the Year."

In 2009, Loyola University's Chicago School of Law and the Law Alumni board of governors presented Mr. Webb with The Medal of Excellence. Most recently, in 2010, Loyola named its nationally recognized Center for Advocacy as the Dan K. Webb Center for Advocacy to honor his distinguished career and to recognize his significant contributions to the school. In 2007, Western Illinois University granted Mr. Webb an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his career achievements.

Other honors Mr. Webb has received include the Distinguished Service Award from the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry in 1982 and the City of Hope Medical Center Spirit of Life Award in 1983. In addition, the Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago recognized him with its Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

Activities

Mr. Webb is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Mr. Webb also has been a member of numerous public boards and bar associations.

Publications & Speaking Engagements

Books

Mr. Webb is the co-author of *Corporate Internal Investigations* (Law Journal Seminars Press, 1993-present), considered by many general counsel to be the leading treatise on how corporate internal investigations should be conducted. He also co-authored "Up The Ladder: Litigator Responsibilities Under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act," 30 *Litigation* 22, Summer 2004 (with Scott P. Glauber).

Speeches and Articles

Mr. Webb spoke at the 2009 and 2010 *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* Conference on "White-Collar Crime" and "Bet-the-Company Litigation Trends;" moderated a panel discussion for a Practising Law Institute Program titled "Managing Complex Federal Litigation: A Practical Guide to New Developments, Procedures, and Strategies 2009;" spoke at a PLI program in 2008 titled "Your Witness: Conducting a Killer Cross Examination;" and presented "How to Keep Your CEO—And Yourself—Out of Prison" at *Corporate Counsel's* 20th Annual General Counsel Conference in New York City in June 2008.

Mr. Webb is a member of *The National Law Journal's* editorial board and has co-authored a series of articles in *The National Law Journal*, including "Keep It Simple at First When Closing," September 2009; "In a Closing, Argue, Don't Summarize," May 2009; "Expert Witness Prep," February 2009; "Fact Witness Preparation," December 2008; "Trial Teams," May 2008; "Demonstrative Evidence," March 2008; "Prior Statements," December 2007; "Jury Voir Dire," July 2007; and "The Opening Statement," April 2007 (all with David Reich).

Additional Publications

Mr. Webb has also been the subject of numerous articles published during his career as a trial attorney, including:

"War Story: It's Easier to Cross-Examine A Priest Than A Legendary Football Coach," *The Business Insider*, January 22, 2010

"'Everyone's Talking About this': Cisco Pioneers Route to Alternative Billing," *Corporate Counsel* magazine, November 2009

- “Chicago Lawyer’s 2008 Person of the Year: Dan Webb of Winston & Strawn,”** *The Chicago Lawyer*, December 2008
- “Profiles in Power – The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America,”** *National Law Journal*, June 19, 2006
- “Closing Arguments As Real-Life Theater,”** *Chicago Tribune*, March 9, 2006
- “The Man Who Talked His Way Into Law School,”** *Illinois SuperLawyers*, January 2006
- “Witness’ Calm No Match for Ryan Lawyers’ Tenacity,”** *Chicago Sun-Times*, December 13, 2005
- “Ryan’s Trial a Battle of Heavyweights,”** *Chicago Tribune*, September 26, 2005
- “Racketeering and Fraud Trial Begins for Illinois Ex-Governor,”** *The New York Times*, September 20, 2005
- “Big Tobacco, In Court Again, But Stock Is Still Up,”** *The New York Times*, August 14, 2005
- “Ex-Governor Pins Hopes on ‘Aw, Shucks’ Guy from Bushnell,”** Associated Press, March 20, 2005
- “Pritzkers Settle Family Lawsuit; Cost: a Fortune,”** *The Wall Street Journal*, January 7, 2005
- “Crain’s List: 2004’s Big Litigation,”** *Crain’s Chicago Business*, November 15, 2004
- “Being Dan Webb,”** *The American Lawyer*, September 2004
- “Need a Superlawyer? Take a Number,”** *The New York Times*, June 13, 2004
- “Lead Tobacco Lawyers Some of Nation’s Best,”** *Winston-Salem Journal*, September 21, 2004
- “Tycoon’s Estate Meant Overtime for Executors – Jack Kent Cooke’s Will Sparked Fights, Big Fees; Redskins Handoff Fumbled,”** *The Wall Street Journal* (Europe Edition), July 13, 2004
- “Familiar Firepower Is Reunited in Grasso Case,”** *The Wall Street Journal*, June 18, 2004
- “Interview with Dan Webb,”** *Litigation*, Volume 20, Number 2, Winter 2004
- “In Ryan’s Corner: Top U.S. Defender,”** *Chicago Sun-Times*, December 21, 2003
- “Webb Set to Defend ‘Ryan the Man’ – Ex-U.S. Attorney a Top Litigator,”** *Chicago Tribune*, December 19, 2003
- “Peers Vote Webb Top Defense Lawyer in White-Collar Cases,”** *Chicago Sun-Times*, May 28, 2003
- “Who Do You Call When the SEC IS Knocking at Your Door? The White Collar Winner,”** *Corporate Legal Times*, January 2003
- “Webb Steps Up to Celebrity Bar – Welch Case Gives Lawyer Shot at New Kind of Stardom,”** *Crain’s Chicago Business*, November 4, 2002
- “Judge Permits a Litigator to Join Welch Divorce Team,”** *The New York Times*, October 31, 2002
- “Jack Welch to Add Top Trial Lawyer Webb to Divorce Team,”** *USA Today*, October 30, 2002

