

## Robert A. Bilott

### Partner

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ROBERT A. BILOTT is a partner in Taft's Environmental, Litigation, and Product Liability and Personal Injury groups where he represents a diverse range of clients on a wide variety of matters involving federal, state and local environmental laws and related litigation. For more than 26 years, Rob has handled environmental issues of regulatory compliance, permitting and corporate/real estate transactions, as well as aspects of litigation arising from such issues, from administrative hearings to multi-party, complex multi-district litigation, mass torts and class actions. Such matters have involved hazardous, solid, medical and infectious wastes, emerging and unregulated chemicals, perfluorochemicals (PFOA/PFOS), asbestos, PCBs, air and water pollution and permitting (including NPDES and Title V permitting), medical monitoring, brownfield redevelopment, landfill regulation and permitting, wastewater treatment, and chemical risk assessment, regulation and testing, including TSCA compliance issues.

Rob has handled all phases of the litigation process, from initial investigation and discovery through motion practice, fact and expert witness development and depositions, trial work, appellate briefing and argument, and informal resolutions, including mediation, ADR and settlement. Through that work, he has developed extensive experience handling matters involving highly complex and emerging scientific issues with some of the nation's leading medical, technical, scientific and regulatory experts and advisors, including seeking and defending against class certification and presenting and defending against challenges to expert testimony under *Daubert* and related judicial proceedings in multiple jurisdictions.

Rob serves as co-lead counsel of the Plaintiff's Steering Committee in ongoing multi-district litigation involving claims of thousands of individuals with serious



### Practice Groups:

Environmental, Litigation, Product Liability & Personal Injury, Environmental Transactional Services, Class Action & Multi-Party Litigation

### Bar/Court Admissions:

#### *Federal*

Southern District of Ohio, 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit Court of Appeals

#### *State*

Ohio, Kentucky

### Year First Admitted to Practice Law:

1990

### Education:

The Ohio State University College of Law (1990), New College (1987)

disease claims (including two types of cancer) attributable to their exposure to PFOA ("C8") released into their drinking water by DuPont.

Rob has been listed for several years in *Best Lawyers in America* for his litigation and environmental practice, has received an "AV" peer-review rating, the highest possible, by Martindale-Hubbell, and was selected for inclusion in Kentucky *Super Lawyers* 2017. For five consecutive years, he has been named a "Top Local Plaintiff Litigation Star" by *Benchmark Plaintiff* in Ohio for environmental work, and he is named a Local Litigation Star by *Benchmark Litigation* for his litigation work. In addition, since 2008, he has been ranked one of the "Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Ohio" By the National Trial Lawyers Association. In 2005, Rob received the "Trial Lawyer of the Year Award" from The Trial Lawyers for Public Justice Foundation for his work on an innovative, ground-breaking approach to settling an environmental class action involving tens of thousands of people alleging contaminated drinking water in West Virginia and Ohio. In 2014, he received the coveted "Clarence Darrow Award" from the mass tort bar in connection with the same litigation. Rob also has been listed as a *Leading Lawyer* in Environmental Law by *Cincy magazine* since 2008 and was selected for inclusion in Ohio *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars 2006. In 2016, Rob received a "Giraffe Hero" Commendation by the Giraffe Heroes Project, the "Champion For Children" Award from Mt. Sinai's Greening Our Children organization, was honored by the Art beCAUSE Breast Cancer Foundation, and was inducted into the Working in Neighborhoods Hall of Fame for his work relating to PFOA drinking water contamination issues.

Rob is a former chair of the Cincinnati Bar Association's Environmental Law Committee. He is a member of the Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers (CALL) Class V and a board member of Less Cancer.

Rob graduated from New College (B.A.) in 1987 and from the Ohio State University College of Law (J.D., cum laude) in 1990, where he served as managing editor of the *Law Journal*.

## **Professional Affiliations / Recognitions:**

AV Peer Review Rating (LexisNexis/Martindale-Hubbell), Benchmark Plaintiff Litigation Star, Benchmark Litigation Star, Best Lawyers in America®, Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers (CALL), Cincinnati Bar Association, Cincy Business Magazine, Leading Lawyers, Kentucky Bar Association, Kentucky Super Lawyers, National Trial Lawyers, Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star