

# Britton St. Onge

SHAREHOLDER

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Britton St. Onge works hard to resolve his clients' legal troubles using creative, tailored, and cost-effective solutions without losing focus on the client's overall business objectives. He recognizes there is much to be gained from careful thought and planning at the early stages of a new dispute, even before a lawsuit has been filed. He has experience with all stages of litigation, including first-chair trial experience (jury and bench), and enjoys crafting watertight legal arguments and factual narratives that persuade the targeted audience of the force of his clients' position. Britton's experience clerking before entering private practice exposed him to complex and nuanced jurisdictional and procedural disputes. That background gives him a deeper understanding of the federal judiciary, which he uses to his clients' strategic advantage.

Britton has experience appearing before state and federal appellate courts, including with direct appeals after judgment, interlocutory appeals before judgment, and extraordinary-writ practice. Britton also has experience appearing before the American Arbitration Association.

Since joining Polsinelli, Britton has served clients in a variety of ways, including representing them in litigation involving:

- Breach of contract and warranty disputes – particularly supply-chain disputes for manufacturers in various industries
- Disputes arising from mergers and acquisitions, including in the Delaware Court of Chancery
- Trust and estate disputes
- Property-related disputes

## Education

- Notre Dame Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2009)
- University of Dallas (B.A., *cum laude*, 2004)

## Bar Admissions

## Capabilities

- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation
- Mergers & Acquisitions Litigation
- Appellate
- Trusts & Estates
- Delaware Court of Chancery

- Missouri, 2009
- Illinois, 2017

## Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

## Memberships

- Saint Louis University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
  - Community Member, 2017-present
- The Missouri Bar
- American Bar Association
- Knights of Columbus
- Toastmasters
  - Club Secretary, 2016-2018

## Recognition

- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® for:
  - Litigation - Trusts and Estates, 2024-2026
  - Appellate Practice, 2023-2026
  - Commercial Litigation, 2023-2026
- Missouri Lawyers Media, *Up & Coming Award*, Pro Bono Service (2018)
- Theodore McMillian American Inn of Court, Member, 2014-2017

## Clerkships

- Law Clerk for the Honorable Richard A. Griffin, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 2011-2013
- Law Clerk for the Honorable Stephen J. Murphy, III, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, 2009-2011

# Matters

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### Representative Litigations:

- Defended seller of cloud-based computing company in post-closing litigation involving representation, warranty, and fraud claims in the Delaware Court of Chancery.
- Defended against trust contest based on asserted undue influence and lack of capacity.
- Prosecuted trust beneficiary's claim to remove successor trustee based on breach of fiduciary duty.
- Defended personal representative against dubious claims against probate estate.
- Representing pharmaceutical repackaging company in multi-district litigation involving alleged contamination of repackaged products.

- Defended online security firm against claims that its email practices violated state law; defended favorable judgment on appeal.
- Represented non-profit in negotiating for the release of obligations with hotels and convention centers in light of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Represent various companies in their efforts to collect payment from vendors.
- Secured a defense verdict following bench trial in a case asserting client's personal liability on a contract between two companies.
- Represented national religious denomination in dispute over ownership of real estate used by local church.
- Represented bank in multiple efforts to obtain repayment on notes and personal guaranties purchased from the FDIC after the originating bank failed.
- Represented retail construction company in post-closing acquisition dispute with buyer.
- Represented cancer treatment center in contract action involving services provided in clinical drug trials.
- In action involving contract for development of land in St. Louis, successfully obtained an order transferring the action from federal court in St. Louis to a federal court in California, where client resides.
- Represented limestone mining company in efforts to obtain mining permit from state environmental regulators, including litigation that followed after the permit was issued.
- Successfully opposed challenge to significant arbitration award based on late service of the challenge, thereby saving client the expense of opposing the challenge on the merits.
- Secured dismissal of trademark action on grounds that the court could not exercise personal jurisdiction over out-of-state defendant consistent with the U.S. Constitution.
- Represented investment banking firm in dispute over fee due upon the successful sale of a business to strategic buyer.

**Representative Appellate Matters:**

- Representing trustee in defense of the entry of summary judgment and a substantial award of legal fees.
- Represented educational institution in interlocutory appeal addressing the potential for institution's liability under state false claims act.
- Represented national paint manufacturer before the Missouri Supreme Court in a successful challenge to personal jurisdiction based on use of a website.
- Principal author of two amicus briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in cases asking what the appropriate elements are for a claim of First-Amendment retaliatory arrest.
- Assisted in drafting amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in case addressing the intersection of the freedom of speech and the authority of the police to keep the peace.

**Other Significant Matters:**

- Represented before a jury an individual charged with multiple crimes under state law.
- Represented state prisoner who sued doctors for violating his constitutional right to necessary medical treatment.

# Publications

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February 14, 2025

**Avoid This Pitfall When Challenging an Arbitration Award in Court**

*Author, Missouri Lawyers Weekly*