“For Rivals, Change of Venue – Microsoft Case Puts Familiar Opponents in Unfamiliar Territory,” *The Washington Post*, April 15, 2002

“30 Tough Lawyers,” *Chicago Magazine*, March 2002

“Legal Heavyweights Add Punch to the Microsoft Case,” *Los Angeles Times*, March 17, 2002

“Who’s Who Among Practice Group Leaders Survey,” *Chicago Lawyer*, September 2001

“Can Dan Webb Pull Big Tobacco Out of the Fire?” *Business Week*, October 13, 1997

“Presumed Guilty,” *Vanity Fair*, October 1996

“GE Crushes the Trustbusters,” *The American Lawyer*, January/February 1995

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DAN K WEBB

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Specialisation

National trial practice in major commercial, civil, regulatory, and white-collar criminal cases for corporations and individuals. Has tried more than 100 jury cases; received international attention for his prosecution of retired Admiral John Poindexter in the Iran-Contra affair. As the U.S. Attorney in Chicago, he spearheaded the "Operation Greylord" investigations into judicial corruption in Cook County, Ill.

Professional Memberships

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers.

Career

Firm Chairman of Winston & Strawn; joined as Partner in 1985.

Publications

Co-author, "Corporate Internal Investigations" (Law Journal Seminars Press).

Personal

Western Illinois University, 1967; Loyola University School of Law, J.D. 1970

Chambers Commentary (USA)

Nationwide, Litigation: Trial Lawyers (/12788/661/editorial/5/1#148089_editorial) Star Individuals

Top-drawer litigator Dan Webb "*can try any cases you might have,*" according to impressed interviewees. He is held in high esteem across country for representing companies and in complex commercial, antitrust and criminal trials. His preeminent market reputation and is matched by his ongoing popularity among clients, who note that "*he is always available invests the time personally needed to do excellent work.*" Webb's recent representations demonstrate his notable versatility, and include his appointment as special prosecutor in a Chicago homicide case involving interviewing 146 witnesses and empanelling a grand jury. He is the chairman of Winston LLP.

Nationwide, Product Liability & Mass Tort (/12788/1802/editorial/5/1#3677_editorial) Band 3

Dan Webb is a "*terrific trial lawyer*" based at Winston & Strawn LLP. His broad litigation practice includes a notable focus on product liability disputes, and he represents major clients such as Philip Morris.

Illinois, Antitrust (/12471/363/editorial/5/1#3677_editorial) Band 3

Sources say "*star litigator*" **Dan Webb** "*is always available to his clients and invests the time needed to do excellent work.*" He is renowned for his experience in high-profile multidistrict litigation and class actions involving issues of monopolization and price-fixing.

Illinois, Litigation: General Commercial (/12471/228/editorial/5/1#3677_editorial) Star Individuals

Former Northern Illinois US Attorney **Dan Webb** is held in high esteem for his wide-ranging practice which encompasses commercial, white-collar and product liability cases. He is considered an outstanding trial lawyer and is sought after in big-ticket litigation.

Illinois, Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations (/12471/395/editorial/5/1#3677_editorial) Star Individuals

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Committees

Executive Profile

Dan K. Webb

Chairman and Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP

Age Total Calculated Compensation This person is connected to **2** Board Members in **2** different organizations across **2** different industries.

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See Board Relationships

Background

Mr. Dan K. Webb is a Partner of Winston & Strawn LLP and serves as its Chairman. Mr. Webb is recognized consistently as one of the most sought-after trial lawyers in the United States. He is a Director Emeritus at Lakeside Bank. He received international attention for his successful prosecution of retired Admiral John Poindexter in the Iran-Contra affair. As the U.S. district attorney for the northern district of Illinois, he spearheaded the "Operation Greylord" investigations into judicial corruption in Cook County, Illinois. He received national attention for his work as Lead Trial Counsel for General Electric, successfully defending it against criminal price-fixing allegations, as well as for his representation of Microsoft Corporation in its antitrust litigation and Philip Morris in its tobacco-related litigation. In addition, he represented the New York Stock Exchange in connection with an internal investigation over compensation to its former Chairman Richard Grasso. He represents the NYSE in subsequent litigation. Mr. Webb served as lead counsel in the six-month jury trial of former Governor of Illinois George H. Ryan on public corruption charges.

