

**Anthony J. Anscombe**  
**Partner, Chicago, Illinois**

Class Action/Complex Litigation  
 Food Law  
 Commercial Litigation & Counseling  
 Environmental & Toxic Tort  
 Life Sciences



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**Current Scope of Practice**

Anthony Anscombe co-chairs the firm’s class action and food industry practice groups. He has defended class action matters across the country, with an emphasis on matters involving consumer fraud, deceptive trade practices, warranty, mass tort and statutory claims. For his food industry clients, Mr. Anscombe has defended product liability and class action matters, and provided counseling on advertising issues, risk management and commercial practices.

In addition to his class action and food industry work, Mr. Anscombe has broad experience in commercial, product liability and toxic tort litigation. He particularly enjoys work presenting novel and complex legal, scientific and procedural issues.

**Affiliations, Activities and Accomplishments**

Mr. Anscombe is currently president of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), a leading nonprofit resource for mediation services and conflict management training. He has been recognized in several peer-reviewed listings of preeminent lawyers and has an “AV” rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Before relocating to Chicago, Mr. Anscombe spent 11 years as a litigator in the firm’s San Francisco office.

Mr. Anscombe is a member of the State Bars of Illinois and California, the Chicago Bar Association and the Institute of Food Technologists. Mr. Anscombe is admitted as follows: United States Supreme Court (2014); Supreme Court of Illinois (1999); Supreme Court of California (1988); U.S. District Court for the Southern and Central Districts of Illinois (2003); U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (1999) (Trial Bar 2003); U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin (1999); U.S. District Court for the Eastern (1997), Central (1994) and Northern (1989) Districts of California; U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan (2012); U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third (2009), Sixth (2013), Seventh (2003), Eighth (2013) and Ninth (1989) Circuits.

**Publications & Presentations**

Mr. Anscombe’s publications include:

- “A Critical Look at the UCL’s Role in Food and Beverage Class Actions,” *Bloomberg BNA Class Action Litigation Report* (scheduled for publication November 14, 2014).
- “Is the ‘Food Court’ Losing Steam? An Update on Food and Beverage Consumer Class Actions in the Northern District of California,” *Bloomberg BNA Class Action Litigation Report* (July 11, 2014).
- “What Food Professionals Can Learn from GM about Internal Safety Communications,” *Food Safety Magazine* (July 1, 2014).
- “The Adequacy of Class Representatives Whose Legal Interests Are Antagonistic to Class Members’ Non-Legal Interests,” *Mealey’s Litigation Report: Class Actions*, Vol. 14, No. 7 (June 2014).
- “Take What FCC Says About TCPA With A Grain Of Salt: Part 2,” *Law360* (April 10, 2014).
- “Take What FCC Says About TCPA With A Grain Of Salt: Part 1,” *Law360* (April 9, 2014).
- “Food Defense in Food Litigation: A Vulnerability Assessment,” *Food Safety Magazine* (February/March 2014).
- “Presumptions of Reliance: What They Really Mean and How to Defeat Them,” *Bloomberg BNA Class Action Litigation Report and Bloomberg BNA Product Safety & Liability Reporter* (January 2014).
- “What’s Terrible About the TCPA? Almost Everything,” *Corporate Counsel* (December 2013).
- “Cy Pres: ‘As Close As Possible’ Is Not Good Enough,” *Law360* (October 7, 2013).
- “Jury Still Out on the ‘Food Court’: An Examination of Food Law Class Actions and the Popularity of the Northern District of California,” *BNA Class Action Litigation Report* (July 2013).
- “Analyzing the Seeds of Pom Wonderful,” *ABA Section of Litigation News* (April 11, 2013).
- “Fighting Back Against Statutory Penalty Class Actions, Part II,” *Corporate Counsel* (February 2012).
- “Fighting Back Against Statutory Penalty Class Actions, Part I,” *Corporate Counsel* (February 2012).
- “Protecting Yourself From Class Action Lawsuits,” *Food Technology* (December 2011).
- “Illinois Supreme Court Rules That Tender of Complete Relief to Class Representative Before Class Certification Motion Moots Putative Class Action,” *Sedgwick’s Class Action Alert* (April 12, 2011).
- “Defeating Presumptions of Reliance in Medical Product Class Actions,” *Sedgwick’s Issue Tracker* (December 2009).

