



Chris Gair

Partner

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Chris Gair is widely recognized as one of the preeminent trial lawyers in Chicago. He is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and has tried dozens of cases in federal and state courts and arbitrations. He is recognized by Chambers & Partners as one of Chicago's top lawyers in General Commercial Litigation, White-Collar Crime, and Government investigations.

Chris started his career clerking for the renowned Illinois Supreme Court Justice Seymour Simon. He then served for seven years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Chicago, eventually becoming deputy chief of the Organized Crime Division. He led the landmark prosecutions undertaken by the office during his tenure, including the conviction of the mayor, city council members and appointed officials in Chicago Heights in connection with a long-running extortion, bribery and racketeering enterprise. He prosecuted and convicted long-time Outfit boss Lenny Patrick for running an extortion crew that shook down restaurants, car dealers and other prominent businesses in Chicago. He then flipped Patrick to convict Gus Alex, an Outfit leader since the 1930s who had never even been arrested in more than five decades of criminal activity. Chris also prosecuted and convicted the then head of Chicago's organized crime syndicate, Sam Carlisi, and seven of his subordinates for racketeering, conspiracy to commit murder, extortion, loan-sharking and tax fraud.

Upon leaving the United States Attorney's office, Gair went into private practice and was a partner at two premier litigation firms. He spent eleven years at the well-known boutique Freeman, Freeman & Salzman. There he litigated a number of nationwide antitrust price-fixing cases, including successfully representing major corporations as plaintiffs in three major suits, the *Carbon Dioxide*, *Sorbates*, and *Bulk Vitamins* antitrust cases. He also tried and won a directed verdict for a defendant pharmaceutical manufacturer in the *Brand Name Prescription Drugs Antitrust Litigation* as well as a multi-million fee sanction against class plaintiffs' counsel. Chris also defended many other high-profile cases, including defending the City Treasurer of Chicago on corruption charges and the Wrigley Field rooftop owners in the civil case brought against them by the Chicago Cubs.

Chris followed with seven years as a partner at Jenner & Block, one of the most prestigious law firms in Chicago. Chris was one of Jenner's top trial lawyers in civil and criminal cases. He led the prosecution of the parties responsible for the collapse of Sentinel Management Group, recovering over \$300 million from the Bank of New York Mellon following a trial. He defended the lawyer accused of the largest tax fraud in U.S. history. He successfully defeated a \$1 billion claim brought by one of



the country's largest hedge funds against its former head of high-frequency trading for alleged misappropriation of trade secrets. He successfully defended Fortune 500 companies in SEC investigations and conducted FCPA investigations in Latin America.

Chris founded Gair Eberhard in 2013. In recent years he has won a number of jury trials and arbitrations in complex civil cases. Representative cases include:

- Successfully persuading various U.S. Attorney's Offices and the SEC not to indict or charge corporate officers and executives in a variety of fraud investigations.
- Winning a \$2 million compensatory and punitive damages verdict in a fraud case brought on behalf of his client, a physician who had been cheated by his managing partner, and collecting on the verdict after the defendant attempted to hide assets and claim insolvency.
- Defeating at trial a \$5 million dollar whistleblower, fraud and breach of contract claim by a trader against a prominent high-frequency trading company.
- Winning a \$1.5 million award in arbitration on behalf of a data analytics firm against a former joint venture partner.

Chris is fluent in Spanish and developed a project, funded by USAID, in which he coached prosecutors and police in Mexico in investigating and prosecuting cases for presentation under Mexico's new system of oral trials. He has worked closely with the Procuradurías of the Mexican states of Baja California del Norte, Morelos, and Oaxaca and was a featured speaker at a national conference on justice system reform in Mexico. He has written numerous articles on an eclectic variety of subjects from football's claim to make men out of boys to cross-examination to a book review of a contemporary Spanish novelist.

Chris graduated summa cum laude from Duke University with a major in philosophy. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. After a year working on the gubernatorial campaign of former Senator Adlai Stevenson III, he studied law at the University of Chicago, graduating with honors and as a member of the Order of the Coif.

Chris' avocations are reading Spanish-language novels, running, tennis, hiking and skiing. When time permits, he also performs in community theater.

