



**SWEETNAM<sub>LLC</sub>**

Attorneys at Law

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## **FIRM RESUME**

Sweetnam LLC is a civil litigation boutique providing superior legal knowledge, courtroom skills and negotiation techniques to plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts throughout the United States. Whether through litigation, arbitration, mediation or negotiation, we have the ability to effectively resolve virtually any dispute or to obtain compensation for all types of economic and non-economic injuries.

Established in 2008, Sweetnam LLC was formed to represent victims of fraud at the hands of corporations, financial institutions and insurance companies. Sweetnam LLC has extensive experience prosecuting class actions in state and federal courts across the country involving violations of consumer fraud and deceptive trade practices statutes, breach of warranty and violations of federal securities laws, shareholder derivative suits and appeals. Sweetnam LLC has acted as lead counsel, co-lead counsel and has been a member of the executive and steering committees in consumer, antitrust and other class action, complex and multidistrict litigation matters.

Since its founding, Sweetnam LLC has expanded its practice to include representation of individuals and domestic and international business entities, ranging in size from fewer than 10 employees to more than 500 employees, in both civil litigation and appeals. For more information about Sweetnam LLC, visit [www.sweetnamllc.com](http://www.sweetnamllc.com).



## WILLIAM M. SWEETNAM

Sweetnam LLC's Managing Partner, William M. Sweetnam, has spent the past twenty-two years as a litigator, often concentrating in the area of class action and complex litigation, prosecuting hundreds of consumer, shareholder and antitrust class action in federal and state courts across the country. In addition to representing both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of cases involving both economic and non-economic injuries, Mr. Sweetnam and his firm have acted as lead counsel, co-lead counsel and has been a member of the executive and steering committees in consumer, antitrust and other class action, complex and multidistrict litigation matters.

In 2011, Mr. Sweetnam received an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating™ from Martindale-Hubbell®, a 140-year-old legal directory, based on anonymous peer assessments of members of the Bar and the Judiciary. The AV® Preeminent® rating is an indicator of very high general ethical standards and legal ability. For more information about Martindale-Hubbell®, visit [www.martindale.com](http://www.martindale.com). In addition, Mr. Sweetnam recently received a rating of “Excellent” from Avvo™, the industry leader in lawyer ratings. Avvo calculates its ratings using a mathematical model that considers the information shown in a lawyer's profile, including a lawyer's years in practice, disciplinary history, professional achievements and industry recognition. For more information about Avvo™, visit [www.avvo.com](http://www.avvo.com).

Prior to founding Sweetnam LLC in 2008, Mr. Sweetnam was a partner at a Chicago class action litigation boutique, where he perfected his skills representing victims of consumer fraud and deceptive and anti-competitive practices. Mr. Sweetnam has extensive litigation experience in a variety of nationwide class actions in state and federal courts alleging violations of consumer fraud and deceptive trade practices statutes, breach of warranty and violations of federal securities laws, shareholder derivative suits and appeals.

Mr. Sweetnam began his career as a class action and complex litigation practitioner with Barroway Topaz Kessler Meltzer & Check, LLP, one of the largest class action law firms in the United States, where he was part of a team of lawyers involved in prosecuting class actions challenging abusive marketing practices in several areas involving life insurance and annuities. These cases led to class settlements valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, and sometimes even billions of dollars, with such major life insurance companies as Prudential, Met Life, John Hancock, New York Life, State Farm, American Express/IDS, Transamerica, and many others, as well as to numerous changes in industry sales practices.

Mr. Sweetnam continued his career at one of Chicago's oldest and most respected class action litigation firms, Krislov & Associates, Ltd., where he represented consumers and investors engaged in an array of nationwide class actions in state and federal courts involving everything from consumer fraud to breach of warranty and securities and shareholder derivative lawsuits and appeals.

Mr. Sweetnam began his career as a lawyer representing plaintiffs in catastrophic injury cases in 1994. In 1995, he began defending corporate, insurance industry and insurance policyholder clients.

Mr. Sweetnam is a graduate of The University of Michigan and the De Paul University College of Law where he received the American Jurisprudence Award in Constitutional Law and was a member of the



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Journal of Art and Entertainment Law. He has written and lectured on class actions and class action litigation reform.

Mr. Sweetnam was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is married with three children, and resides in Lake Forest, Illinois.

