



## R. Bradley Ziegler

Member

[bziegler@lewisrice.com](mailto:bziegler@lewisrice.com)

St. Louis, MO / (314) 444-7792

Brad Ziegler is a seasoned litigator known for his work in complex commercial issues, regulatory investigations, and high-stakes litigation spanning many areas, including securities, employment, toxic tort, health care, transportation, and others.

Brad primarily represents and advises clients involved in complex commercial disputes, including clients involved in various contract disputes; securities investigations, arbitrations, and litigation; health care disputes; real estate/easement disputes; pipeline disputes; admiralty and maritime investigations and litigation; transportation and cargo disputes; franchise litigation; alcohol distribution matters; and employment disputes. Brad also represents clients in personal injury and wrongful death claims, including maritime and toxic tort matters.

In addition to appearing before numerous federal and state courts to represent his clients, Brad has represented clients in investigations conducted by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, the United States Commodities Futures Trading Commission, and the United States Coast Guard. Brad also frequently represents clients in matters pending before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). His admissions and experience allow him to represent and advise clients in complex matters before numerous courts and regulatory bodies.

Building on his extensive toxic tort experience, Brad maintains an active asbestos litigation practice, representing individuals and companies in high-stakes personal injury and wrongful death claims arising from exposure to hazardous substances. His work in this area includes defending multi-party cases and navigating the complex issues that accompany toxic tort and asbestos matters. Brad's experience spans both state and federal courts, and he is adept at managing discovery-intensive litigation and coordinating with expert witnesses across disciplines.

In his many years at Lewis Rice, Brad has successfully defended and prosecuted many claims for millions of dollars. His clients value his knowledge and experience and appreciate his clear and effective advice on their challenging issues.

Prior to attending law school, where he graduated first in his class, Brad gained valuable securities and commercial experience as an Investment Representative for Edward Jones and as a Credit Manager for Marion Pepsi Bottling Company.

### Services

- Complex Litigation

Brad is co-chair of the Firm's Recruiting Committee.

Brad is originally from Harrisburg, Illinois, and he and his wife, Rachel, have a son and a daughter.

## **Education**

- Southern Illinois University School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2005)
- Eastern Illinois University (B.A., 1999)
  - Economics
- Eastern Illinois University (M.A., 2000)
  - Economics

## **Legal Background**

- Summer associate, Lewis Rice (2004)
- Law clerk, Brandon, Schmidt, Goffinet & Solverson (2003-2004)

## **Corporate Background**

- Credit manager, Marion Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. (2001-2002)

## **Professional Affiliations**

- American Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Missouri Bar Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Kentucky Bar Association

## **Admissions**

- Seventh Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eighth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eastern District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- Western District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- Southern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- Western District of Kentucky, U.S. District Court
- Eastern District of Kentucky, U.S. District Court
- Missouri Bar
- Illinois Bar
- Kentucky Bar

## **Firm Committees**

- Recruiting Committee

---

## Case Studies

### **Lewis Rice Obtains \$1.6 Million Judgment in St. Clair County, Illinois**

After a four-day bench trial in St. Clair County, Illinois, and extensive post-trial briefing, Lewis Rice attorneys R. Bradley Ziegler and Matthew J. Haas obtained a \$1.6 Million judgment for their client, Petter Packaging, LLC (“Petter Packaging”), in a case involving claims for breach of fiduciary duties and breach of a covenant not to compete. The award included \$500,000 in punitive damages.

Brad and Matt represented Petter Packaging, a packaging supply company, in a lawsuit against its former President, Charles Hutchcraft (“Hutchcraft”), and five other defendants (collectively “Defendants”) in which Petter Packaging alleged, among other things, (1) the Defendants diverted a profitable business deal away from Petter Packaging for themselves while Hutchcraft was operating as Petter Packaging’s President; and (2) the Defendants began competing with Petter Packaging after Hutchcraft’s termination in violation of a covenant not to compete. The evidence at trial established that Petter Packaging hired Hutchcraft as President of Petter Packaging under the terms of an employment agreement and covenant not to compete in 2002. Petter Packaging later discovered that Hutchcraft and the other Defendants (his wife and several companies) acted in concert to divert a new, lucrative business opportunity away from Petter Packaging to a company owned and operated by Hutchcraft in violation of his fiduciary duties and the covenant not to compete. Hutchcraft diverted that opportunity in 2006 and concealed his breaches until just prior to his termination in 2010. Immediately upon his termination, Hutchcraft and Defendants began competing against Petter Packaging.

Judge Stephen Rice presided over the trial and found in favor of Petter Packaging. In his Order, Judge Rice awarded damages for Hutchcraft’s breach of his fiduciary duties owed to Petter Packaging. Judge Rice awarded Petter Packaging compensatory damages, including lost profits and reasonable attorneys’ fees, expert fees, and costs, in the total amount of \$1,094,497.05. Judge Rice found that punitive damages were warranted and awarded \$500,000. Significantly, Judge Rice found all Defendants acted in concert in causing the breaches of fiduciary duties and breaches of the covenant not to compete and found Defendants jointly and severally liable for all damages awarded. Three of the Defendant companies, which were formed by Hutchcraft after his termination, were found to be nothing more than alter egos of Hutchcraft and were found to be jointly and severally liable for all damages.

Click under “Resources” below to view a copy of Judge Rice’s order.

### **The Lewis Rice Team**

Lewis Rice Member R. Bradley Ziegler primarily handled the lawsuit for Petter Packaging and was the lead trial attorney. Associate Matthew Haas second-chaired at trial and assisted Brad with pre-trial matters and post-trial briefing. Associate Jack Martin assisted the team with research and briefing throughout the case. Paralegal Geralyn Spacher assisted the team before and during trial. Finally, Rubin Brown Partner Thomas Zetlmeisl served as Petter Packaging’s expert witness at trial. Judge Rice found his opinion regarding damages to be logical and consistent.