

Frank A. Ray

Partner

Chester Willcox & Saxbe LLP

▶ Frank Ray is a commercial litigator these days, but he will tell you that he cut his teeth defending plaintiffs and that he loves the process and drama of a courtroom trial.

Over the course of his 37-year career, Ray became so good at it that when professional types get in a jam, they call on him to help defend them against malpractice claims.

“I’ve sued and defended law firms and their lawyers and served as an expert witness in cases involving legal malpractices.”

In this sense, Ray calls himself a “switch hitter” saying he’s worked on behalf of the person or organization suing and those who have been sued. Ray also works with physicians and hospitals, for instance, representing the medical staffs and being part of peer review boards.

What people may not know about Ray – who went into law after choosing against dental school – is his decades-long affiliation with the Columbus Clippers.

The year was 1976 and Ray was working as chief counsel in the civil division of the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office. The county had just bought Jets Stadium – or the old Clippers stadium – and commissioners, including Harold Cooper, wanted Ray to find a legal way for the county to own and operate a baseball franchise.

It was Ray who suggested creating a nonprofit to run both, which he says was a novel approach that has prevailed through the years. “It certainly has faced its number of challenges by sophisticated lawyers who have wondered, ‘What’s going on over there?’”

The relationship blossomed and Ray said he is indebted to Cooper, who died Oct. 4. “He was like a father to me.”

Ray still works with the Clipper and his love of the team and says he “undoubtedly and dramatically” continues loving the practice of law.



BATTER UP

On-deck with the Columbus Clippers for three decades.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, English, 1970, Ohio State University
Juris Doctorate, 1973, OSU Moritz College of Law

ASSOCIATIONS:

- American Board of Trial Advocates
- American Inns of Court Robert M. Duncan Chapter
- Columbus Bar Association
- Columbus Bar Foundation
- Franklin County Trial Lawyers Association

- Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio Supreme Court’s Board of Bar Examiners
- Ohio Supreme Court’s Rules Advisory Committee
- Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Alumni Association’s National Council.

INTERESTS:

Columbus Clippers, dining with wife, golf