### EDUCATION

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (B.A., 1990)

De Paul University College of Law, Chicago, Illinois (J.D., 1994)

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Litigation and Appeals

- Class Actions
- Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Trade Practices
- Breach of Warranty
- Securities Fraud
- Shareholder Derivative Actions
- False Claims
- Antitrust

### BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois Supreme Court
- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Colorado
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
- United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

### ASSOCIATIONS

- Illinois State Bar Association
- The Chicago Bar Association (Member, Class Litigation Committee; Member, Federal Civil Practice Committee)
- Lake County (Ill.) Bar Association



## SWEETNAM<sub>LLC</sub>

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Managing Member, Sweetnam LLC, Chicago, Illinois (2008 - Present)

Partner, Freed & Weiss, LLC, Chicago, Illinois (2002-2008)

Senior Associate, Krislov & Associates, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois (1999-2002)

Associate, Schiffrin, Craig & Barroway, LLP (now Barroway Topaz Kessler Meltzer & Check, LLP),  
Chicago, Illinois (1997-1999)

Associate, Merlo, Kanofsky & Brinkmeier, Ltd. (now Merlo Kanofsky & Gregg, Ltd.), Chicago,  
Illinois (1995-1997)

Associate, Peter D. Kasdin, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois (1994-1995)

### LECTURES

*The Class Action Fairness Act of 2005: Selecting a Forum and Keeping It*, Illinois Institute for  
Continuing Legal Education, Chicago, Illinois, June, 2008

*Federalization of Consumer Class Action Litigation: The Class Action Fairness Act of 2005*, The John  
Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois, March, 2006

### REPORTED DECISIONS

*Old Nat. Bank v. Kelly*, 31 N.E.3d 522 (Ind. App. 2014)

*Nava v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 995 N.E.2d 303 (1st Dist. 2013)

*Cappuccitti v. DirecTV, Inc.*, 623 F.3d 1118 (11th Cir. 2010)

*Pella Corp. v. Saltzman*, 606 F.3d 391 (7th Cir. 2010)

*In re Digitek Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 264 F.R.D. 249 (S.D. W. Va. 2010)

*Aleman v. Park West Galleries, Inc.*, 655 F. Supp. 2d 1378 (J.P.M.L. 2009)

*In re Park West Galleries, Inc. Mktg. & Sales Practices Litig.*, 645 F. Supp. 2d 1358 (J.P.M.L. 2009)

*In re Digitek Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 648 F. Supp. 2d 795 (S.D. W. Va. 2009)

*Vernon v. Qwest Communs. Int'l, Inc.*, 643 F. Supp. 2d 1256 (W.D. Wash. 2009)

*Stachurski v. DirecTV, Inc.*, 642 F. Supp. 2d 758 (N.D. Ohio 2009)

*In re Comcast Corp. Set-Top Cable TV Box Antitrust Litig.*, 626 F. Supp. 2d 1353 (J.P.M.L. 2009)

*In re Refrigerant Compressors Antitrust Litig.*, 626 F. Supp. 2d 1320 (J.P.M.L. 2009)



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*Saltzman v. Pella Corp.*, 257 F.R.D. 471 (N.D. Ill., 2009)  
*Coneff v. AT&T Corp.*, 620 F. Supp. 2d 1248 (W.D. Wash. 2009)  
*Hoving v. Lawyers Title Ins. Co.*, 256 F.R.D. 555 (E.D. Mich. 2009)  
*In re Nissan N. Am., Inc. Odometer Litig.*, 664 F. Supp. 2d 873 (M.D. Tenn. 2009)  
*Hoving v. Lawyers Title Ins. Co.*, 256 F.R.D. 555 (E.D. Mich. 2009)  
*In re Digitek Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 571 F. Supp. 2d 1376 (J.P.M.L. 2008)  
*In re BP Prods. N. Am., Inc.*, 560 F. Supp. 2d 1377 (J.P.M.L. 2008)  
*Hoving v. Transnation Title Ins. Co.*, 545 F. Supp. 2d 662 (E.D. Mich. 2008)  
*In re Nissan N. Am., Inc. Odometer Litig.*, 542 F. Supp. 2d 1367 (J.P.M.L. 2008)  
*Berry v. Budget Rent a Car Sys.*, 497 F. Supp. 2d 1361 (S.D. Fla. 2007)  
*Cook v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.*, 62 U.C.C. Rep. Serv. 2d (Callaghan) 197 (S.D. Ohio 2007)  
*Womack v. Nissan N. Am., Inc.*, 550 F. Supp. 2d 630 (E.D. Tex. 2007)  
*Knudsen v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co.*, 435 F.3d 755 (7th Cir. 2006)  
*Knudsen v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co.*, 411 F.3d 805 (7th Cir. 2005)  
*Knudsen v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co.*, 405 F. Supp. 2d 916 (N.D. Ill. 2005)  
*Enzenbacher v. Browning-Ferris Indus. of Ill.*, 774 N.E.2d 858 (Ill. App. 2002)  
*In re Nat'l Life Ins. Co.*, 247 F. Supp. 2d 486 (D. Vt 2002)  
*Kaskel v. N. Trust Co.*, 45 U.C.C. Rep. Serv. 2d (Callaghan) 827 (N.D. Ill. 2001)  
*Wardrop v. Amway Asia Pac. Ltd.*, Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) P91,346 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 20, 2001)  
*Grove v. Principal Mut. Life Ins. Co.*, 14 F. Supp. 2d 1101 (S.D. Iowa 1998)

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