- Lead Author, International Comparative Legal Guide to: Class Actions 2010, Chapter on the United States (Global Legal Group).
- Lead Author: ABA 50 State Guide to Consumer Fraud Class Actions, Chapter on Illinois.
- “N.J. Supreme Court Dismisses Vioxx Medical Monitoring Claims in Putative Class Action,” Sedgwick’s *News Flash* (June 2008) (coauthor).
- “The Final Pretrial Hearing,” 90 Days Before Trial: The Final Countdown, Chicago Bar Association (October 24, 2007); accompanying articles: “90 Days Before Trial: Part 1” (October 2007) and “90 Days Before Trial: Part 2” (January 2008), *Chicago Bar Association Record*.
- “N.J. Supreme Court Overturns Third-Party Payor Class Certification in Consumer Fraud Action,” Sedgwick’s *News Flash* (September 2007) (coauthor).
- “Illinois High Court Refines State Class Action Jurisprudence,” *Legal Backgrounder*, Vol. 22, No. 8, Washington Legal Foundation (March 9, 2007).
- “Class Action Fairness Act Changes Litigation Landscape,” Sedgwick’s *Sidebar* (March 2005).
- “Regulating Botanicals in Food,” *Food Technology* (January 2003).

His presentations include:

- “POM Wonderful v. Coca-Cola - Lessons in Food Labeling, False Advertising and FDA Authority,” Food and Beverage Marketing and Advertising Law Summit, Chicago, IL (September 16, 2014).
- “Does our Legal System Promote and Protect Public Health? Views from the Science, Industry and Consumer Perspectives,” ACI’s 5th Advanced Regulatory and Compliance Summit on Food & Beverage Marketing and Advertising, Chicago, IL (July 30, 2014).
- “Short Topics: Food Defense & Internal Communications,” New Jersey Association for Food Protection Spring 2014 Seminar, New Brunswick, NJ (May 7, 2014).
- “Microbiological Issues in Liability and Medical Causation,” American Conference Institute’s 7th National Forum on Food Borne Illness Litigation, San Francisco, CA (January 29, 2014).
- “What’s New In Class Actions,” Sedgwick Chicago Seminar Series (September 2010).
- “Small Packages, Big Claims?: The Proliferation of consumer product class actions,” DRI Consumer Product Meeting, San Diego, CA (April 15, 2009).
- “Navigating Ethical Gray Areas in Class Action Litigation,” ACI Defense Counsel Summit on Positioning the Class Action Defense for Early Success, Scottsdale, AZ (October 27, 2008).
- “An Ounce of Prevention: Arbitration Agreements and Class Action Waivers,” and “Defeating Presumptions of Reliance,” Class Action Task Force CLE Seminar, Chicago, IL (May 22, 2008).
- “The Final Pretrial Hearing,” 90 Days Before Trial: The Final Countdown, Chicago Bar Association (September 27, 2006).

- “Special Strategies for Section 17200 Consumer Finance Class Actions,” 4th National Advanced Guide to Consumer Finance Litigation and Class Actions, American Conference Institute (April 7, 2005).
- “Resolving Mold Claims: Practical Approaches to Settling, Mediating, and Minimizing Exposure,” moderator, Sterling Educational Services (June 9, 2004).

**Education**

Mr. Anscombe received his J.D. (1988) from the University of Virginia, where he was notes editor for the *Virginia Journal of Natural Resources Law*. He graduated with a B.A. (1983), *cum laude*, from Yale University.