Collapse Detail

Corporate Headquarters

35 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601-9703

United States

Phone: 312-558-5600

Fax: 312-558-5700

Annual Compensation

There is no Annual Compensation data available.

Stocks Options

There is no Stock Options data available.

Total Compensation

There is no Total Compensation data available.

Board Members Memberships

Chairman and Partner

Winston & Strawn LLP

Education


There is no Education data available.

Other Affiliations

Lakeside Bank

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Dan K. Webb

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dan K. Webb is an Illinois attorney known for his involvement in high-profile litigation cases and his connections to former Illinois governor Gov. James R. Thompson. He is the chairman of the Winston & Strawn law firm^[1] and is the former United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, serving from 1981 to 1985. From 1970 to 1976 he was an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Special Prosecutions Division of the U.S. Attorney's office of the Northern District of Illinois. In 1990 Webb received international attention for his prosecution of retired Admiral John Poindexter^[2] in the Iran–Contra affair.

As a federal prosecutor in Illinois, Webb gained fame for his lead role in the Operation Greylord investigations into judicial corruption in Cook County, Illinois. After leaving public practice, his focus was on defense, especially of white-collar crime and allegations of corporate malfeasance. He was lead defense trial counsel for General Electric in a price-fixing case, represented Microsoft in antitrust litigation, and represented Philip Morris in its tobacco-related litigation.

Webb graduated from Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.^[3] Webb attended Loyola University Chicago School of Law, receiving a J.D. in 1970.

References

- "Winston & Straw LLP > Attorneys > Attorneys > Dan K. Webb". Winston & Strawn LLP. Retrieved 2010-02-14.
- Lardner, Jr., George (1988-09-06). "Poindexter Prosecutor Is Named;Ex-U.S. Attorney Webb to Try Case Against Former Reagan Aide". *Washington Post*. Retrieved 2010-02-14.
- "Webb for the Defense of Western". Western Illinois University. Retrieved 2016-03-10.

External links

- Webb's biography at Winston & Strawn's website (<http://www.winston.com/index.cfm?contentID=24&itemID=10594>)

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Winston & Strawn LLP
Chicago, IL, USA

BIOGRAPHY

ASSOCIATED ITEMS

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Trial Ace: Winston & Strawn's Dan Webb

By **John Kennedy**

Law360, New York (October 5, 2015, 10:34 PM ET) -- [Winston & Strawn](#) LLP's co-chairman Dan K. Webb has cross-examined former President Ronald Reagan and other prominent figures during his 45 years as a trial attorney, a career that's defined by "relentless" preparation and a "common-sense" approach that appeals to judges and jurors alike.

Through both private and public practice, the [Law360 Trial Ace](#) has built a reputation as one of the nation's foremost trial attorneys, with a record of success that's hard to match, according to former Illinois Gov. James Thompson, now senior chairman at Winston & Strawn LLP. Due to the exceptional volume of cases Webb has tried, Thompson says it'd be impossible to accurately provide, or even closely estimate, the number of Webb's trial victories.

When Thompson was the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, he hired Webb straight out of Loyola School of Law in 1970 and said after his staff reviewed Webb's credentials, the chief of the criminal division remarked that the Bushnell, Illinois, native was a "nice boy but rural."

"That's what I want. ... That's part of his charm," Thompson remembered saying, before jumping to the present day. "He's the same Dan Webb I hired 45 years ago."

Webb's straightforward, plainspoken manner makes it clear to juries what he's trying to accomplish, says Thomas J. Frederick, managing partner of Winston & Strawn's Chicago office. Despite his intelligence and sophistication, Webb — who graduated at the top of his Loyola class — doesn't get caught up in legalese and speaks clearly and directly to the jurors.

This "art of simplification" is extraordinarily important to learn as a trial lawyer, Webb says, explaining that the secret to winning jurors over is to be the one who boils the case down to its most essential elements



Dan Webb

and simplifies it in a way they understand, so they credit you as being the one who helped them comprehend the issues.

Part of what helps Webb understand the intimate workings of even the most complex cases is his methodical approach to preparation, his colleagues say. Because Webb knows the record better than anyone else in the courtroom and is precise with his questioning, he makes the issues easy for a jury to grasp, they say.

“He goes into a trial like you would go into battle — prepared,” Thompson said.

