

10 **for**
TEN

ten attorneys
who raised
the bar
over the
last decade

Anita Alvarez

Robert A. Clifford

Patrick Collins

Dick Devine

Timothy C. Evans

James R. Figliulo

Michael Freeborn

Richard C. Godfrey

Jerold Solovy

Dan Webb

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Robert A. Clifford

Clifford Law Offices



Robert Clifford gained fame in 1999, when he represented acclaimed violinist Rachel Barton, who lost a leg as the result of a horrific Metra accident in 1995. Clifford steered this case toward an impressive \$29.6 million verdict.

Perhaps the cases that followed this never generated the same amount of publicity. But Clifford, founder of Chicago's Clifford Law Offices, has remained one of the most formidable plaintiffs' attorneys not only in the state but in the entire profession.

Clifford brings a sense of passion to the courtroom, where he does everything he can to help his clients achieve favorable verdicts. He's brought this passion to his law firm, too, where he has encouraged his attorneys to work tirelessly on behalf of their clients. In 2009, Clifford Law Offices ranked as the top plaintiffs' firm in the state with \$100.70 million in settlements.

"One of Bob's strongest traits is his ability to always put the client first," said George Cullen, one of the name partners with Cullen, Haskins, Nicholson & Menchetti, PC in Chicago. "Bob's single-minded goal is to make sure that his clients receive fair, reasonable and full compensation."

Clifford's fellow attorneys point to the work he turned in during the Barton case as an example. While representing Barton, Clifford identified a significant number of similar accidents associated with Metra trains. This evidence helped prove that the defendant knew of the danger but took no actions to resolve it. It turned out to be one of the key factors in the successful verdict that Clifford earned for his client.

Clifford also turned in his usual outstanding work while representing a young woman who was hit by a YMCA van and left mentally and physically disabled. An initial trial resulted in a not-guilty verdict. This result, though, was overturned on appeal because of misconduct on the part of the defense attorney. Clifford came in for the second trial and helped the woman receive a \$15-million verdict in 2006.

In addition to his work in the courtroom, Clifford has also helped advance the field of law. He is the founder of the Clifford Tort Symposium, a free two-day seminar. He also holds a free two-hour ethics seminar each year that is open to all lawyers in the state. In 2009, in honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, Clifford held a Springfield-based seminar, "The Ethics of Lincoln the Lawyer."

Thanks to both his courtroom skills and his dedication to his industry, Clifford in 2009 was named the Chicago Personal Injury Litigator of the Year by Best Lawyers, a peer-review rating organization that evaluates 2.5 million lawyers.

Though various publications have referred to Clifford as "Chicago's most likable tough guy" and "the best of the bad," those who have worked with Clifford only know him as a talented lawyer dedicated to the fortunes of his clients.

"Rarely is there a lawyer who is so gifted in both the courtroom and in serving his community," said J. Timothy Eaton of the Chicago law firm of Shefsky & Froelich Ltd.

