

Matthew A. Smartnick

Cleveland, OH

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PARTNER

Overview

Matt is committed to serving some of the nation's most essential workers. Knowing the stakes are high, he takes a responsive, client-centered approach to representation and is dedicated to protecting his clients' best interests from the earliest stages of potential litigation.

Matt's practice is predominantly devoted to transportation industry clients, with an emphasis on commercial carriers and operators facing catastrophic loss claims. He is a key member of the firm's Rapid Response Team, responsible for providing immediate on-site investigation and counsel after a trucking incident and working in tandem with third parties to preserve evidence.

Beyond the transportation industry, Matt defends aviation maintenance facilities, municipal entities, and public sector employees in civil litigation matters across jurisdictions in Michigan and Ohio.

Experience

Defeated Direct Negligence and Punitive Claims and Enforced Damage Caps for Major Motor Carrier

Secured Trial Victory for Motor Carrier in Disputed Intersection Collision

Secured Dismissal of Constitutional Claims for Ohio School District Facing Sexual Abuse Allegations

Obtained a Favorable Severance Order on Behalf of a Local Municipality

Membership & Involvement

- Member: Defense Research Institute; Ohio State Bar Association; Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

SERVICES

General Liability

Transportation & Logistics

EDUCATION

University of Akron School of Law, J.D., 2017, *cum laude*

University of Akron, B.A., 2014, *summa cum laude*

ADMISSIONS

Ohio

Michigan

- Past Member of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee: Mahoning County Bar Association

Court Admissions: Ohio; Michigan; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

Honors

- Selected to the Ohio Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" list: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Firm News

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on 2026 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
Firm News, December 16, 2025

Amundsen Davis Strengthens Its Midwest Presence, Opening Cleveland Office and Expanding in Columbus
Firm News, September 19, 2025

Alerts

FMCSA Set to Strengthen ELD Certification Process: What Commercial Motor Carriers Should Know

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