Being a trial lawyer is both an art and a science, Webb says. It’s an art to be able to examine witnesses, think quickly on one’s feet and naturally appeal to a jury, but it’s a science to be the best prepared lawyer in the room, he says.

“Preparation is critical to the success of a trial lawyer,” Webb said, adding that no matter how well you prepare, things could still go wrong, but if you’re not prepared, you won’t be able to cope with the challenge.

It’s what makes Webb’s own ability to cross-examine witnesses “phenomenal” and “a real art,” according to Thomas L. Kirsch, a partner in the firm’s Chicago office. Webb can articulate his theory of the case through a cross-examination while simultaneously discrediting the other side, Kirsch says.

“Cross-examination isn’t about calling every witness a liar — if you’re going to do that, you’re going to lose,” he said. “It’s the ability to consistently present your theory of the case through cross-examination and constantly chip away at the opposing side’s theory.”

Webb considers cross-examination the most skillful act a trial lawyer can perform because the witness is usually trying to badly hurt the other side’s case, while the examining lawyer is working to shred the credibility of the witness’s testimony. He’s cross-examined witnesses from both sides of the aisle, remaining dedicated to his clients no matter what side he’s on.

“With Dan, there’s just a true professionalism, a true desire to serve his clients,” said Matthew Carter, a partner in the firm’s Chicago office.

During his time in the U.S. attorney’s office, Webb successfully prosecuted Clarence Braasch, the fourth-highest-ranking police officer in Chicago, and 23 other high-ranking officers in one of the largest extortion cases ever tried — a case Webb says “put me on the map.”

He joined Winston & Strawn in 1985 but was briefly called back to public service in 1990 to prosecute retired Admiral John Poindexter, the deputy national security adviser for the Reagan administration for his actions in the Iran-Contra affair. During that case, Webb cross-examined former President Reagan himself, and jurors later said the examination was a pivotal issue, Webb said.

In 2005, Webb defended former Illinois Gov. George Ryan against charges of public corruption,



Dan Webb makes his closing arguments for co-defendant Philip Morris in Andy Allen v. R.J. Reynolds, an Engle progeny tobacco case. (Video: Courtroom View Network)

racketeering, mail fraud and income tax fraud, a case his colleagues say proves his loyalty to his clients. The case started out paid, but when Ryan's defense fund ran out, Webb continued anyway at considerable expense to the firm.

"He had undertaken the defense, and he wasn't going to leave his client in the lurch," Thompson said. "It was a very honorable decision."

Webb sticks by his clients' sides, but believes strongly in treating his opposition and others with respect. Chicago associate Sean G. Wieber says he's never heard a disparaging word said about Webb after he's left the room, either from co- or opposing counsel. The legal world, while large, is figuratively small, Wieber says, so a one-time opponent could end up on your side on the next case.

Each lawyer is trying to do their job and represent their client to the best of their ability, Webb says, explaining that he hates any pettiness or lack of civility that may occur between opposing sides.

"We're both fighting to be effective advocates, but there's no reason to do anything more than be friends with your opponent," Webb said. "We can fight and argue in the courtroom, but there's no justification for making it personal."

Webb made his decision to become a trial lawyer in high school and pursued his passion with the same relentlessness that has come to define his career. He attended Western Illinois University, which allowed him to complete three years of undergraduate work and apply his first year of law school toward his bachelor's degree.

The school canceled that program during his third year, but he sent letters to law schools anyway, landing an interview at Loyola. When the dean realized he hadn't yet graduated, Webb "gave his finest closing argument," he said, and the school accepted him.

A few years later, his goal of becoming a trial lawyer was achieved, and Webb saw no reason to go back and finish his undergraduate degree. Those who have worked with him agree — Webb was born to do what he does.

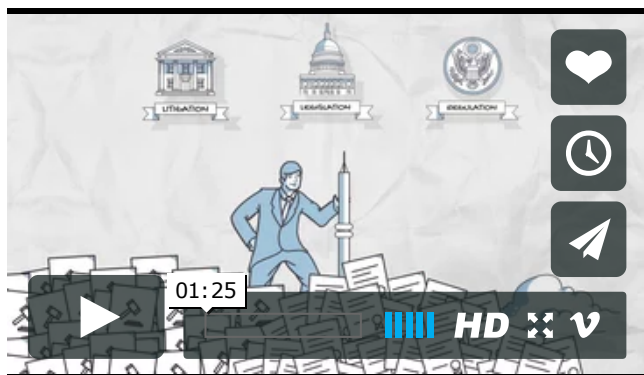
"If you ever saw someone who's truly in their element," Chicago partner Lawrence R. Desideri said, "it's Dan in a courtroom."

--Editing by Christine Chun and Kelly Duncan.

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