



MICHAEL REDA

Partner

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As the head of HeplerBroom's 24-hour Emergency Response Team, Michael Reda knows what it takes to defend commercial trucking companies and their drivers. His calm presence helps diffuse the adrenaline that can be present at accident sites, and his ability to quickly gather the right investigators and accident reconstruction experts to the scene can be crucial in crafting a defense. He's also experienced in handling the variety of claims plaintiffs' attorneys will make, encompassing everything from last-mile delivery to vehicle infotainment system data and negligent, hiring, training, and supervision claims.

Mr. Reda has over 40 years of successful experience in tort litigation. He has tried scores of civil jury trials in state and federal courts in Illinois and Missouri representing insured and self-insured entities, including cases covering:

- Catastrophic trucking accidents and transportation litigation
- Aviation accidents
- Claims against municipal and state governments
- Contractor liability
- Construction litigation

PRACTICES

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Products Liability
Toxic Tort
Trucking & Transportation

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit
- U.S. District Courts for the
 - Eastern District of Missouri
 - Western District of Missouri
 - Central District of Illinois
 - Southern District of Illinois

EDUCATION

- Saint Louis University
School of Law, J.D., 1982

- Civil rights actions
- Professional liability (doctors and health care providers, pharmacists, architects, engineers, attorneys, and other professionals)

- University of Notre Dame, B.A. in Government and International Studies, 1978

He has argued cases before state and federal appellate courts as well as the Illinois Supreme Court.

In addition to his litigation work, Mr. Reda is a certified mediator and is actively involved in alternative dispute resolution, particularly in cases involving trucking matters.

He is a passionate Notre Dame football fan and enjoys landscaping and yard work as well as refinishing antique wooden furniture.

Results

APRIL 30, 2024

Reda and Suddarth Obtain Dismissal with Prejudice for Public Water District

APRIL 14, 2011

Reda Obtained Summary Judgment, Affirmed on Appeal

Honors

Honors & Awards

- Illinois Leading Lawyer (2003-2025)

Professional Associations

- American Bar Association
- Bar Association of the Central and Southern Illinois Districts of the United States District Court
- Trucking Industry Defense Association
- Defense Research Institute
 - Trucking Law Committee
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel
- Illinois Bar Association
- Illinois Trucking Association

- International Association of Defense Trial Counsel
- Madison County (Illinois) Bar Association
- The Missouri Bar
- Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers
- Missouri Trucking Association

Insights

Events & Speaking Engagements

- “Defense Tactics to Refute Emerging Attempts to Impose a Higher Standard of Care on Commercial Truck Driver,” Defense Research Institute Annual Meeting (Chicago IL, 2018)
- “Rapid Response Teams and On-site Investigations: The Front Line of Defense,” American Conference Institute’s 5th National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation (Chicago, 2015)

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Reda Speaking at Annual DRI Meeting

DECEMBER 5, 2014 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Reda to Speak at American Conference Institute’s 5th National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation

DECEMBER 3, 2012 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Reda Spoke at American Conference Institute’s Third National Forum on Defending and Managing Trucking Litigation

Publications

- “Carriers May Reevaluate Driver-Facing Cameras After \$228M Privacy Act Verdict,” *TIDA Newsletter* (1st Quarter 2023). (Co-Author)
- “Data Downloads: Evidence Defense Lawyers Must Obtain,” *TIDA Newsletter* (Summer 2021). (Co-author)
- “Avoiding the Potholes [and Pitfalls] with Last Mile Delivery,” *Trucking Industry Defense Association Newsletter* (Fall 2019). (Co-author)
- “Defense Tactics to Refute Emerging Attempts to Impose a Higher Standard of Care on Commercial Truck Driver,” *Trucking Industry Defense Association Newsletter* (December 2017).
- “Plaintiff Posted *What?* Ensuring That Social Media Diamonds are Admissible by Addressing the Foundational Requirements for Social Media Evidence,” *In Transit*, Defense Research Institute Trucking Law Committee’s Newsletter (October 2016). (Co-author)
- “The Bridge to Broker Liability,” *In Transit* (Defense Research Institute Trucking Law Committee’s Newsletter) (March 2015). (Co-author).

- “Let the Broker Beware: Illinois Appellate Court Affirms \$23.8 Million Verdict Against Freight Broker,” *In Transit* (Defense Research Institute Trucking Law Committee’s Newsletter) (August 2011). (Co-author)
- “Cautionary Trucking Tale: Attorney Involvement Critical to Accident Investigation,” *In Transit* (Defense Research Institute Trucking Law Committee’s Newsletter) (August 2011).
- “Settling Defendants Will Not Appear on Illinois Verdict Forms,” *In Transit* (Defense Research Institute Trucking Law Committee’s Newsletter) (Winter 2009). (Co-author)

OCTOBER 19, 2021 | PUBLICATION

Reda and McGonigle Publish Article on Data Downloads for Vehicles Involved in Accidents

JANUARY 21, 2020 | PUBLICATION

Reda and Millaway Publish Article on Trucking Companies’ Heightened Need for Liability Vigilance

JANUARY 2, 2018 | PUBLICATION

Reda Article Tackles Defending Claims Asserting Commercial Truck Drivers Can Commit Professional Malpractice

DECEMBER 8, 2016 | PUBLICATION

Reda and Harriss Publish Article on Ensuring Admissibility of Social Media Evidence

NOVEMBER 3, 2015 | PUBLICATION

Reda and Harriss Publish Article in DRI’s *In Transit*

MAY 4, 2015 | PUBLICATION

Reda and Harriss Author Article on Public Act 098-1132

MARCH 17, 2015 | PUBLICATION

Reda and Harris Author Article for DRI’s *In Transit* trucking law newsletter

AUGUST 31, 2011 | PUBLICATION

Reda and Murphy Publish Article in DRI *Trucking Law Newsletter*

Blog Posts

NOVEMBER 6, 2025 | BLOG

Why the Trucking Industry Is More Concerned Than Ever About Lawsuit Abuse—and Why That Concern Is Justified

APRIL 22, 2022 | BLOG

Gant is No Longer: Illinois Supreme Court Holds Direct Negligence Claims Against Trucking Company Appropriate Even Where Company Admits Vicarious Liability

FEBRUARY 4, 2021 | BLOG

Vehicle Infotainment System Data Cannot be Overlooked

DECEMBER 8, 2020 | BLOG

Avoiding the Potholes [and Pitfalls] with Last-Mile Delivery

AUGUST 6, 2020 | BLOG

Illinois Department of Insurance Cannot Decide Owner-Operator Employment Dispute, Appeals Court Rules

JANUARY 8, 2015 | BLOG

Lessons from a Deposition: Insight into One Plaintiff's Counsel's Strategy for Establishing Broker Liability

JANUARY 8, 2015 | BLOG

"Wait, I didn't sign that contract..." How You May Find Yourself Bound to Someone Else's Forum-Selection Clause

News

JUNE 14, 2022 | FIRM NEWS

Reda is Certified Mediator

JUNE 12, 2018 | FIRM NEWS

Reda Invited to Join Prestigious International Association of Defense Counsel

JANUARY 3, 2012 | FIRM NEWS

Reda Joins Trucking Industry Defense Association