



Curtis J. Shipley

Partner

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Curtis Shipley represents clients in complex commercial disputes, construction defect and product liability matters, and environmental litigation. Though his environmental work frequently involves litigation, such as toxic tort actions and contribution and cost recovery actions under the federal Superfund statute, his work is sometimes regulatory in nature. Curtis routinely advises clients who are investigating, remediating, and monitoring contamination at closed landfills and other environmental sites. Most recently, his environmental work has focused on the legal challenges posed by emerging contaminants.

Curtis considers himself a generalist because his practice is broad-based and dynamic. He represents clients in complex commercial litigation and other civil disputes and also provides advisory services to commercial entities. He regularly advises clients on manufacturing, distribution, land use, and confidentiality agreements, as well as the management of risks associated with product lines and business operations.

Curtis prides himself on his ability to remain calm under fire. He strives to remain cordial and maintain personal integrity at every stage of the litigation process. Curtis believes it is better for both sides if attorneys act as zealous advocates within a basic framework of personal decorum and mutual respect. This ensures that the matter will be resolved as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Curtis' path to the law was nontraditional. He obtained his bachelor's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in 1985. While a student at Northwestern, he completed internships as a reporter at daily and weekly newspapers, and served as the

publisher of *Byline*, *Northwestern's Journalism Review*.

Through his work in journalism, Curtis realized that the skills he obtained in that field would translate well to law. Both industries require a high degree of curiosity and investigatory skills such as knowing the right questions to ask, discerning where to seek information, and adopting a dogged mindset in the pursuit of truth. Both fields also require excellent writing skills and the ability to take complex information, distill it into its relevant parts, and present it in a succinct and cogent manner.

Curtis graduated with high distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law, where he served as Articles Editor of the *Iowa Law Review* and was a semi-finalist in the Van Oosterhout Moot Court Competition. After law school, Curtis served as a law clerk for the Honorable Myron H. Bright of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He then practiced for three years with Sidley & Austin in Washington, D.C. and twelve years with Moore & Van Allen PLLC in Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina. Curtis joined Ellis & Winters LLP as a partner in June 2004 and practices in the firm's Greensboro office.

In his free time, Curtis is an avid music fan and collector. He takes full advantage of North Carolina's robust live music scene and enjoys attending shows by independent and obscure bands with his wife and friends. Curtis and his wife have four teenage children, including triplets, which has made for a truly interesting adventure.

Practice Areas

- Class Actions
- Complex Commercial and Business Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Environmental and Toxic Tort
- Products Liability
- Tort Trial and Insurance Practice
- Trial and Litigation
- Appeals