

In this 2026 Q2 issue, WBS sheds light on recent Illinois Supreme Court and District Court rulings and proffers updates on current case victories.

WBS Welcomes New Of Counsel, Charles L. Philbrick



We are excited to announce the addition of Charles Philbrick to the firm. Charles is of counsel to the firm with his primary areas of practice including Insurance Matters and Commercial Litigation. He has extensive experience handling complex business litigation matters in numerous jurisdictions throughout the country.

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NEWS

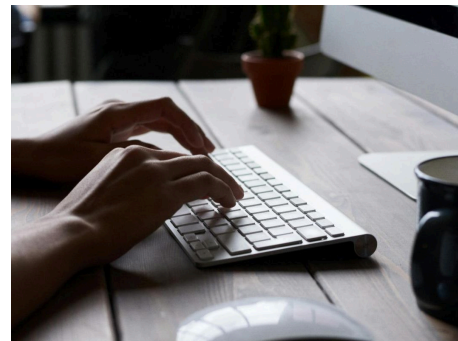


Illinois Supreme Court Rules on Insurance Pollution Policy Exclusion

by Robert Muriel, Partner & Elliot Schochet, Law Clerk

In late January 2026, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that a company's permit to emit pollution is "irrelevant" when deciding whether the company's general liability policy pollution exclusion applies to claims regarding those emissions.

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AI Use in the Legal Profession

by Jay Zenker, Associate

Recently, a non-lawyer, tech-savvy friend sent me a Substack article with the headline "Why the Legal Profession is Facing a Mass Extinction Event." I've seen similar headlines before, which traffic in the sensationalism, catastrophe, and revolution that AI will create. The headlines are designed to capture attention, but they do not reflect the truth.

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Newly Upheld Delaware Corporate Law Limits Investor Litigation

by Jack Prendiville, Associate

Delaware enacted a statute recently upheld by the Delaware Supreme Court designed to limit stockholder litigation challenging certain board-approved transactions. In substance, the law curtails investors' ability to challenge corporate deals where either: (a) a board committee composed of a majority of independent directors has approved the transaction, or (b) a majority of the public shareholders have voted to approve it. The statute seeks to provide greater transactional certainty once these procedural safeguards are satisfied.

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Federal Judge Rules Poultry Workers' Unpaid Wage Claims Can Proceed

by Kerry Saltzman, Partner & Elliot Schochet, Law Clerk

A federal judge has ruled that workers at two Illinois poultry plants can move forward with a lawsuit claiming they were not paid in full for the time they spent working.

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RECENT WBS CASES

Judgments Secured in Commercial Lease Disputes

David Williams and David Strubbe recently obtained summary judgment on behalf of a national owner/developer of industrial property, pursuant to which the Court awarded their client over \$650,000.00 for back rent, repair costs for damage to the premises, and reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs.

Shortly after, Strubbe and Joel Goldblatt obtained a similarly favorable ruling on a Motion for Summary Judgment on behalf of their client and against a restaurant ownership group that sought to evade over \$300,000.00 in remaining rent owed after it abandoned the premises

Defense of Motions to Dismiss in Breach of Fiduciary Duty Case

WBS attorneys Rob Muriel and Jay Zenker successfully defended against three Motions to Dismiss brought against their client, a beneficiary to an insurance trust. The Court ruled that, as Plaintiff, the client's pleadings properly alleged violations of the Trust, as well as other claims. Although this victory certainly does not end the litigation, it does allow WBS' client to proceed with his claims and move to the next phase of the litigation.

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WILLIAMS, BAX & SALTZMAN, P.C.
221 N. LA SALLE ST. | SUITE 3700 | CHICAGO, IL 60601
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