



Robert Zisk

Partner

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Achieving exceptional results for clients who value our support is one of the most rewarding aspects of practicing law. I've found that strong relationships improve our work and outcomes, close collaboration helps us tackle unique challenges and a good sense of humor fosters a positive atmosphere amid complexities. Ultimately, practicing law is about building connections and making a meaningful impact on our clients' lives. One client said, "Bob is very good. He is an excellent advocate in court, has a broad knowledge of the subject matter and knows his stuff with respect to trying cases."

With over 40 years of experience, Bob Zisk focuses his practice on franchise and distribution law and commercial litigation. Bob has represented national franchisors in disputes involving franchisees, regulators and other parties as a franchise litigator and counselor. His extensive knowledge covers a wide range of issues that franchisors face, including:

- Adherence to system standards
- Anti-poaching
- Antitrust matters
- Class actions
- Disclosure concerns
- Encroachment
- Financial fraud

Areas of Focus

Services

[Franchise & Distribution](#)

[Litigation](#)

[Non-Compete, Non-Solicit,](#)

[Trade Secrets & Other](#)

[Restrictive Covenants](#)

[Franchise Litigation &](#)

[Dispute Resolution](#)

[Antitrust & Trade Regulation](#)

[Appellate](#)

[Franchise Reorganization &](#)

[Bankruptcy](#)

[General Business & Complex](#)

[Commercial Litigation](#)

Sectors

[Restaurant, Food & Beverage](#)

- Licensing
- Non-compete agreements
- Tax fraud
- Trademark and trade dress infringement
- Underreporting of sales
- Vicarious liability

Bob has a particular specialty for addressing franchisees' underreporting of sales, tax fraud and related financial issues, both in and out of the courtroom. He has collaborated with major national franchisors to develop innovative programs that encourage accurate sales reporting by franchisees and has had great success taking underreporting cases to court when necessary. Bob has tried numerous cases in federal and state courts throughout the U.S. and has handled various appellate matters. In addition to his franchise work, Bob has litigated cases involving breach of contract, real estate, corporate issues, insurance coverage, product liability and personal injury.

Bob often speaks on franchise law and litigation issues at the American Bar Association's Forum on Franchising, the International Franchise Association's Legal Symposium and Annual Convention and the National Restaurant Association's Internal Auditors' Group annual meeting.

Credentials

Education

- Duke University School of Law, J.D., 1983, with honors
- Cornell University, B.S., 1980

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Tax Court

Recognition

- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2010-2025
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, Franchise*, 2015-2018
- *Lexology Index, Recommended* – USA Franchising, 2025
- *Lexology Franchise Guide (formerly Who's Who Legal)*, 2008-2023
- Washington, D.C. *Super Lawyers*, 2013-2024
- *Franchise Times*, "Legal Eagle," 2014-2020
- *The Washington Post*, "Washington DC's Best Lawyers," 2010

Presentations

- Facilitator, "Franchise P&Ls: Why Your System Needs Accurate Financial Reporting from its Franchisees, and How to Obtain It," IFA 2021 Annual Convention, February 24, 2021
- Facilitator, "Roundtables: *Franchisee Financial Statements for Franchisors*," H.E.A.T. Franchise Summit, August 25 – 27, 2020

Professional Activities

- American Bar Association
- American Bar Association, Forum on Franchising
- International Franchise Association